



QUONOCHONTAUG CENTRAL BEACH FIRE DISTRICT

November 27, 2019

Dear Resident,

Unfortunately, I do not have good news for the community regarding our water status. We continue to be on a Boil Water Advisory (BWA). The reason for this is that despite redeveloping and acid cleaning BOTH wells mid-October Well #1, our primary water source and our distribution samples continue to consistently return total coliform positive throughout the month of November.

As a result RIDOH will NOT lift the Boil Water Advisory and Central Beach has been cited for repeat Level 2 Assessments for both October and November.

I think it is important to note that in August Well #2 returned E Coli positive for 2 weeks straight. At that time well #2 was isolated and NO E Coli has been found in our distribution system then nor have any samples since demonstrated E Coli in our wells or distribution system.

Well #2 has tested negative and could be cleared to provide us water however, especially at this time of year, the elevated iron content of that would provide for discolored water; safe to drink but aesthetically unappealing!

The first of 2 scheduled 24 hour sampling tests to determine if our system is under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI) have returned as low probability (negative). Second set of scheduled GUDI sampling will be performed in the Spring.

Nonetheless at this point we expect that RIDOH will at some point mandate a level 2 chemical disinfection system, most likely

chlorine based, and we have three professional firms drawing up designs.

This has been a very frustrating time for the PW Committee and while our water system operator suspects the well field has become contaminated no specific identifiable cause has been found. We suspect an elevated water table due to the wet summer may be contributing.

Our neighbors at East Beach, who essentially share the eastern portion of our well field, had remained bacteria free these past several months until 2 weeks ago when one well tested positive for E Coli + forcing them to be on a Boil Water Advisory. However they were able to chlorinate and clear their well; subsequent samples returned negative for bacteria and their BWA was lifted after 1 week.

RIDOH, during an August site visit, noted dog droppings in the well field and asked we post NO Trespassing and NO Pets signs for obvious reasons. We have done this. Nonetheless we have seen people with their dogs in the well field despite the posted signs. We ask members of the community to please respect our signs, as per RIDOH request, and not walk your dogs in the well field.

So to summarize:

- Boil Water Advisory remains in place due to Total Coliform+/E Coli- samples from Well #1.**
- No E Coli has yet been found in Well #1 nor our distribution system.**
- Well #2, initially E Coli+ in August, has been bacteria free for 6 weeks.**
- No trespassing and No pets near or in our well fields.**
- 4-log disinfection plans are being developed.**
- Presently there is no realistic window when the BWA will be lifted.**

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

**Vincent Reppucci
QCBFD PW Committee Chair person**

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