

WaterLogue

Okanagan Lake Pump Station – Ratepayer Assent Required

With the design of GEID's Okanagan Lake pump station nearing completion, GEID will be seeking assent from our ratepayers for a borrowing bylaw in the amount of \$12 million to fund the pump station construction and ultra-violet disinfection. GEID has already completed and paid for portions of the transmission main, taking advantage of lower material prices in 2008, and reduced construction costs by scheduling the installation of transmission main at the same time as development in the area.

For infrastructure projects, the Ministry of Community and Rural Development (MCRD) typically recom-

mends that the less costly Alternate Approval Process (AAP) be used, proceeding to a referendum only if 10% or more of electors (registered landowners within GEID boundaries) oppose the project. GEID has submitted a draft borrowing bylaw to the MCRD for approval. Once MCRD completes their review, the AAP process will begin.

The Alternate Approval Process commences with GEID publishing two notices in a local newspaper. A 30 day elector response period begins after the second notice is published. In addition to the notice, GEID will be working to inform our electors of the project details, including costs, reasons for proceeding, and the water quality improvements that are expected.

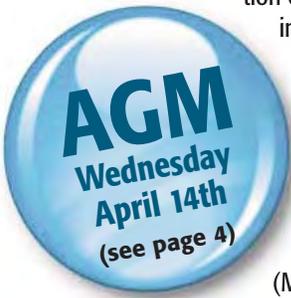
Information regarding the project and the borrowing will be communicated to electors on GEID's website, in open houses, and through this newsletter. GEID plans to hold two open houses at the GEID office during the AAP. The open house dates will be made available on the GEID website, and will also be included in the published notices. If you wish to be notified via email of the open house dates, please send an email to glenmore.ellison@shaw.ca requesting notification, and GEID will send you an email with the dates once they are known.

Electors who oppose the proposed borrowing can sign an Elector Response Form which will be available at the GEID office and on our

website. As GEID has approximately 8960 electors, the project will only proceed to referendum in the event that more than 896 valid Elector Response Forms are received in the designated 30 day AAP period.

Previous newsletters have discussed the components of GEID's Okanagan Lake project, which includes an intake and pump station north of McKinley Landing, and nearly 3km of transmission main to McKinley Reservoir. An earlier version of this project was included in our 2004 Capital Plan, but several factors have increased the size of the pump station and the way it will be operated, including higher

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Water Quality Advisory (WQA) Remains in Effect

GEID has been under a continuous WQA since the Spring of 2006. This WQA is still in effect for residents in the Glenmore, Ellison, Quail Ridge, UBCO and Dry Valley Road Areas. This DOES NOT include residents in the McKinley Landing Area who receive Okanagan Lake water.

Interior Health Authority recommends that children (0-12 yrs), the elderly (65yrs+) and people with weakened immune systems boil their

water for one minute or seek a safe alternative. See www.glenmoreellison.com for more detailed information.

ATTENTION OWNERS: *If you have a tenant within the District boundaries, it is your responsibility to keep them updated about any changes to their water quality.*



Easter Holidays
The GEID office will recognize the Easter statutory holidays and will be closed on April 2nd and April 5th, 2010. An Operator will be available for emergency calls and can be contacted at 250-763-6506.

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expectations for water quality from both Interior Health Authority and our customers. Originally, water from Kelowna (Mill) Creek was intended to be mixed with Okanagan Lake water in McKinley Reservoir, minimizing pumping costs while still meeting a target turbidity of 1 NTU. At this time, mixing is no longer proposed, which requires higher capacity pumps and pipe at the pump station. Combined with cost escalation since 2004, project costs have increased considerably when compared to previous cost estimates.

A project design brief completed by GEID's

engineers in January 2010 provided updated cost estimates for the project. Including engineering and contingency, the overall project will cost \$15.7 million. Almost \$2 million of work will be completed by May 2010, leaving \$14 million to complete. GEID has accumulated \$3 million in reserve funds to place towards this project from development charges and from the 2008 rate increase. The GEID board is requesting authorization to borrow \$12 million to complete the pump station and UV disinfection, with borrowing taking place over a three year period between 2010 and 2013 as the projects are completed. It is hoped that the borrowing will be less than \$11 million, but that will depend on

actual project costs, and contributions to reserve funds from new development.

Providing Okanagan Lake water to GEID's customers will also increase operating costs by \$200,000 per year for electricity alone. The 2008 rate increase was placed into reserve funds for water quality improvement and also into GEID's renewal fund for future replacement of aging infrastructure. With the increased electrical costs and the borrowing costs, GEID may have to increase revenue by up to 25% in 2011. A rate review is planned for later this year, to more fairly charge each customer class based on the actual costs of service.

Cross Connection Control

What is cross connection?

According to District Bylaw #11 – Section e) "Cross connection means any physical arrangement whereby the District's waterworks system is connected, directly or indirectly, with any non-potable or unapproved private water system, sewer, drain conduit, well, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or any other device which contains, or may contain, contaminated water, liquid, gases, sewage or other waste, of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the District's waterworks system as a result of backflow".

Do I have a cross connection in my residence?

A residential cross connection is a connection between your drinking water supply and another water source, or a container holding a chemical compound (e.g. an insect-control sprayer attached to a garden hose). If the water supply is reduced because of a fire in the neighborhood, or if the water is stopped due to a water-main break, the back-siphonage or back-pressure draws water backward through the system.

If I have a cross connection, what can I do to prevent backflow?

To prevent backflow, it's important to identify all possible cross connections in your home. As most residential cross connections are created by hoses, it is recommended to install vacuum breakers between all threaded taps and hoses. These allow water to flow out but not back in. To prevent backflow from floor drains, water softeners, tubs, or sinks, you can install air-gap fittings. These fittings can be purchased at your local plumbing store.

If I have agricultural land, what can I do to prevent backflow?

Growers are reminded that if they are fertigrating or chemigrating, they must inform the District, and also have an approved backflow preventer that is tested annually. Agricultural irrigation systems with potential cross connections must also have approved backflow preventers that are checked annually. When filling any tank containing chemicals the hose must not rest inside the tank. To prevent backflow, an air gap of 30cm must be maintained.

ATTENTION OWNERS: If you have a tenant within the District boundaries, it is your responsibility to keep them updated about District information: flushing dates, hydrant use permits, watering regulations, agricultural turn on dates, changes in billings or account numbers, etc.

Spring Landscaping

Spring has finally arrived and so has all the yard work associated with it. Please remember to maintain a clear 1-meter radius around fire hydrants or standpipes and maintain an unobstructed area around the water shut-off. If you plan to make any changes to your landscaping and discover that the water shut-off for your property is too high or low, DO NOT adjust it yourself. This valve is District property and if any repairs or height adjustments are required, please contact the office to arrange for District crews to make the necessary repairs. There is no charge for this service during regular working hours. Should the valve be tampered with and repairs are required, the repair will be charged back to the homeowner.



Call Before you Dig

Remember to call BC 1 CALL's toll free number 1-800-474-6886 to request a utility locate when planting trees or digging on your property.

Do not take chances, as some utilities can be less than 6" deep.



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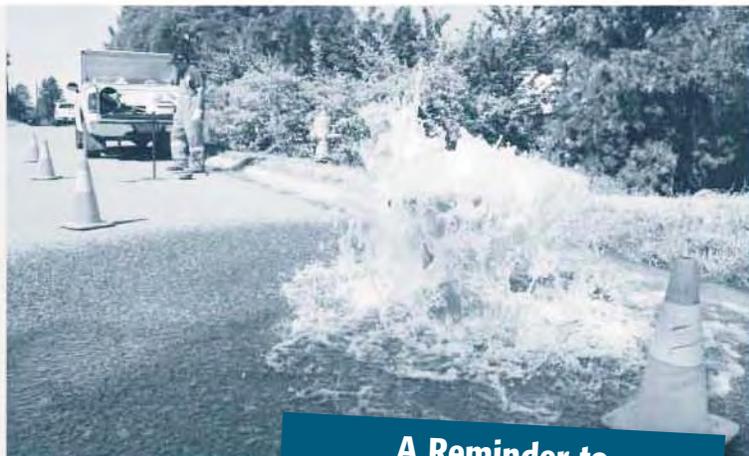
Water Main Flushing

Spring water main flushing is tentatively scheduled for March 22nd to April 21st, 2010. To see when our crews will be in your area, watch the local newspaper or visit our website: www.glenmoreellison.com.

PLEASE NOTE: *The District now provides an advisory service to its customers to let them know when scheduled flushing will commence in a specific area. If you would like to be notified directly when flushing will occur in your area, email your request (remember to include your street address) to: hbauer.geid@shaw.ca. If you have already requested this service please reconfirm with the office so that we may keep our records current. While the District makes every effort to notify customers of regularly scheduled flushing, emergencies and other events may occur that prevent such notification.*

Flushing occurs between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Avoid doing laundry during these times. During this period you may notice variations in the water pressure and some discoloration in the water. If you experience discoloration, run the cold-water tap until the water runs clear. Please check your water for clarity prior to using.

Hydrants and blow-off valves are used as flush out points throughout the system. You will see District crews flushing large amounts of water at these points. This is an essential part of ensuring the best possible water quality and a well-maintained drinking water system.



A Reminder to Strata Developments

The flushing of internal lines is the responsibility of each Strata Council. Flushing your internal lines must happen AFTER the District has finished flushing. We recommend that Strata developments contact their management company or hydrant contractor to commence flushing their internal lines anytime after April 19th, 2010. Please Note: Prior to flushing internal lines, the Strata must visit the GEID office to obtain a NO-CHARGE private Hydrant Use Permit.

Watering Regulations

2010 watering regulations are currently in effect for all customers in the Glenmore, Ellison and McKinley Landing areas and are as follows:

Residential Properties

(The last digit of your street address determines even or odd day)

- 💧 Even-numbered properties shall water on even number calendar days.
- 💧 Odd-numbered properties shall water on odd number calendar days.
- 💧 All properties may water on the 31st day of the month.
- 💧 Portable above ground sprinklers – Only two portable above ground sprinklers per residential lot are allowed, and watering is only allowed between the hours of 6:00 am to 11:00 am and 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
- 💧 Underground sprinklers shall only be operated during the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 am. If your underground sprinkler system is unable to comply with these designated times please contact the office for other instructions.
- 💧 Open hose use is not permitted. The hose end must have a nozzle to control flow.
- 💧 Car washing should be done with a bucket, make sure there is a nozzle on the hose to control flow for rinsing.
- 💧 Driveway washing – a broom is a good, clean, water free alternative
- 💧 Excessive sprinkling on driveways and sidewalks is not permitted.
- 💧 Potted Plants may be watered daily.

Strata Complexes/ Multi-family

- 💧 Stratas are to follow residential properties regulations unless given specific permission from GEID to do otherwise. If the civic address is 555, the entire complex waters on odd numbered days, not by unit number.

Schools

- 💧 Schools are to follow residential property regulations unless given specific permission from GEID to do otherwise.

Agricultural Properties

- 💧 Agricultural users are reminded to follow residential property regulations for any lawn areas unless given specific permission from GEID to do otherwise. Dole valves must be used to control irrigation watering.

Agricultural News

Irrigation Start-Ups

District crews will be turning-on Agricultural Irrigation the week of April 12th, 2010. The GEID Board has introduced a change in the procedure for early irrigation valve turn-ons. In order to best utilize district manpower and reduce operating costs, one day, Thursday, March 25th, has been set aside for early valve turn-ons. Growers who wish to have their irrigation services turned on prior to the scheduled turn on (the week of April 12th), are required to complete an application form which is available at the GEID office. Early turn-on requests now require a \$50 valve fee payment at time of application. The early turn-on date could change subject to weather conditions. Please contact the office before March 20th for any updates to this information.

Agricultural Metering Project

The District, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, is continuing with the metering program on all agricultural properties within the GEID service area. The District has installed the majority of the agricultural meters. This program is focusing on water sustainability and equity for agricultural needs for the future, and will assist the agricultural customers with efficient water use.

This year, you will be receiving meter readings for your agricultural meter on a utility bill but there are no charges attached to this bill. This is to show you what your meter readings are throughout the year. In October, there will be a final meter reading so you can compare your total consumption for the year to your annual allotment for your property.

Notes of Interest

Changing the water in your fish tank

You can help fish survive and thrive by neutralizing the chlorine in the water. Fish simply don't like chlorine. When planning to fill your fish tank, first fill up a container with fresh tap water and leave it out for twenty four hours. The chlorine gas in the water will dissipate during this time then you can fill the tank with this water. You and your fish will be happier by following this little piece of advice. For further information on fish tank maintenance, talk to your local pet shop.

GEID 2010 Annual General Meeting

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at 8:00 p.m., at the District office located at 445 Glenmore Rd. All landowners are welcome to attend. The agenda will include:

- Financial Statements for 2009 (advance copies available)
- Managers' and Trustees' Reports
- New Business

Election Time

There are five elected trustees who represent landowners within the GEID boundaries. The trustees are responsible for making water-related decisions on behalf of area residents. The role of a trustee is to have an interest in the welfare of the community he/she represents, and to govern the affairs of the District in the best interest of the residents. Trustees serve three-year terms.

One trustee position expires this year. Trustee Steven Bonn has indicated that he'll be seeking re-election for his three year term. Nomination forms for this position are available at the office or at the Annual General Meeting. Nomination forms will be accepted up to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 15th, 2010. To qualify as a candidate for a position as Trustee, you must own lands or have an interest in a company that owns land in the District. If necessary, an Election will be held on May 6th, 2010 and an advance poll will be held April 29th, 2010.

Watershed

Watershed snow pack monitoring is used as a tool for predicting water levels and water availability. As we commence our highest water consumption time of the year we review this data to determine how we need to regulate water usage to ensure adequate flows for year round.

- As of March 1st, 2010, the snow levels were 42.5cm, which is 37% below the 26 year average. The water equivalent was 11.6cm which is 32% below the 26 year average.
- The mountain storage lakes are only 41.7% full.
- Automated reservoir level and outflow monitoring equipment have been installed at Postill Lake and at the Kelowna Creek intake station. This equipment allows the District to accurately measure water levels and flows.



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