



SILVERTON PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: May 30, 2018
TO: Silverton General Public
FROM: Christian Saxe, Public Works Director
RE: City of Silverton Drinking Water Program

The City of Silverton Public Works Department would like to reassure the residents, visitors and businesses that our drinking water system is an isolated system and is not affected by the issues currently being experienced in other areas of Marion County, occurring as a result of the algae bloom in Detroit Lake. The City of Silverton water supply is completely separate from the City of Salem water supply. Silverton tap water is not affected by the quality of City of Salem tap water in any way. Salem obtains their drinking water from the Santiam River, below the Detroit Reservoir, and from Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells. Silverton drinking water comes primarily from Abiqua Creek. As a backup source, Silverton may use Silver Creek, below the Silverton Reservoir. In the summer when algae is most likely to be present, Silverton city officials will test the Silver Creek source for the presence of blue-green algae prior to use as a drinking water source. City officials visually check the Silverton Dam and the Silverton Reservoir daily. The blue-green algae blooms have a very distinct appearance, looking like bright, lime-green paint in the water (as opposed to a stringy, vegetation mat which is a much more common observance). The blooms tend to be located near the surface of the water and at the shore line, as the wind may direct. Citizens visiting the Reservoir and observing a potential bloom are encouraged to report their finding to the City.

All of the Silverton drinking water storage reservoirs are completely covered and sealed. Without sunlight, algae cannot grow or become a problem for the water quality entering the distribution system. The filtration process at the WTP (both plant no.1 and plant no. 2) is designed to remove algae, if present. Each filter contains a layer of activated carbon which is scientifically proven to be very effective at removing algae. Plant operators replenish (annually) and maintain (weekly) the carbon layer on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christian Saxe".

Christian Saxe

City of Silverton, Public Works Director