



Making a difference...together

Agenda Item #9  
Staff Report #SPWC 2007 - 07

**REPORT TO SAANICH PENINSULA WATER COMMISSION  
MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 2007**

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SUBJECT WATER MAIN BREAKS – TOWN OF SIDNEY

PURPOSE

To provide information to the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission regarding the water main breaks that occurred in the Town of Sidney on 04 October 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Sidney receives its bulk water supply at controlled pressures from the Capital Regional District (CRD) at two locations: from MacTavish Reservoir via Canora Road and through a pressure reducing valve (PRV) at Mills Road and McDonald Park Road. The typical water pressure supplied to the single pressure zone in the Sidney system is usually between 65 and 75 PSI.

DISCUSSION

On 04 October 2007 at 9:30 a.m. the Town of Sidney experienced a large water main break in the 10100 block of McDonald Park Road. This break was isolated by Sidney public works staff by 10 a.m. however, Sidney subsequently received more calls identifying five additional breaks, most located on private property, distributed randomly throughout the town.

The CRD's PRV at Mills Road had initially operated as intended by opening and supplying the large demand created by the first water main break. However, after Sidney staff had isolated the initial break, the PRV allowed the pressure to increase to approximately 95 PSI for approximately 75 minutes. CRD staff reset the PRV by approximately 11:15 a.m. It has been agreed by Sidney and CRD staff that this higher pressure likely contributed to the five water service leaks. It should be noted that the minimum pressure rating of municipal water distribution system pipes and appurtenances is 150 PSI.

The Town of Sidney issued a Boil Water Advisory immediately after the incident, in consultation with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, after Sidney staff received complaints regarding dirty water. As the water distribution system had been breached, Sidney staff could not rule out the possibility of contaminants in the water system. The Boil Water Advisory was lifted on Sunday, 07 October 2007 after two consecutive sets of acceptable test results, spaced 24 hours apart, were received from the CRD Water Services laboratory.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission receive the staff report for information.

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