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Sallal Water Association strives to provide pure, untreated water at low cost to members.

August 2019 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to info@sallal.com

Next Steps and What is Coming

This section of the Newsletter is dedicated to news about or effecting Sallal Water Association. Here are this month's items:

- Sallal is working with the City of North Bend to bring a (blind) water taste-test comparison involving the City's untreated Centennial Well water, Sallal's Wells to be determined, and bottled water. More information to come when date, time, and location become available.
- The Sallal Website is undergoing upgrades to provide important information to members in a timely manner. The information posted may be available before the next Newsletter and/or present more information than can be shared in the Newsletter's limited space. Work began in late July and will continue through August. Improvements include an expanded menu for improved navigation and organization. Additionally you will find maps of the Sallal and North Bend water service areas, expanded reports, and ease of use for mobile devices. The goal is to provide more information that may be of interest to the members. The website will also include relevant terminology so members will be able to better understand reports, water test results, and other technical documents that will be posted soon.
- Next month's issue will cover information concerning the new Well 4 and reservoir to be constructed next year.

Water Quality

Chlorine

Chlorine is added to drinking water to kill organic pollutants (disease-causing bacteria). That is the only purpose it serves. It does not address other water quality issues such as inorganic (not living) contaminants. It does not cause other pollutants in the water to increase. Sallal does not chlorinate it's water. The City chlorinates its water supply because the Mt Si Springs, its main source, is groundwater "under the influence of surface water". Any water system that contains water that is "under the influence of surface water" in the distribution system must chlorinate the entire distribution system. Thus, the City must chlorinate the water coming from the Centennial Well only because it uses the same distribution system as Mt Si Springs, not because the Centennial Well water contains bacteria requiring treatment.

	<p>Since Sallal is solely a groundwater system, under present codes, it does not need to chlorinate its water. Thus, if Sallal buys water from the City’s Centennial Well, it will take it before chlorine is added.</p> <p>Virtually all public system wells have bacteria at one time or another. Sallal’s wells have tested positive for bacteria in the past. Sallal routinely flushes the system to remove bacteria. Sallal has increased the system flushing frequency rather than chlorinating the water to eliminate bacteria.</p> <p><u>Other Water Quality Concerns</u></p> <p>Concerns have been posted on local social media about arsenic levels in drinking water lately. Data provided from the City shows Centennial Well testing this year is 2.4 ppb (parts per billion) arsenic which is well below the regulatory limit of 10 ppb. This corresponds to historical data from the Centennial Well. Any contract for Sallal to purchase City water would be from the Centennial Well. For context, other cities in our region are reporting 4 - 6ppb, and most of the reputable brands of bottled water contain closer to 3.5ppb or less.</p> <p>Sallal’s Water Quality reports are now available on our newly updated website. We will share more about how to interpret water quality data in future newsletters when we have all the newest data from both Sallal and the City.</p>
<p>Sallal Updates</p>	<p>Security updates are continuing throughout the summer. Since the last newsletter issue, the following projects have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Routine water sampling for the month of July. Results will be posted on the website when the document arrives. ➤ Terrell Reservoir installation and test of the telemetry components continues. This system provides monitoring information to Sallal staff 24/7. This project is scheduled to be completed by September. ➤ Middle Fork Reservoir has electrical components installed. This will allow the installation of lights and telemetry components. ➤ In Truck Town, a backflow device was installed behind Sallal’s meter to prevent non-Sallal water from entering the system. ➤ Mt Si Road leak detection completed. The report will be posted on the website when the report is available.
<p>North Bend Water Negotiations</p>	<p>As of publication, North Bend City Council has requested to delay any further contract negotiation meetings with Sallal until the Golder Study is released. The Golder Study report will provide information on water resources in the Snoqualmie Valley and will be used in estimating future mitigation needs of the City. The City of North Bend has contracted with Golder and Associates for this study.</p> <p>An update will be available in the next edition of the Newsletter in this space.</p>