



Rycroft Water Update

August 4, 2016

Aquatera proudly supports the Village of Rycroft by providing water and wastewater treatment services since 2012. Our operators work to ensure the Class II Water Treatment Plant and Class I Wastewater Treatment lagoon run as smoothly as possible.

Background

Since mid-July, we have faced a number of issues with the raw water quality from the two reservoirs we pull water from in Rycroft.

On July 14, we were pulling water from the 43 million gallon reservoir when the raw water quality turned quickly. The potassium permanganate stopped treating the manganese and the manganese levels were high entering the reservoir. The pH had dropped below 7.0 and the reservoir had a very strong odor to it.

When the water quality at any plant we operate changes like this, the treatment plant is shut down immediately. Once shut down, we switched from the 43 million gallon reservoir to the 8 million gallon reservoir.

Our operators ran into more issues when it was discovered that the 8 million gallon reservoir had similar manganese levels and low pH. The potassium permanganate had the same treatment issues with the treatment of manganese. A high concentration of potassium permanganate was needed to treat the manganese.

A secondary chemical, called sodium aluminate, was ordered to try and raise the pH to help improve the potassium permanganate efficiency.

On July 21, the sodium aluminate arrived and jar testing began on the new chemical. The chemical began being used on July 25, once the proper dosage was determined and a new pump and plumbing was installed.

The sodium aluminate began reaching saturation on July 30. The target pH is 8.2.

Why has it taken so long?

As the manganese coming from the 8 million gallon reservoir fluctuated, the potassium permanganate struggled to remove the manganese. Whenever manganese levels were high the plant was shut down to protect the aesthetics of the water.

Because we shut down the plant to lessen the effect of the treatment issues, there hasn't been enough water for Rycroft Public Works staff to flush the hydrants, removing the discoloured water from the distribution system.

When will the water return to normal?

As of August 1, the plant was able to make water more consistently and the water coming from the water treatment plant is clear and odourless at this time.

Rycroft's Public Works staff were able to begin flushing the hydrants August 3. This will continue until the problem is alleviated.

What can you do to help?

1. Report the issue to the Village. The Public Works department will be able to track where the problem areas are and ensure the flushing gets done in those areas first
2. Flush your hot water tanks
3. Run taps longer