



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Media Release

April 28, 2020

For Immediate Release

Water Quality Advisory issued for the Fauquier Water System

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has issued a **WATER QUALITY ADVISORY** for users on **the Fauquier Water System**. The system is located in the community of Fauquier, within RDCK Electoral Area K. Fauquier is on the east side of Lower Arrow Lake. The Needles Ferry landing is part of the Fauquier Water System.

The **WATER QUALITY ADVISORY** has been issued due to a significant increase in source water turbidity (suspended sediment) that has resulted in treated water turbidity levels to exceed the 1 NTU standard recommended in the Federal *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. Turbidity can interfere with disinfection, limiting chlorine's ability to remove or inactivate viruses, bacteria such as *E-Coli*, and parasites such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*. The increase in turbidity can be attributed to springtime melt and heavy rain events.

While health risks are considered low, the RDCK recommends that children, the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, and anyone seeking additional protection drink boiled water or a safe alternative until further notice. For these at-risk populations, water intended for drinking, washing fruits or vegetables, making beverages or ice, or brushing teeth should be boiled for one minute. Boiled water should then be refrigerated in a clean, covered container. Customers could also choose to use bottled or distilled water, or water that has been filtered through a well-maintained treatment device.

Owners of all public facilities must post a **WATER QUALITY ADVISORY** at all sinks or drinking water fountains accessible to the public (alternatively, public fountains and taps may be turned off). As opportunities arise, they must also advise their clientele verbally of the **WATER QUALITY ADVISORY**.

The RDCK will be taking measures to reduce risk; water quality will be monitored and the public will be notified when the RDCK is able to lift the Boil Water Notice.

We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause, and appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time. **For more information contact the RDCK 250-352-8171 or visit our website at www.rdck.ca/water.**

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For media enquires, please contact:

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