



LAKEHAVEN UTILITY DISTRICT

31627 1st Ave. S. | PO Box 4249 | Federal Way, WA 98063-4249
Federal Way: 253-941-1516, Tacoma: 253-927-2922 | www.lakehaven.org

July - August 2001

Commissioner's Corner

Donald L.P. Miller



Having had some exposure to the natural sciences during our educational lives, most of us are somewhat familiar with the concept of the "water cycle". As we know from our studies, whether water is being collected in the atmosphere, distributed in the natural environment or gathered in the transmission systems which transport it to the oceans, where the process starts over, water is constantly in a state of motion.

Differences in the way the water cycle functions in any given area play a large role in the availability of water and how it is applied to the traditional consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Water which returns quickly to the oceans has only a limited availability for meeting use demands. In mountainous areas, the delay of this return, caused by the accumulation of water into a snow pack, enhances the "window of opportunity" for its use. When the weather doesn't cooperate, as it hasn't in this area during the last winter cycle, this natural form of storage is less effective and water supply in the adjacent lowland areas can be adversely impacted.

We are blessed in the District with a less weather-dependent way of "slowing down" the water cycle than those areas reliant on surface water flows. Our aquifers retain a tremendous amount of high-quality water that is gathered and held over longer intervals than surface water supplies. With the availability of our ground water and the utilization of best management practices to govern its distribution, which includes chlorination necessary to meet regulatory requirements, we are confident that our supply of water will be fully adequate to meet demand if we experience a warm, dry summer and fall this year.

We believe that before too long we will be able to reclaim treated wastewater effluent from our treatment plants for uses that will help offset some of the demand for drinking water. This is another wrinkle to the way the water cycle can be managed to maximize available water supply.

We are also aware of the need to be good neighbors in the water business and have spent a considerable amount of time lately discussing how we might help out other areas with less ability to meet peak summer demand this year. Regional water planning is the only way the Puget Sound area and beyond will meet the challenges of saving salmon and providing for growth in the future. We are pleased to be able to do our part!

Let me know if you have any comments or if we can answer any questions for you.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

At the time of this update, the extended 2001 legislative session was drawing to a close. As is typical of most years, legislators are devoting the final days of the session to the task of adopting a state budget.

The District's engineering consultant selection bill, which would have confirmed the authority of agencies to select engineering consulting firms on an every-other-year basis, passed the Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Locke. Other bills advanced by the District received interest, but unfortunately were not passed into law. Despite

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the difficulties encountered this year in passing new legislation, many thanks go out to State Representatives Miloscia and Mitchell, and Senator Eide, for their valuable assistance with our legislative program. We look forward to working with each of them next year.

Planning for the 2002 legislative session will begin in July. We hope to work cooperatively with the City of Federal Way in the development of our legislative program this year.

We will update you as the legislative year progresses!

WELL 22B PROJECT

The District will be drilling a replacement well for two existing wells located near the King/Pierce County line at about 36th Avenue South and South 384th Street. The two existing wells are about 20 years old and penetrate the Eastern Uplands Aquifer system about 250 feet below the ground. Problems with sand breaking through the screen on one of the wells has prevented us from fully utilizing the water from these wells and raised concerns that we may soon lose production altogether if the formation around the well screen is further degraded. Drilling of a replacement well is planned for July of this year. We are also looking into a water filtration system that will reduce the levels of iron and manganese minerals present in these wells to improve the overall water quality in the area. The replacement well will allow us to produce over 100 million gallons of water each year from this site.

Water Treatment Update

In June 2001, Lakehaven Utility District began treating our drinking water supply to control internal corrosion of metal plumbing commonly found in residential and commercial structures and began disinfecting the water with chlorine as an additional part of that treatment process. Water Treatment is required because of a federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation called the "Lead and Copper Rule." To protect our customers against spills, leaks, or vandalism of our treatment operations, the District has incorporated the following safety measures:

Security

All chemical feed equipment has been installed at existing well facilities with access restricted to authorized Lakehaven personnel, approved visitors, and contractors. Each well facility is fully fenced with building doors and entrance gates locked. The well facilities are equipped with intrusion alarms that are triggered when unauthorized entry is made and these alarms are monitored 24 hours a day at the District's Telemetry Control Headquarters facility.

Gas Detection System

Chlorine cylinders are kept at existing well facilities within special self contained gas cabinets and storage units and each well facility is equipped with a Chlorine Gas "Leak" Detection System. The gas detection system control unit also contains alarms triggered by power and sensor failure. All alarm conditions are monitored 24 hours a day at the District's Telemetry Control Headquarters facility.

Accidental Release Measures

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Lakehaven has prepared a Spill/Incident Response Plan to address roles, emergency response, cleanup procedures, and coordination of efforts in the event of a hazardous materials spill or incident in the vicinity of a Lakehaven wellhead.

The Federal Way Fire Department (Fire Department) has primary responsibility for spills or incidents involving hazardous materials at the District's well sites and flow control facilities. Lakehaven is responsible for keeping the Fire Department informed regarding chemicals stored and used at each of the treatment facilities and providing cleanup assistance when possible.

The Fire Department has a Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) team capable of responding to spill incidents. The HAZMAT team is composed of three units that are normally located at Fire Station Four, which is east of Interstate-5 and South 320th Street. The HAZMAT team has two or more personnel on duty during all shifts.

Poster Winners

The District, in partnership with the Federal Way Elementary Schools and the local business community, sponsored our 4th annual poster drawing contest to develop a 2001 Water Conservation Calendar. The winning posters will be the featured art on the calendars. Calendars will be available through the participating schools as a fund raising project for those schools this fall.

Business Contributors were Applebee's Restaurant, Barnes & Noble, Baskin Robbins, Big Five Sporting Goods, Blimpee's Subs & Salads, Costco Wholesale, Kits/Ritz Camera, Paint Yourself Silly, SeaTac Mall and Torero's Restaurant.



Congratulations to the following poster winners: Amber Quinn, Ashley Knutson, Cheri Eshete, Corey Roles, Jacklyn Hall, Joanna Park, John Rhodes, Louisa Rodriguez, Marie Grey, Melyssa Ackermann, Nina Ngo, Nubia Vasquez and Patty Ayala.

Water Conservation Activities

The District will participate in the 26th Annual Safety Show at SeaTac Mall, Saturday, October 6th 2001, from 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. For more information call Melinda at 253-946-5426.

The District has implemented a watering schedule calendar for the summer months to conserve our water supply. This calendar is on a voluntary basis. Please use the color associated with the last two digits of your house

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number and water only on the days with your color, not to exceed 1" weekly. For best absorption, water between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

00-15	16-32	33-99
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July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Your Board of Commissioners

Donald L. P. Miller - President

Tom Jovanovich - Vice President

Dick Mayer - Secretary

Beverly J. Tweddle - Commissioner

Ed Stewart - Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held at the Lakehaven Center at 31531 First Ave. S., Federal Way at 6 p.m.

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