



## FLETCHER CREEK IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

RR2, Site 3, Comp 38  
Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0

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### **Freshet Is Behind Us!**

Each spring, sediment is carried down the hill in the Fletcher Creek into the water distribution system.

It seems obvious that the increased sediment in the water would be settling out in the pipe and we've proven that it happens. In satisfying one of the conditions of our operating license, we've been gathering turbidity data on a weekly basis and as side benefit can demonstrate higher sediment loading of the raw water entering the intake that appears in the effluent at a tap a long way downstream. This data is evidence that some sediment is settling out in the pipeline. The sediment cannot be allowed to accumulate so it is flushed from the system on a regular basis.

In recent history the removal of the accumulated sediment occurred in the early spring and fall. This meant the accumulation of sediment arising from spring runoff was left in the system until early fall. We decided to remove the accumulated sediment right after spring runoff thereby holding less in the pipe for a shorter period. If there is an improvement in water quality it likely won't be detectable. (As far as I know, high turbidity in the delivered water has not been an issue.)

In readying for lower stream flow, the maintenance team removed most of the sand and gravel that had accumulated around the in-stream facility in early July. The water had cleared up and the date was set for the chlorine shock and rinse. (The following photograph shows the intake on the day we set the date for the system chlorine shock and rinse.)

### **Chlorine Shock and Rinse**

Historically the twice yearly chlorine shock and rinse has been referred to as the "sanitation flush". For me, the name has some undesirable connotations so I refer to the exercise as the "chlorine shock and rinse". The objective and high level objectives remain as they always have been but a minor change has been made to improve the confidence we have in the results. After the last chlorine shock and rinse a community member noted that there was no odor of chlorine. I didn't hear the comment myself so I'm not sure about potential consequences of the lack of a chlorine odor. We wanted to be sure we could report activities and results providing a greater level of comfort. Peter Sonnenberg, Heather Kelly and I started the day with a breakfast meeting to establish a common understanding of roles, responsibilities, and fine tune the procedure. Mr. Sonnenberg took command and located himself at the intake with Heather Kelly positioned at the mail boxes. Peter and Heather used the radios that the FCID purchased a year ago for this purpose. I was the "roamer" operating valves on Mr. Sonnenberg's commands. (Heather relayed the messages using a different handset.) We made use of chlorine test strips that the FCID purchased for this purpose. We were able to confirm the presence of chlorine in the standpipe effluent for certain which afforded us the opportunity to

initiate the "soak" part of the procedure in a timely manner. (Less active chlorine was wasted.) In the "rinse" part of the procedure we were able to stop the rinse earlier knowing the chlorine level had dropped to "undetectable" on the test strip shortening the rinse time.

The radios and chlorine test strips both increased operational efficiency and provided real data that we had soaked and rinsed the pipeline effectively.



## **Community Interest Story**

In the summer of 2019 I met many of my neighbors while collecting signatures for a petition opposing an application to have the public beach at the end of the Twin Bays Rd to be added to the private property of the adjacent land owner. The application covered the land down to the 532.4 meters above sea level bounded by the point at the east end and the road allowance on the west end of the beach. The community effort retained the private boundary at the line of driftwood along the edge of the pine trees and only the top part of the rocky point was granted to the adjacent land owner. (A win for the community.) The community can still fish off the point