

June 2021 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to admin@sallal.com

<p>Overdue Accounts</p>	<p>While energy, telephone, and water utilities are currently banned from disconnecting service or charging late fees through July 31, it is important that customers take action now to discuss options, including assistance funds. If you're behind on payments, don't wait until July 31 to ask for help, call us today. If you will not be able to pay, contact us or call the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882) or visit their COVID-19 utility help page at www.utc.wa.gov/CovidHelp as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Contract with the City Q&A</p>	<p>Q: Sallal wells and North Bend's wells are in the same watershed, so Sallal mitigating for the City should not be allowed, right?</p> <p>A: Sallal has no authority to make such a determination. Government entities (such as Ecology and DOH) are tasked with setting the regulatory requirements that apply to this situation. Through the water rights permitting and water system plan review processes, those agencies support of Sallal providing back-up/secondary mitigation water to the City of North Bend.</p> <p>Q: Is Sallal expecting to spend a lot of money to be able to supply mitigation water to the city?</p> <p>A: To provide mitigation water to the City, a pipe will be needed to connect water coming from Sallal's Well #2 at Rattlesnake to a main previously constructed by the City that terminates on Cedar Falls Road adjacent to point where Sallal mains exit the Rattlesnake well field. The main constructed by the City traverses to an existing outlet for Boxley Creek. It has yet to be negotiated who will pay for the interconnection of the two mains.</p> <p>Q: Is Sallal expecting to make money from selling mitigation water to the City?</p> <p>A: If growth continues, Sallal is likely to buy more drinking water from the City as compared to the amount of mitigation water that it will buy from us. It is not anticipated that Sallal will earn any revenues from the City in exchange for making back-up mitigation water available but the cost of water purchased by the City will be offset from amounts purchased by Sallal.</p> <p>Q: How would a contract with the City work?</p> <p>A: Currently we are discussing with the City the idea of a "swap" with no exchange of money for their mitigation needs. The concept is that we would "set aside" a specific number of acre feet to reserve it for the City in case they should ever need to use it. SPU is their primary source of mitigation water and the City could only use Sallal's mitigation water if SPU could not meet their needs. The City would give us the same number of acre feet of drinking water to make up for amounts of mitigation water actually purchased from Sallal. Beyond that initial amount of reserved acre feet, Sallal would likely be buying more water from the City than it purchases from Sallal.</p>

	<p>Q: Why do we need to consider a contract with the City?</p> <p>A: If we don't have access to enough water to serve the demand in our service area, we may lose portions of our service area as has already happened with the mule pasture and national guard. If that continues, it's possible DOH won't approve our next Water System Plan if it shows we aren't able to serve our area. The UTRC expressed concern about this several months ago when they reviewed our recent WSP update. Obtaining additional water supply is necessary for Sallal's long term planning needs.</p>
<p>Backflow And Cross-Connects</p>	<p>It's backflow prevention inspection time again!</p> <p>If you are required to have an annual backflow prevention inspection, you will receive notification from Sallal with this month's bill. They are due by July 31st.</p> <p>A cross connection is any connection to the public water supply that can allow contaminants to enter the system. This can happen if water from a facility, home, or irrigation system flows backwards into the distribution system. Properly operating backflow devices prevent this flow reversal and protects Sallal's water from contamination.</p> <p>The Safe Water Drinking Act of 1974 and the Washington Administration Code 246-290-490 requires all public water systems in Washington State to operate an on-going Cross Connection Control Program to protect the public water supply from contamination from possible cross-connections. The Sallal Water Association adopted a cross-connection control program in 1998 with the goal of premise isolation. The Association is not responsible for eliminating or controlling cross-connections within the customer's water system. The goal of the Association's Cross Connection Control Program is to prevent non-potable water from returning into the public water system. Sallal staff evaluates residential and commercial connections to determine the level of backflow protection based on regulatory requirements. The Association has the right to deny service to any member who does not install a required backflow device or if the member does not complete the annual testing on the backflow device. Annual notices are sent to all property owners that have or are required to have a premise isolation backflow device, reminding them of the annual testing requirements.</p> <p>More information on Backflow and Cross-Connections is available on the Sallal Website at: https://sallal.com/backflow-and-cross-connect-information/</p>
<p>Member Education</p>	<p>Please call us to turn your water on/off or for other issues with your meter. Members may not tamper with or turn off the meters themselves, this includes anyone you hire to work at your property, such as landscapers. There is a \$500 fine for tampering with our meters. We have had to replace several meters in the last couple months due to breakage and other issues. Thank you for your cooperation!</p> <p>We are aware of the credit card receipt error message some members are getting through our online payment portal. We are working on the problem, and you can email the office to get a receipt in the meantime.</p> <p>Our 2020 Water Quality report is now available on our website at https://sallal.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Water-Quality-Report-2020.pdf</p> <p>In July we will be switching from a monthly to a quarterly newsletter, but may go back to monthly if we have more frequent information to share with members.</p>