

FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS FLOOD & LANDSLIDE



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER // APRIL 2024

WHERE WE ARE NOW



After a brief winter shut down period through the latter part of December and the month of January, construction started in early February to take advantage of the mild winter weather.

While our winter was mild by Kootenay standards, we still needed to ensure that the work completed in the winter months was not sensitive to cold temperatures. With this in mind, the focus for the month of February was on earth moving activities such as excavating the diversion channel and placing riprap. In March, construction ramped up and the focus turned to preparing for the upcoming water main tie ins.

Work activities planned for the next three weeks:

- Water main tie ins and associated work will occur over the next two weeks with the treated line tie in scheduled for April 23. There will be a water service interruption associated with this tie in (details on page 2 in this newsletter).
- The diversion channel work will continue.
- Excavated material will continue to be placed and compacted in the access road.

As a reminder, there will continue to be increased traffic to and from the worksite during the construction period and the work area will be closed to the public for the duration of the project. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation.



Photo: Overview of the work site during winter construction



Photo: The new weir

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Last spring, when the construction tender was closed, we recognized that we would need additional funds to complete the project. At that time, \$1 million was allocated to the project from the Fairmont Flood and Landslide Service Area and \$1.5 million was allocated from the Growing Community Fund.

As promised, we continued to look for an alternate funding source for the additional costs. We have been awarded **\$2,000,000** from the UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaption Funding Program for the Cold Spring Creek Debris Flow Mitigation Project Phase 3. The "Phase 3" does not mean that the project has been changed or expanded; it simply provides a way to separate out the various funding sources.

This is good news for the project as it will ensure the structure is built to the required height and will help minimize the impact on taxpayers. The funding was announced after the March 31st financial plan deadline, which will give us time to see how the project progresses and determine possible changes to community share and taxation. Over the next few months, the project team will be reviewing all options to ensure this additional funding has the maximum benefit for taxpayers and the service area. Once the specifics are known, we will be sharing them with the community, likely this fall once construction costs are finalized.



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FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS FLOOD & LANDSLIDE COMMUNITY UPDATE - CONTINUED



NEXT STEPS: WATERMAIN TIE INS AND SERVICE INTERRUPTION

As part of the Cold Spring Creek Debris Flow Mitigation Project, a section of both the raw water line (from the wells to the reservoir) and the treated water mainline (from the reservoir to the community) are being upgraded and relocated.

In late March, customers were notified of the water line tie ins and water service interruption through communication from Fairmont Hot Springs Utilities Ltd. You would have also received follow up communication from them last week to let you know that due to unexpected staffing shortages and part supply issues, the tie-in dates were changed.

The treated watermain will be tied in on April 23.

During this tie-in, the line that brings treated water from the storage reservoir to the community will be down from approximately 8:30am to 4:30pm. **There will be a water outage during this time that will impact the entire community water system.**

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE SHUTDOWN:

1. Turn off your hot water tank.
2. Store water. Fill jugs, containers, and your bathtub.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE SHUTDOWN:

1. Do not use water from taps, shower, toilets, etc.

WHAT TO DO ONCE WATER SERVICE IS RESTORED:

1. Slowly turn on your taps as there may be air in the lines.
2. Run a cold water tap for 2-3 minutes to flush any cloudiness or sediment (this is normal).
3. Turn on your hot water tank.
4. A boil water advisory will be in effect for up to 10 days after this tie-in is completed. Watch for follow up communication.
5. If you are away from your property during the outage, you may notice some cloudiness or turbidity once you return. Please run a cold water tap for 2-3 minutes to flush the lines.

The tie in for the raw water line that brings untreated water from the water wells by the Columbia River to the storage reservoir near the ski hill access road will take place in the week of April 15th. There will not be a water service interruption for this tie-in and there will not be a boil water advisory once this tie-in is complete.

We understand that a water system outage is an inconvenience for the community our team is working closely with Fairmont Hot Springs Utilities to minimize the disruption and restore service as quickly as possible.



Photo: Placing the lines in preparation for the tie-ins.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT:

If there are any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to contact the project manager at the RDEK, Kara Zandbergen at kzandbergen@rdek.bc.ca.

