



October 8, 2021

**RE: Precautionary Boil Water Advisory  
Horseshoe Resort Well Supply and Distribution System  
Update to Notice Issued October 7 2021**

This letter serves to provide additional background information regarding the precautionary Boil Water Advisory (BWA) recently issued for users of the Horseshoe Resort Well Supply and Distribution system.

The BWA was issued following guidance in the Provincial regulations regarding treatment and supply of drinking water to the public. The BWA was initiated in response to a single water sample collected from a single building following completion of a minor repair to a distribution water main. The leak and subsequent repair resulted in an isolated loss of water pressure event in a limited and specific area of the distribution system; other areas were unaffected by this incident.

The water main repair was completed by a contractor, and the repaired water main was flushed and concentration of residual disinfectant (chlorine) in the water was measured in accordance with regulatory (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks or MECP) guidelines and procedures. As an added precaution a sample of water from the affected section of the distribution system was collected and tested for microbiological (bacterial) contamination. The concentration of chlorine in the water at the time the sample was collected was 1.69 mg/l, while the *minimum permissible* concentration is 0.05 mg/l and the *maximum acceptable* concentration is 4.0 mg/l.

There was sufficient chlorine in the water at the time of sampling to provide adequate disinfection of the water in the event contamination was introduced through the repair.

The single water sample was collected from a kitchen tap and transported to an external, accredited analytical laboratory for testing. The sample was tested at the laboratory and the result was returned as 'non-detect/overgrown' or 'NDTOG'. When a sample is reported NDTOG it simply means the result was indeterminant as a result of excessive growth making it impossible to accurately determine what organisms were present. In 99% or more of NDTOG results the root cause is found to be contamination of the sample during the collection or testing – the sample bottle may have touched the tap, the kitchen tap may not have been disinfected properly prior to collecting the sample, or the operator and/or lab technician may have touched the bottle or cap in such a way that contamination was transferred to the water prior to or during testing.

## What is the risk to the water supply?

Minimal to negligible.

- The concentration of residual disinfectant (chlorine) in the water sample collected for analysis was 1.69 mg/l and there was sufficient chlorine in the water to address any potential microbiological contaminants which may be present in the distribution piping;
- The source of the water is a secure groundwater (well) supply. The raw (untreated) well water is sampled monthly, and there have been **no** samples of the water which showed the presence of coliforms – total or *e. coli*. – in the well supply;
- The water is treated in accordance with the requirements under the *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario*, and the water is regularly tested to ensure it meets the quality requirements in the *Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards*. Water samples are routinely collected following treatment and from locations within the distribution system and tested for microbiological contamination, among other water quality parameters. Prior to this single sample there have been no BWAs issued for the Horseshoe Well Supply System; and,
- The concentration of chlorine in the distribution system is also regularly sampled and measured. There have been **no** samples in 2020 or 2021 where the concentration was below 1.2 mg/l (the minimum required concentration is 0.05 mg/l).

## What happens now?

Under the regulatory framework the Owner and Operating Authority are *required* to provide evidence of two (2) consecutive water samples, separated by a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours where there is no microbiological contamination.

The first sample has already been collected and sent to the external laboratory for testing; the second sample is scheduled to be collected on Saturday October 9. Please note that the time to complete the test for microbiological parameters is twenty-four (24) hours from the start of incubation, and we have requested expedited testing from the laboratory.

While we are confident these samples will be clear of any contaminants and will resolve any concerns of water quality, it is important that users of the system in the affected areas observe and follow all guidelines and recommended actions until the precautionary BWA is officially lifted.

### **Further Information**

Any updates – including the results of the testing of the additional samples – will be communicated and posted similar to this letter. Our offices will be able to provide additional clarification, on request, of the sample results and expected timeline to resolve the issue.

Our Operators continue to work closely with the Medical Officer of Health and the MECP to resolve the BWA. We thank you for your patience at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Levie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Levie, M.Eng. P. Eng.

Vice President of Engineering, Clearford Water Solutions/Clearford ASI