



## **QUONONCHONTAUG CENTRAL BEACH FIRE DISTRICT**

**August 17, 2019**

**Dear Greetings!**

**There is understandable concern about the multiple recent positive water samples and boil water advisory of our water system. Let me try to summarize where we are.**

**On a monthly basis we regularly sample each of our 2 wells and one home (distribution) for nitrates and bacteria (total coliforms). These 3 samples are collected and handled by Northeast Water Systems (NWSI), our professional water managers, and sent to a Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) certified lab. Any samples positive for total coliform (TC+) are further tested for E.coli (EC), reported back to NWSI and the RIDOH (who oversees and certifies Public Water Systems within Rhode Island) and requires repeat sampling of the 3 initial sample sites plus 2 more distribution sites.**

**In late July a distribution water sample was TC+ and repeat samples revealed TC+/EC- from both our wells. Both wells and the distribution system were sterilized with chlorine and a RIDOH Level 1 assessment was performed which did not reveal any deficit within our wells or water system. The consensus was due to that recent rains runoff with organic material from soil or vegetation has increased and saturated our groundwater. Repeat water samples were scheduled for two weeks later.**

**The 3 samples obtained earlier this week on 8/13 were TC+/EC- and the repeat samples taken Thursday 8/15 were all TC+/EC- except Well #2 was TC+/EC+. We have not had an EC+ sample in over 10 years**

**The persistence of TC+ in our 2 wells has triggered a RIDOH Level 2 assessment where the State will physically be onsite to inspect our wells, watershed area, and water tank and distribution system presently planned for Tuesday. The presence of E.coli mandates a boil water advisory.**

**Well #2, the EC+ well, had only been supplying 10% of our water and since Friday afternoon has been taken off line. We do not feel that Well #2 has delivered that much water and certainly for no longer than 48 hours while EC+. We will be rechlorinating both our wells as well as the storage tank most likely on Tuesday but we will recommunicate prior to chlorinization. Unfortunately we cannot lift**

**the boil water until notified to do so by RIDOH and they will only consider doing so after 3 sequential negative TC water samples. These cannot be performed until all the chlorine is out of the system so I expect we will remain on a boil water advisory for at least 10 days.**

**The RIDOH mandated Boil Water advisory was hand delivered Friday evening to all residences. [Please click here](#) for the "DRINKING WATER WARNING" as required by RIDOH.**

**We believe that these recent and persistent TC+ samples are consistent with excess water runoff of soil and decomposing vegetation which raises the water table. The presence of E.coli in well 2 is most likely animal or bird feces, i.e. excess bird droppings from a tree nest or a rabbit den within brush, which got caught up in the recent torrential rain runoff. East Beach Water, whose wells are within 100 yards of ours, has also tested TC+ this past week however they are EC-.**

**We are anxious to learn the findings of the RIDOH on-site Level 2 assessment and will share what we learn. Our concern is for a timely and appropriate lifting of the boil water advisory and assurance that our water continues to be safe to drink.**

**Vincent Reppucci**

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