

September 12, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

CROSS-CONNECTION / BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR NELSON'S MUNICIPAL POTABLE WATER SYSTEM

In the interest of maintaining safe drinking water, and in compliance with the Province of British Columbia-Interior Health Authority, the City of Nelson has begun a utility-wide Cross-Connection Control / Backflow Prevention Program. The Interior Health Authority regulates water distribution systems like Nelson's through the use of operating permits. One of the conditions of this permit is to maintain a cross connection control program. A 'cross-connection' is any connection or potential connection between a potable drinking water system and any source of contamination that can affect the quality of water in such a way that the contamination could enter the potable water system under certain circumstances. Backflow is the actual reversal of flow in such a way that contamination enters a water system through a cross connection. When a cross-connection and backflow are combined, often the result is a contaminant entering our drinking water system.

The City of Nelson has developed policies and Waterworks Regulatory Bylaw #3293 to address Cross-Connection Controls including all industrial, commercial and institutional properties. These properties must have a backflow preventer suitable for the type of service or business taking place. This is to ensure that NON-POTABLE water cannot be introduced into the potable drinking water system due to backflow, and will also protect occupants inside the buildings from contamination of the drinking water from within.

Assessing existing facilities connected to the water distribution system is an integral part of backflow prevention and in view of this, the City of Nelson will begin an assessment program of all industrial, commercial and institutional buildings over the coming weeks. Our assessors (MTS Consultants) will look for cross-connections within the existing plumbing at over 300 businesses, institutional and industrial facilities and assess threats to the municipal water system in the event of backflow. If you own or operate an ICI facility serviced by the municipal water system you will receive a letter related to this program in the coming days. These inspections also identify problems related to internal plumbing that could affect users of these buildings. The assessment is a free service provided by the City of Nelson and will assist us in providing our residents and customers the best possible protection in regards to drinking water safety.

For More Information:

Contact Public Works & Utilities at (250) 352-8238 / publicworks@nelson.ca