



TO: Water Committee

DATE: February 9, 2011

From: Marie Griggs
Public Involvement Division Manager
Engineering and Construction Department

File No. PE-13-01-WA-013

Re: **Consultation on the Drinking Water Management Plan Progress Report
Summary of Activities and Feedback: October 6 – November 26, 2010**

1.0 Introduction

At its meeting on July 30, 2010, the Board received the progress report for the Drinking Water Management Plan dated June 2010 and directed that a regular meeting of the Water Committee be held to receive comments and submissions on the progress report. Members of the public were informed about the opportunity to provide input via delegations at the Water Committee meeting scheduled for November 10, 2010, or through written submissions. This report summarizes feedback received from one participant between October 6 and the deadline of November 26, 2010.

2.0 Notification

Between October 6 – 26, 2010, approximately 5,260 notification flyers were distributed to the Metro Vancouver DWMP and the Sustainable Region Initiative databases, and letters were sent to First Nations. In addition, Metro Vancouver published notifications in The Vancouver Sun on October 23, 2010, and in The Province on October 24, 2010. Information regarding the opportunities for input was also published on the Metro Vancouver website between October 23 and November 26, 2010. The deadline for feedback was published within all forms of notification.

3.0 Water Committee Meeting

At the November 10, 2010 meeting Metro Vancouver staff provided the Water Committee with the Progress Report and the Committee was available to hear delegations from interested parties. Members of the public did attend the meeting but no delegations provided submissions to the Committee.

4.0 Summary of Feedback

One comment was received by email: "My only comment regarding our drinking water is: keep it naturally clean by striving for new non-chemical systems. Reduce all additives and stick to pure H₂O."

4.1 Metro Vancouver responded to this comment as follows:

Metro Vancouver gets its drinking water from three sources: the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam reservoirs. These closed and protected watersheds are the first barrier in place to ensure the best possible source water quality and, ultimately, clean, safe drinking water. These watersheds provide source water that is untouched by contaminants found in watersheds with industrial, agricultural, or residential developments. Drinking water treatment is required to make sure this water is safe to drink; harmful bacteria is destroyed that might otherwise be present. Chlorine is often used as a primary disinfectant (chlorination at source) and is usually used as a secondary disinfectant to prevent (as much as possible) bacterial re-growth in the water system.

With the start-up of the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant in 2009, Metro Vancouver is now using ultraviolet (UV) light instead of chlorine as the primary disinfectant at the filtration plant. With filtration, Metro Vancouver now uses significantly less chlorine as a secondary disinfectant in the distribution system. The treatment system for Coquitlam source water uses ozone gas as the primary disinfectant and chlorine as the secondary disinfectant in the distribution system. This treatment system is currently being enhanced with the addition of UV light as part of the primary disinfection stage.