



## **Oakridge Water District updates April 20, 2021**

### **Following are some updates related to the Oakridge Water District**

#### **Flushing:**

The Town completed a project over the winter where flush valves were installed at building water closets and hydrants were upgraded. On April 6 the plant operator (VRI) delivered and posted notices to residents on the flush schedule for 4/12 – 4/16, emails were also sent out by Plaza Management and the town on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively. VRI completed the system-side flushing on 4/15 utilizing the new flush valves and hydrants.

Utilizing each of the newly installed flushing valves, the water service lines entering the buildings were all flushed, and we noticed the water from these contained the most sediment and discoloration compared to the main hydrants. This is due to these service lines being dead ends, where prior to the flushing valve installations, flushing was not possible. We are confident this will have a positive impact on the clarity of the water moving forward. Each flushing valve was left open for 5-7 minutes, the water ran with discoloration at first and were flushed until they were clear. The hydrants became clear faster than previous flushing, indicating that the mains have less built-up sediment. We believe this is a direct result to more frequent hydrant flushes. Going forward we will perform quarterly rather than twice/yr flushing. Next flushing will be in June.

VRI received many calls with questions regarding the length of the hydrant flushing, specifically why it used to take one day and now is a week-long event. Callers were advised that with the 35 new flushing valves at the dead ends, it is going to take longer to flush each one to effectively remove sediment from the mains & service lines. The flushing duration may be longer, but it should be well worth it so that consumers do not experience water discoloration.

If you are experiencing any additional discoloration or sediment in your cold water, please report that to VRI at 845.677.3839 and you can also report that to me at [tgoncalves@lewisborogov.com](mailto:tgoncalves@lewisborogov.com).

The flushing plan can be found here:

[https://www.lewisborogov.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/maintenance/page/12961/oakridge\\_hydrant\\_flushing\\_plan\\_3-2021.pdf](https://www.lewisborogov.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/maintenance/page/12961/oakridge_hydrant_flushing_plan_3-2021.pdf)

#### **Water Hardness:**

Source water has some level of hardness, the chemical treatments to control alkalinity and pH have a tendency to raise hardness levels. Changes to the chemistry is being further investigated, for example, we have room to move pH a bit lower and that will help with reducing manganese thus reducing the hardness. On a call with both County and State health departments on Tuesday 4/6, I asked about this and their response is that they have no regulation for hardness as there are “no health effects from hardness” and adjustments to chemistry for pH is OK since we have room to move lower on the pH scale.

### **Sodium:**

I consulted with the state and county DOH departments, they do not have a set standard for sodium for drinking water. While there is some sodium in the well water which typically comes from road de-icing operations and through backwash of water softeners, there is also potential for sodium levels to increase after water plant treatment. Similar to the comment above regarding water hardness, modifications to the chemistry used to control alkalinity and pH will help with decreasing sodium and this is being looked at. In addition, the health department requires us to maintain a chlorine residual of .70 mg/L or higher and in order to achieve this we use sodium hypochlorite. This might contribute to increased sodium. Independent testing conducted by Hygenix (at the request of residents) and shared with the Town of Lewisboro indicated levels at 89.3 mg/L at the pool house and 92.2 mg/L at a residence on Laurel Ridge Rd. Guidance from NYS Dept. of Health; "Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets."

### **PFOS**

The value for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) was recently measured to be 7.66 at the entry point (where water leaves the plant and enters distribution), so we are below the NYS Department of Health Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts per trillion (ppt). In August of last year the NYS DOH MCL for public drinking water systems was lowered from 70ppt to 10ppt and testing for PFOS was required in the first quarter of 2021. Earlier this year we had reported that PFOS was measured to be at 14.5 ppt (parts per trillion) at Well #6 which was then taken offline. In order to get PFOS levels to "non-detect" the proposed solution is for a granular activated carbon (GAC) system which requires two 16ft x 8ft vessels to contain the carbon media, which would require building a second structure to house the GAC system. The proposed cost is \$1.6 million. This system will also provide added benefits of further enhancing water quality and clarity.

Last week we were informed by Congressman Maloney's office of a Community Project Funding program through the House Appropriations Committee which is offering an EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG). The grant application was due last Friday April 16 and I was able to complete and submit the application which could fund up to 80% of the costs. The grant application included letters of support I requested from; NYS Senator Peter Harkham, NYS Assemblyman Chris Burdick, County Legislator Kitley Covill and Supervisor Peter Parsons. In addition, Supervisor Parsons mailed a letter requesting the support of Senators Chuck Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand and also Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney. In addition to the STAG grant we will also be applying for a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant via the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) once we determine these are available. The WIIA grant should supplement the STAG grant. Specific to the America Rescue Plan funding, the Town has received several emails from residents asking that a portion of that funding be allocated to the Oakridge Water District. We do not have the details on how these funds can be specifically allocated but will keep you all informed as we get more details.

### **Oakridge Email alerts:**

We have about 31 people/emails signed up for this, if you have not, please sign-up for town emails specific for Oakridge announcements here: <https://www.lewisborogov.com/newsletter/subscriptions>

You can also sign-up for email alerts via Plaza Realty, the property manager.

Thank you,

**Tony Gonçalves**

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