

# Public Notification Regarding Potable Water Use in the Elk Valley

Environmental Management Act Permit 107517, section 7.8

Teck operates five steelmaking coal mines in the Elk Valley, and has been working with regulators and communities to address water quality challenges related to mining activities in the Elk River watershed. In recent years it has been observed that levels of selenium, cadmium, Sulphate and/or nitrate may have become elevated with the potential to impact certain water sources.

Surface and shallow groundwater (well water) users along the Fording and Elk rivers should be aware that concentrations of some mine-related constituents may be elevated. During sampling in 2014–2017, Teck sampled an initial 92 wells (2014–2015) with ongoing monitoring of 13 wells for mine-related water quality constituents. Drinking water quality was assessed by comparing the test results from the well sampling program to British Columbia's Approved Water Quality Guidelines (*BCWQG; BC MoE, 2016*) and Health Canada's *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ, Health Canada 2012)*. This comparison identified that six of the 92 wells sampled slightly exceeded BCWQG for total selenium.

As per Ministry of Health (*Safe Water Supply Vital to Your Health, 1995*), private well owners should maintain water systems in good condition and occasionally test water to identify if treatment is required prior to drinking. In addition, water users can support regulators and monitoring programs in the protection of safe drinking water by registering their well with the Ministry of Environment:

**[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells/information-for-property-owners/well-records-registration](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells/information-for-property-owners/well-records-registration)**

For further information regarding health-related drinking water concerns, please visit Interior Health's Drinking Water Webpage at: **[www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/DrinkingWater](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/DrinkingWater)** or contact the Cranbrook Health Unit at (250) 420-2220.

For more information regarding Teck's sampling program, please contact Teck's Community office in Sparwood or leave a message on the community Teck feedback toll-free line at 1-855-806-6854, and your call will be returned. In addition, more information on Teck's Elk Valley Water Quality Plan can be found on our webpage at: **[www.teck.com/responsibility/our-sustainability-strategy/water/water-quality-in-the-elk-valley](http://www.teck.com/responsibility/our-sustainability-strategy/water/water-quality-in-the-elk-valley)** and any additional questions or feedback can be sent to: **[feedbackteckcoal@teck.com](mailto:feedbackteckcoal@teck.com)**.

Through implementation of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, Teck continues to work to address potential impacts of mine related constituents to protect the ongoing health of the watershed.

The Teck logo is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of the word "Teck" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.