

For customers of Parr Utilities Ltd. / Windermere Water & Sewer Company



HOW MIGHT THE RDEK BECOME INVOLVED WITH YOUR WATER?

You may have heard that the RDEK Board directed staff to investigate the purchase of Parr Utilities (currently operated by Windermere Water and Sewer Company (WWSC)) to provide treated water for the Windermere Community Water System Service Area, which has been on a Water Quality Notice since 2006. Part of that process includes assessing the potential impact to both the Windermere and existing Parr/WWSC customers.

It is important to us at the RDEK that we engage you as an existing Parr/WWSC customer and keep you informed as we move through this process. This newsletter is the first step in reaching out to you to provide an update on where we are at and how you can stay informed every step of the way.

WHERE IS THE RDEK AT IN THE PROCESS?

We are still in the early stages of this detailed, complicated process. We have identified five key milestones to guide us through the process. How this may impact existing Parr/WWSC customers is currently unknown as we are still so early in the process; however, we want to let you know what the milestones are and make you aware that we will share that information when we know more.

THE 5 PROJECT MILESTONES

DUE DILIGENCE



Evaluating Parr assets and purchase price

- BDO is preparing a financial review of the Parr Utility system
- RDEK staff are working on business cases relating to the purchase or lease of the building housing the water treatment plant and whether to maintain filter backwash discharge to Windermere Water & Sewer Company or construct an RDEK owned backwash facility



SERVICE BOUNDARY



Assessment of service area configuration options

- RDEK staff have been working with the Province to assess all the options available to best service all customers, including how to bring the existing Parr customers into a new or existing RDEK service area



FINANCIAL



Assessment of financial impact to customers

- Will get underway once the information from the evaluation of costs and service area configurations are better known



COMMUNICATION



Keeping You Informed

- An introductory meeting with representatives from the existing Parr customers was held in late December
- More meetings, newsletters and information will come for both the Windermere community and the existing Parr/WWSC customers potentially impacted by this project as we have information to share. Please see page 2 for more on communication



ELECTOR ASSENT



Required For Project to Proceed

- The method of assent (petition vs vote) has not yet been decided by the RDEK Board
- Timing of the elector assent process is expected to be Fall 2017 and there will be detailed information provided to the community so all electors can make an informed decision



WHO'S WHO IN THE WATER ZOO?

In the Columbia Valley, there are a number of different companies who provide water. The two most relevant to the RDEK's potential purchase of Parr Utilities Ltd are the RDEK and Windermere Water and Sewer Company (Parr Utilities is the water branch of WWSC).



Operates and Maintains:

- Timber Ridge Water System
With purchase of bulk water from Parr Utilities
- Windermere Community Water System
- Holland Creek (Lakeview Meadows) Water System
With purchase of bulk water from Kinbasket Water & Sewer Company



STAY IN THE LOOP

One of the best ways to stay informed about this project or other significant happenings in the RDEK is to join one of our email groups.

If you are not already signed up for our email group, sign up today. Simply email Loree Duczek at:

lduczek@rdek.bc.ca

Subject Line: "Your Community" Email Group

For example: "Baltac Email Group" or "Pedley Heights Email Group"



Our email groups are separated by community so that you receive only the information most relevant to you. This includes updates on projects such as the Windermere Water/Parr Purchase project; emergency notifications for things like flooding and fire; and, periodic items of interest related to Area F or the wider RDEK (including our monthly Board Meeting Highlights).*

Other sources of information for this project include:

- RDEK website: www.rdek.bc.ca
- RDEK Facebook page: www.facebook.com/eastkootenay

In addition, there will be some public meetings (potentially late summer/early fall) and there will be an information package direct mailed to affected property owners prior to any elector assent process.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUESTIONS?

To help us prepare and provide you with as much information as you need as we get further into this process, we'd love to hear some of your questions now so that we can aim to include the answers in future communications. You can send your questions to Elizabeth Ahlgren at eahlgren@rdek.bc.ca.

FOR MORE INFO

For more information on the Windermere Water Project and potential Parr purchase, contact Project Supervisor Elizabeth Ahlgren at eahlgren@rdek.bc.ca or toll free 1-888-478-7335 or 250-489-2791.

You can also contact Electoral Area F Director Wendy Booth at wndbooth@gmail.com or 250-345-6155.

We know there will be many questions and we look forward to sharing information with existing Parr/WWSC customers as soon as we have more details confirmed.

We expect the first few project milestones to take until this summer, so if you don't hear from us for a bit, it's because we are still working our way through this very detailed process.

* The emails are for information purposes only. No legal ads or notices are sent via email. The list is for RDEK use only (it is not shared with third parties)