



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

August 6, 2015

As we reported previously, the State Water Resources Control Board-Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW), the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB), and the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health (DEH) requested that Town of Scotia (TOS) sample water from various locations throughout Scotia and have the samples analyzed for certain constituents specifically recommend by the NCRWQCB, which regulated the Mill site's storm water runoff.

We hired an engineering consultant to obtain the samples, and we had an independent laboratory perform the analyses. We have assembled a summary table of results, cross referenced to an aerial photo/figure showing sample locations. This table (Table 1) and map are available for your review on the latest **News** tab on the [www.TownofScotia.com](http://www.TownofScotia.com) website.

#### General Information Concerning Drinking Water:

- Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is defined as: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the Public Health Goals (PHGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- Public Health Goal (PHG) is defined as: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
- Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. In other words, they are constituents that affect the aesthetics of the drinking water

#### The test results reflect very positive news:

- The majority of the constituents sampled for were either entirely absent, nondetectable, or in trace concentrations below established MCL's for drinking water:
  - Absent: Coliform bacteria and E-Coli bacteria
  - Nondetectable: All polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) sampled for, dioxins, and some heavy metals
  - Present in amounts below drinking water MCL's: some heavy metals and general physical parameters
- As expected, some mineral constituents related to local geology and present in most local rivers and wells (iron and manganese,) were present in some of the samples at elevated levels. These two constituents have secondary

MCL's, because they can cause color, taste, and odor impacts which may exceed consumer tolerances.

- As expected, tannins and lignins (wood fiber resins) were present in the samples. These constituents, in combination with Iron and Manganese, can contribute to color, odor and taste issues.
- Lead and copper were found to be at elevated levels at sample site "143 Main-Dist Line". In consultation with our consultant and the SWRCB-DDW, it was concluded that the building where the sampling took place has been vacant and that the lateral piping to the building was not flushed properly prior to sampling. It is believed that the elevated constituents from this sample location were likely caused by stagnant water that had accumulated debris and constituents such as lead and copper that can be found in old piping. At the request of the SWRCB-DDW we have resampled at this location, careful to flush the piping adequately to ensure the sample was obtaining water that is representative of the main distribution system. We expect to have the results early next week, and we will post the results on the TOS website under NEWS.

Please note:

- Although our turbidity is now back to normal and meeting drinking water standards, during the height of the water system issues, we did violate the drinking water standard for turbidity.
- We monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness) daily. This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water. Water samples during the height of the incident showed that more than 5 percent of turbidity measurements were over the 0.3 NTU turbidity unit standard. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed 0.3 NTU turbidity units per month.
- Turbidity has no health effects; however, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.
- You did not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. We do not know of any microbial contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

This week, we will shut down the drinking water system in the middle of the night Thursday into Friday morning, between the hours of 11:30pm Thursday night 8/6/2015 through 6:00am Friday morning 8/7/2015, so that we can thoroughly clean our Finished Water Storage tank. We have already thoroughly cleaned our Raw Water tank. As it relates to this:

- The times have been selected to avoid disruption to Scotia homes and businesses to the maximum extent practicable. We may complete the process prior to 6am.
- We humbly request that you do your best to refrain from using water between the hours of 1:00am this Friday morning through 6:00am this Friday morning, as we will have a limited supply of water to provide customers while cleaning the tank.
- Once again, as a result of this effort you could possibly experience an additional brief period of mobilized sediment or discoloration.
- We will continue to sample, test and disinfect the water as appropriate.
- You may wish to flush your household water piping through the hose bib or laundry tub if at first you experience any discoloration after we clean the tank. Any discoloration should be short lived.

Of course, we are continuing our efforts to replace and upgrade old water distribution infrastructure including: water pipes, mains, meters and valves. As it relates to this:

- Eventually the new infrastructure will be conveyed in excellent condition to a community services district (CSD) or similar services entity.
- In the meantime we are focused on removing the settled lignins and tannins, etc. wherever they may collect, and we are making good progress. Please bear with us as we complete this important work.

As we had mentioned in previously notices, if you continue to find that your drinking water has a disagreeable taste or odor, you may wish to drink bottled water as we continue to make progress cleaning and flushing our distribution system.

Any additional public agency input, inspection reports or letters, and orders or directives will also be featured on the TOS website and described in continuing narrative through Public Notices to our residents, tenants and businesses.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the Town of Scotia offices at 764-4131.

Frank Bacik  
President  
Town of Scotia Company, LLC

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.