

Timber Ridge Water System Upgrade Project Report



Construction Update

The connection between the Timber Ridge and Parr Utilities water systems is now complete!

Some clean-up and finishing work at the surface will be required in the spring.

Water Quality Advisory Signs

With the completion of the tie-in, the RDEK is working diligently to reconfigure and flush the water system to ensure only the treated water is left in the watermains. Once our flushing is complete, we will officially notify Interior Health (IH) and do the testing required to receive IH's approval to remove the Water Quality Advisory signs.

Your Responsibility



Upon removal of the Water Quality Advisory signs, homeowners are advised to thoroughly flush the pipes in their homes prior to any consumption. To ensure proper flushing, run the water from all household taps for approximately 5-10 minutes. It is also recommended that homeowners drain their hot water tanks and refill with the treated water.

If you have any questions or concerns with regards to flushing or consumption of the water please call the RDEK at 250-342-0063.

User Fees

At the December Board meeting, new rates for the Timber Ridge water system were passed.

Effective January 1, 2011, the new rate for water is \$75/month and will be billed quarterly with payment due in the middle of March, June, September and December rather than only once per year.

The \$75 monthly fee consists of two parts:

- \$45, which the RDEK pays to Parr Utilities (Windermere Water and Sewer Company) for supply of treated water and operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant; and
- \$30 to the RDEK for operation and maintenance of the Timber Ridge water system.

The installation of water meters will allow the RDEK to get accurate data on system water use, and move to a new rate structure that is based on a combination of flat rate and consumption. The new rate structure will be developed over the next year with the help of the Timber Ridge Utility Advisory Commission.

Before the change in rates, there will be a period of mock billing, currently expected to start in 2012. The bill you receive during this period will show what you would be paying under the new system. This mock billing period will allow homeowners to prepare for the rate schedule and work to eliminate water waste.

Parcel Tax & Prepayment Option

While the user fees will pay for the operation and maintenance of the system, there will be a parcel tax to cover the cost of the construction and the capital contribution fee. The parcel tax will start in 2011.

Property owners have the option to prepay a set amount rather than pay the parcel tax each year for the term of the borrowing. By now, you should have received a letter from the RDEK informing you on the parcel tax and prepayment options. The parcel tax is estimated at \$400 per year for 15 years. The prepayment amount is a one-time payment of \$3,900 and is due by December 22, 2010.