



Vavenby Water System Public Meeting Update

Date: December 30, 2018
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Vavenby Community Hall

Attending:

- Bill Kershaw – Vice Chair, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Carol Schaffer – Electoral Area Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Stephen Quinn - Electoral Area Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District staff including: Sukh Gill, Chief Administrative Officer; Jake Devlin – Director, Environmental Services; Ron Storie – Director, Community Services; Tyrone McCabe – Manager of Utility Services
- Alan Mole – Ministry of Environment
- Ron Vanderzwan – Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Greg Danyluk – GD Assessments

Presentations:

Bill Kershaw:

- Thanked everyone for coming; provided an overview of the agenda and asked those attending to hold their questions until the end

Carol Schaffer:

- Expressed appreciation for the community's cooperation and recognized that the community was again impacted similarly to 2017
- Noted that it was important to work cooperatively with all agencies

Alan Mole:

- Provided an update on the incident, including the time when it occurred at 1:30 a.m. on December 30
- Occurred 31km north of Vavenby and approximately 35km upstream of the Vavenby Water System intake
- The plan for today (Dec 30) is to begin removal of the product that the semi is carrying, as well as potentially send divers in to assess the truck fuel tanks for damage
- The plan for tomorrow (Dec 31) is to remove the truck and trailer and inspect and assess any damage. The truck and trailer were carrying a maximum of 400 litres of fuel.
- The level of sheen at the accident scene is minimal and booms were deployed downriver to try to capture any incidental fuel leakage

Jake Devlin:

- The TNRD was notified at 5 a.m. regarding the incident, and staff were deployed to the system
- Pumps were turned off at approx. 6 a.m. and the TNRD Emergency Operations Centre was activated soon after, making arrangements to deliver water up to the Vavenby community
- Emergency callouts were also initiated to water users to advise of the “Do Not Use” notice from Interior Health (IHA). Information was also communicated through social media (TNRD and Vavenby Facebook, TNRD Twitter), the TNRD website as well as information bulletins posted at the Fire Hall, Post Office and Store in Vavenby
- Testing of the water system will occur over the next couple of days and be sent for analysis; we expect to be able to communicate results late Thursday or early Friday
- If water system test results do not show any contaminants in the system, the TNRD expects that IHA will lift the Do Not Use notice
- In January 2017, a similar incident occurred; however, there was approximately twice the amount of potential fuel leakage as compared to this current incident

Ron Vanderzwan:

- There are approximately 35 surface water licenses on the North Thompson River downstream from the accident, with 21 unique users
- An initial callout was done to alert users of the potential contamination and the Do Not Use notice from IHA. A majority of those users were contacted.
- Once the Do Not Use notice is downgraded or removed, a follow up callout will be done

Attendee questions:

Q: What about showering?

A: IHA has stated that the water should not be used for showering, only for flushing toilets. The TNRD is in discussions with the District of Clearwater about using shower facilities at the sports complex, and will look into this if the Do Not Use notice remains after the testing done this week.

Q: Can barriers be placed to prevent future incidents?

A: Roadways are the responsibility of Ministry of Transportation (MOTI) and no MOTI representative was available for the meeting. TNRD representatives will forward this feedback to MOTI on behalf of the community.

Q: What about fire protection?

A: The fire department has made alternative arrangements for water, so fire protection is not impacted.

Q: What about impacts to septic systems when using the water to flush toilets?

A: There is no impact expected to septic systems.

Q: What are the downstream impacts?

A: IHA has determined the area impacted by the Do Not Use notice which goes to the confluence of the North Thompson and Clearwater rivers. It was also noted that for any user drawing water from wells, the anticipated impact is negligible.