

Subj: **LOD and Raspberry Springs**
Date: 12/9/2009 3:08:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: SallyKurtz@aol.com
To:
CC:

Thank you for taking time to let me know your comments and opinions concerning the community water supply of Raspberry Falls and the proposed Limestone Overlay District.

I too hope that the specific issues associated with your water supply will come to satisfactory resolution soon. But I can assure you that ultimately Loudoun Water and the Virginia Department of Health, who have responsibility to deliver your community safe water, are following the current rules for safe water; they are under federal and state guidelines to do so. Over the length of time that Loudoun Water has investigated the issue of increased total coliform bacteria in the raw groundwater of one well in Raspberry Plains, there has been no delivery of unsafe drinking water to the community because Loudoun Water has followed VDH state standards for disinfecting the raw water supply. Loudoun Water, the responsible management entity, has worked toward reaching a solution for Raspberry and as the Loudoun Water investigation of the circumstances causing the increase in total coliform and then a reading of *E. coli* progressed, Loudoun Water has informed me as they have their Raspberry Falls customers. I too hope that the matter will come to satisfactory solution for all residents.

Would like to clarify your statement - "Our chlorine level is an average of 3.4." This statement gives the impression that 3.4 is the constant avg level of your drinking water without explaining that Loudoun Water tests the level remaining as the water is distributed every certain number of seconds, it is averaged over a day and then a month; highs for the month are also recorded. The EPA maximum chlorine residual is from 2.0 - 4.0. Loudoun Water has been within EPA guidelines. Your recent chlorine levels for 2009 are: May - avg 2.3, high 2.8; June - avg 2.3, high 2.6; July - avg 2.5, high 3.1; Aug - avg 2.2, high 2.9; Sept - avg 2.0, high 3.1; Oct - avg 1.8, high 1.9; Nov - avg 1.7, high 2.0. It is my understanding that since the VDH results revealed no UGI for your raw water supply, the levels are being backed down to what is usual for raw groundwater which is between 1.0 and 1.5.

On the same topic, while you noted information on the risks of chlorination by-products (DBP) as though it applied to Raspberry Fall's water supply, DBP's are more associated with surface water supply where the water treatment plant deals with massive organic matter. You suggest that the problem could be solved by running Leesburg municipal water pipes (H₂O withdrawn from the Potomac River and treated) up Route 15, but it seems to me that with the organic matter that is in the Potomac River that solution would increase the risk of chlorination by-products (DBP) more than using well groundwater as a source (not an organic matter issue), since the whole issue of DBP is derived from organic matter levels having to be treated. Debates on the established guideline at the VA State Health Department and EPA level over high THM's levels from use of chlorine would more likely impact Leesburg Water and Loudoun Water's eastern service area since both draw water from the Potomac River.

I unloaded and printed out the EPA power point presentation that you e-mailed. Thank you for the additional information. Slide on page 6, 1991-2000 shows a significant spike in illness in 1993, that is the timeframe of the Milwaukee, Wis. municipal utility waterborne outbreak of *Cryptosporidium* that sickened 400,000 and caused about 100 deaths. The water supply was a surface one (a river) and attributed to inadequate treatment (change in chemicals at the plant) at the same time when surface water washed from overflowing sewers and agricultural areas. On page 8 the presenter points out that in the 2001-2002 timeframe decreases in outbreaks

associated with inadequate treatment of surface water sources is likely due to increasingly stringent regulations. Think that we both would agree that that is good. I've no quarrel in general with stricter regulations by the EPA or Va Department of Health should they deem them necessary for treatment associated with either surface water sources or well sources.

Thank you again for taking time to let me know your thoughts on both subjects. The Board's Land Use/Transportation continues its review of the ordinance and all issues that have been brought forward are in discussion.
Best regards,
Sally