



**May 9, 2021  
REMINDER  
Water Tank Inspection  
Provisional Boil Water Advisory**

Dear QCBFD,

**This is a reminder that RIDOH mandated water storage tank inspection will be performed this Tuesday May 11th, 2021.**

**The water storage tank will need to be taken offline late Monday May 10th and be placed back on line sometime Wednesday May 13th.**

**While the water tank is offline, water pressure will be supplied ONLY by the well pumps which maintain the water pressure at a reduced 45 mmHg, down from the usual 60 mmHg, and more critically can only supply water at about 50 gallons per minute.**

**Considering that a toilet flush and an open faucet will flow at 5 gallons per minute you can see how easily demand can exceed supply. As an example, 3 simultaneous toilet flushes while 7 other faucets, showers, or hose bibs are open ( $10 \times 5 = 50$  GPM) and we are quickly using MORE water than the well pumps can supply. The distribution water pressure will drop.**

**This scenario is where our water system was before the 1990's. The water system ran effectively with minimal storage tanks capability. Water demand often exceeded supply and the water pressure would drop with reduced flow from the faucets.**

**If our water demand on Tuesday exceeds the well supply of 50 gallons per minute there would be a pressure drop and should the pressure drop fall below 20 mmHg, remember we are starting at a reduced 45mmHg already, then a TRUE Boil Water Advisory (BWA) would be triggered by RIDOH protocol. The reason for this is that with low distribution pressure bacteria**

**can enter more easily into the underground pipes and connections.**

**Our water usage this past week has been higher than usual and we are concerned about maintaining proper water pressure while running only off our wells**

**In order to decrease our exposure to this water supply limitation we have elected to place the tank back online sooner, within 24 hours, and voluntarily initiate a Provisional BWA, rather than keeping the water tank offline for 6 days while we await water tank samples to return negative. (2 negative samples taken a minimum of 24 hours apart, before putting the tank back online). The further complication is that RIDOH will not consider a water sample to be negative until a "certified" copy of the negative water sample, which requires a minimum of 2 business days, is directly supplied to them electronically by the testing lab. Realistically the tank would need to remain offline until Monday May 18th. Not an option.**

**We believe the Provisional BWA is the lesser of the two evils as there will be NO water supply limitation after Wednesday afternoon.**

**A Provisional BWA, typical for water system repairs, does NOT mean there are bacteria in the water but is required if the repaired portion of a water system is put back online before the 2 negative certified samples are obtained..**

**Presently the Provisional BWA will be in place from Tuesday until the required 2 water samples return as certified negative. This will most likely be the following Monday or Tuesday.**

**If a TRUE Boil Water Advisory is triggered due to low water pressure, then MULTIPLE water samples throughout the distribution system will be required before the Boil Water Advisory can be lifted and that may last up to 2 weeks..**

**Therefore I again ask ALL residents to keep water usage at an absolute minimum from late Monday afternoon through Wednesday Noontime. ABSOLUTELY NO WATERING OF LAWNS OR GARDENS, NO HOUSE, DECK, OR CAR WASHING.**

**On a related note, RIDOH has still NOT approved the 4-log chlorination design plans from last June. Given our 10 fold**

**difference of water usage from winter to summer, 5000 gallons or less in winter to 55000+ gallons in summer, the design system calls for variable chlorine levels based on seasonal flow. RIDOH is digesting this scenario and has asked for further clarifications. The sticking points for now are:**

- 1) the chlorine contact time calculations; i.e...the amount of chlorine we need to add to the system, and**
- 2) potential impact of the chlorination on the effectiveness of our anticorrosive lead and copper treatment.**

**COVID and other personnel demands have negatively impacted RIDOH qualified engineer resources so everything at RIDOH is backed up. We do however appreciate RIDOH's thoroughness in assuring our water supply will be safe to drink**

**We therefore DO NOT EXPECT to install the 4-log chlorination system this summer, even if approval of the design plan occurs within the month, as the install and chlorine level fine tuning would be prohibitively disruptive to our water system during our high demand season. Most likely we will install the 4-log disinfection system this fall barring any unforeseen events.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Happy Mother's Day to all our Quonnie Moms.**

**Vincent Reppucci  
QCBFD PW Commissioner**

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