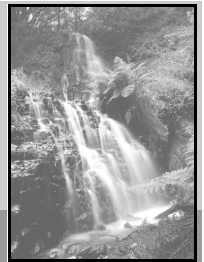


BPUD PIPELINE

Spring 2008

270 Elm Road, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924 (415) 868-1224



News Flash: BCPUD continues to press forward in its efforts to install photovoltaic ("PV") arrays at its water treatment plant and at its wastewater treatment facility. Board member Don Smith has worked tirelessly on this effort, wading through and responding to reams of federal and state requirements to enable the district to purchase and install this technology. (If we are successful, the BCPUD will be one of the first utility districts in California to use solar power to operate its treatment facilities.) As this newsletter goes to press in March 2008, the BCPUD is working to comply with the environmental conditions imposed by the County and California Coastal Commission on the proposed installation of the solar arrays, with the goal of obtaining coastal permits for the projects no later than May 2008.




Why Do I Receive Notices from the BCPUD Every Few Months about Water Quality and What Do These Notices Mean?

For more than two years now, the BCPUD has issued quarterly water quality notices to our customers as we are required to do by state law. We've heard from some of you with questions about these notices and we know that many of you probably have questions that you haven't asked. In this newsletter we seek to explain the content of the notices, why we send them and what the BCPUD is doing to improve the quality of your drinking water.

The notices are hard to understand; can't you tell us in plain English what is going on?

We regret that our customers find these notices difficult to understand and we sympathize with your confusion. Unfortunately, we cannot alter these notices because state law mandates their content (in other words, the state tells us exactly what the notices are required to say). With the permission of the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH"), which regulates our water system, we have included certain additional information beyond that which is required in our notices and we hope you find this information helpful. In addition, we seek in this newsletter to explain the notices in laymen's terms with the goal of furthering your understanding of the issues. Please feel free to give us a call or stop by our offices if you would like to discuss any aspect of these notices or this newsletter with our staff.

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
BCPUD BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924 415 868 1224



To All Customers of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
The Bolinas Community Public Utility District Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) notified us on August 29, 2007, that samples collected from our water system on July 5, 2007, show that our system exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHMs and HAA5s. The standard for TTHMs is 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and the standard for HAA5s is 0.060 mg/L. The calculated running average of TTHMs for the past four quarters (July 2006 - June 2007) in our water system was 0.104 mg/L, and the calculated running average of HAA5s for the past four quarters in our water system was 0.068 mg/L. TTHMs and HAA5s are disinfection byproducts (DBPs). CDPH sets drinking water standards and requires the disinfection of drinking water. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants react with naturally-occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called DBPs. CDPH has determined that a number of DBPs are a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Certain DBPs, including some trihalomethanes and some haloacetic acids, have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals. Other DBPs have been shown to affect the liver and the nervous system, and cause reproductive or developmental effects in laboratory animals. Exposure to certain DBPs may produce similar effects in people. CDPH has set standards to limit exposure to TTHMs, HAA5s and other DBPs.

Please be aware that this violation of the MCL for TTHMs and HAA5s is not because BCPUD's water quality has deteriorated; rather it is because new, more stringent federal and state standards have been developed for these substances. BCPUD is actively working to comply with the new standards.

What should I do?
You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?
This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, there are certain potential health effects from exposure to DBPs, as set forth above.

What happened? What is being done?
We are scheduled to conduct an overall upgrade of the filtration process at our water treatment plant during the Fall of 2007 and we hope the enhanced filtration process will reduce the TTHM and HAA5 levels in our drinking water; meanwhile, we continue to research additional treatment methods to reduce TTHM and HAA5 levels and we hope to have identified a process to definitely lower them below the applicable MCLs by October 31, 2007. For more information, please contact the CDPH, 50 D Street, Santa Rosa, California 95404; or, Jennifer Blackman, General Manager, BCPUD at the address/telephone listed above.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by BCPUD. State Water System ID#: 2110005
Date distributed: September 20, 2007.

What do the notices mean for the people drinking the district's water?

These notices mean that the drinking water you are provided by the BCPUD does not currently meet federal and state standards with regard to chlorine disinfection byproducts. The CDPH has determined that chlorine disinfection byproducts are a health concern at certain levels of exposure; however, the CDPH is *not* advising that people drink bottled water and has determined that there is no immediate health risk posed by drinking BCPUD water. On the other hand, if you have specific health concerns about chlorine disinfection byproducts, please take copies of our notices to your doctor and discuss your con-

cerns with him or her.

What are chlorine disinfection byproducts? They sound bad.

Briefly stated: organics naturally occurring in surface water (such as the Arroyo Hondo, our preferred water source) react with the chlorine we use to disinfect the water to create what are known as chlorine disinfection byproducts. The CDPH and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) have established what are known as “maximum contaminant levels”, or limits, for chlorine disinfection byproducts in drinking water throughout the country. Until 2005, the BCPUD water system was in compliance with the maximum contaminant levels for all regulated chlorine disinfection byproducts; however, that year the maximum contaminant levels for chlorine disinfection byproducts were *lowered* and, suddenly, BCPUD was out of compliance with regard to two of the byproducts: trihalomethanes (“TTHMs”) and haloacetic acids (“HAA5s”). (During the final two quarters of 2007, however, BCPUD has *not* been out of compliance with TTHM standards.) The water you have been drinking for years did not suddenly decline in quality; rather, the standards changed and BCPUD now needs to figure out how to comply with the new rules.

What has BCPUD done about this problem?

We have been working closely with the CDPH regulatory staff and other comparable water districts to identify a workable technological solution for this problem. Many districts all over the country are in the same quandary we are: what can they do, on a cost-effective basis, to comply with the new chlorine disinfection byproduct standards? Different districts have different water sources, use different water treatment processes and have different levels of chlorine disinfection byproducts in their water – there is no “one size fits all” solution. The BCPUD has retained an engineering consulting firm to analyze our situation and recommend solutions. In January 2008 we received a report from this engineering firm which evaluates the potential alternatives available to us to remove the chlorine reactive organics from our drinking water and come into compliance with federal and state law. The engineers’ theory is that if we remove (or greatly reduce) these organics from our water, there will be nothing (or very little) for the chlorine to react with—hence, no (or greatly reduced) chlorine disinfection byproducts. We have submitted this report along with a grant application under Proposition 50 to the State Water Resources Control Board requesting the funds necessary to design and construct an appropriate treatment solution. In the meantime, under the continued guidance of our consulting engineer, we have installed a GAC (granular activated carbon) pilot treatment unit at our water treatment plant and will begin gathering data in March to determine how well it is working to remove organics from our drinking water. We will, of course, keep you apprised of our progress.

When will you fix the problem and how much will it cost?

Our engineers estimate that it will cost approximately \$60,000 to fully plan and design the necessary improvements to our water treatment facilities, and approximately \$330,000 to construct and install the necessary treatment systems. While, as described above, we hope to receive funds pursuant to Proposition 50 to pay for this work, we are also investigating other possible funding sources. If we receive the Prop 50 funds, we will be notified as such by June 2008 and will begin the planning and design work immediately thereafter.

We hope this newsletter has satisfactorily explained our quarterly water quality notices and what we are doing to improve the quality of the water we provide you. Please call us with any questions or concerns: (415) 868-1224.

