

## **NOTICE**

To Crystal Lake Community Water Subscribers  
**To OPERATE THE CRYSTAL LAKE WATER SYSTEM**

as a

**HYGIENIC, NON-POTABLE SYSTEM for 2019**

As of March 17, 2019

### **Purpose:**

This is to advise Crystal Lake Community Water Subscribers that the Crystal Lake Hamlet Board is proposing to operate the Crystal Lake Community Water System as a Hygienic, Non-Potable Water System for the 2019 season.

### **Background:**

A study, as per approval at the 2018 Crystal Lake Annual General Meeting (AGM), was conducted by WSP Canada Inc. (Consulting Engineers) in fall/winter of 2018-2019 to design a system to reduce the arsenic levels in water sourced from Well #2. The arsenic levels in Well #2 became an issue from a reduction in the provincial drinking water quality standards for acceptable arsenic levels in drinking (potable) water.

As a result of this study, and consultations with Water Security Agency, we have been advised there may be additional concerns with the water treatment system used at both Well #1 and Well #2. It is assumed (not yet proven) that these wells may be impacted by infiltration from the water in Crystal Lake. The official terminology is Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water (GUDI). If this is the situation, the water must be treated in a different manner, the same as surface water sources must be treated. The concern is that materials from surface water (the lake) may be interacting with the well water source and that the current treatment system will not address this concern.

## **Implications:**

The first implication is that we must carry out further investigations to actually determine if one or both of our wells is GUDI. A proposal has been requested and received from a consulting engineering firm with expertise in this kind of investigation. The GUDI cost estimate ranges from \$5,000 to \$28,400 plus GST and applicable PST, depending on the complexity of the investigation. Further detailed information about GUDI can be obtained from the Water Security Agency/Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment document Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GUDI) Assessment Guideline, which is posted on the web site [www.hamletofcrystallake.ca](http://www.hamletofcrystallake.ca) Additional information on hygienic water works can be obtained from the Water Security Agency document EPB232, Hygienic Water Works , also on the web site.

The second implication, if the water source is determined to be GUDI, is further costs to design a system to treat the water source as being from surface water, not groundwater, as is our current treatment system. No cost has been ascertained yet for such design work.

The third implication is the cost of purchase, installation and ongoing operation of an approved water treatment system from a surface water system. Again, no cost has been ascertained yet as this would be somewhat pre-mature until the water source is confirmed as being, or not being, GUDI.

## **Needed Input and Direction from Crystal Lake Community Water Subscribers:**

The Hamlet Board feels it does not have the authority or direction at this time to expend additional funds to pursue further studies. The Hamlet Board needs input from the water subscribers as to what direction they want to go. This water system is operated as a utility and does not serve, and involve, all residents of Crystal Lake. The utility has, and it is expected that it will continue to, operate in the manner that the subscribers pay for all costs associated with the system.

Therefore, it is felt the subscribers must decide how much further they want to go with investigations and potentially a different water treatment system(s).

### **Planned Action for 2019 Season:**

Because this is a user-pay system impacting only the 130 cottages subscribing to the community water system, the Hamlet Board does not believe they, nor the RM Council, have the authority to expend further funds at this time. Therefore, pending further direction from the water system subscribers, the Hamlet Board feels the only option **for 2019 is to operate the system as a hygienic, non-potable water system.** This means the water can be used for personal washing (clothes, baths, showers) and toilets **BUT CANNOT BE USED FOR COOKING, DRINKING or PERSONAL CONSUMPTION.** A “Boil Water Advisory” is not sufficient in this situation. Subscribers will have to purchase or otherwise source their drinking and cooking water for 2019. It is somewhat common that seasonal water supplies at other Saskatchewan resorts are hygienic, non-potable systems.

The Hamlet Board is proposing an addendum to the 2019 Hamlet Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held with water system subscribers only, at the conclusion of the regular AGM. At that point, the Hamlet Board will facilitate a discussion with subscribers to gain direction as to future steps if the subscribers choose to pursue a fully approved, potable water system or remain as a hygienic, non-potable system. A formal written Notice will be provided directly to all subscriber addresses if this proposed action proceeds.

### **Alternate Sources of Drinking Water:**

Along with the formal written Notice to Operate the Crystal Lake Community Water System as a Hygienic, Non-Potable System, further information will be provided in the near future as to where subscribers can purchase safe, drinking water.

**RM Council Motion:**

At the March 7, 2019 RM of Keys Council meeting, a motion was made and passed by Council to proceed with the first phase of the GUDI study. This motion is in opposition to the Hamlet Board's position that the Crystal Lake water system subscribers should be deciding what further actions and expenses should be incurred relating to the water system. The Hamlet Board has requested Council not act on the motion at this time. No decision has been made regarding the Hamlet Board's request to rescind or delay action until further direction can be gained from the actual subscribers who are impacted.

**Future Updates:**

This is an evolving situation and changes could occur at any time. This Notice is effective at the date of March 17, 2019. Any further developments will be promptly posted on the web site.

Sincerely,

Crystal Lake Hamlet Board

Brad Tarras, Don Olson, Howard Fox