



Village of New Denver

Water Source Wells Replacement Project

Drinking water for the Village of New Denver is sourced from an aquifer. Two wells tap into the aquifer and pumphouse buildings (one connected to each well) pump the water up to the Village's water reservoir on Vancouver Street, next to the lower cemetery. Well #1 is located on Kootenay Street, behind the recycling bins, and Well #2 is located on Eldorado Avenue in Greer Park, next to Slocan Lake.

An assessment of our water source wells was completed in 2020 and our water distribution system in 2022 and determined that

- Both wells are 48 years old and are beyond the typical lifespan of municipal wells
- Both wells' construction and completion do not fully meet current standards
- The water supply wells do not meet typical guidelines for providing redundancy
- The Village should begin plans for replacement of the wells
- Both wells and pumphouses need to be equipped with standby power generation
- Well #1 is unable to sustain current and future water demands
- Well #1 is preventing development of the Affordable Housing Project, also due to septic setback regulations
- Well #2 is potentially a GARP (Groundwater At Risk Of Containing Pathogens) source
- Well #2 is a higher risk for potential contamination due to its location at the downstream end of the aquifer
- The location of well #2 is preventing residential & commercial development due to septic setback regulations

What we want to do about it

- Commission two new wells in a new location that is not susceptible to groundwater runoff or GARP influence
- Establish a new pumphouse with updated controls systems and back-up generators
- Decommission the old wells

How we plan to pay for it

- Break the scope of work into two phases, to be completed over two years
- Apply for funding through Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Program
- Use some operating surplus and reserves
- Borrow for the balance

How will that affect my taxes/utility bills?

- If we are successful in our grant application, we would still need to borrow approx. \$500,000 for our portion of the project. This would mean an approximate increase to annual utility bills of \$50.
- If we are unsuccessful in our grant application, we would need to borrow approx. \$1,200,000 for this project. This would mean an approximate increase to annual utility bills of \$180.

That seems like a lot. How does that compare to water bills in neighboring communities?

Salmo	-	\$318/yr
Kaslo	-	\$345/yr plus a frontage levy of \$1.10 per foot (min \$27.50; max \$137.50)
New Denver*	-	\$409/yr or \$539/yr
Nakusp	-	\$427/yr
Slocan	-	\$460/yr
Silverton	-	\$545/yr
Denver Siding**		\$1,064/yr
Rosebery Highlands		\$1,393/yr

*Using the increases to rates shown above

**Prior to transferring to Village

New Denver's annual utility bills have not increased since 2019

What is the end benefit of spending all this money?

- Providing a safe drinking water source well into the future
- Meeting daily max water demands
- Being able to meet future daily max water demands
- Allowing residential & commercial development in the area of Well #2 that were previously restricted due to septic setbacks, thereby increasing the tax base and economic activity
- Allowing the construction of the Affordable Housing Project
- Update infrastructure and controls to current industry standards
- Enabling emergency backup
- Reducing overall operational costs by reducing number of pumpstations
- Increasing fire protection capacity

What are the next steps?

- Council will start the borrowing process by giving three readings to a Loan Authorization By-Law. This bylaw will be for the full \$1,200,000.00, in case we are not successful in our grant application. It can be amended to be lesser amount at a later date if we are awarded the grant.
- The bylaw is then submitted to Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) for review
- Following MFA review, the public is given a chance to comment during the elector approval process
- We will continue to look for additional grants or other funding as well

Additional information will be posted on our website as the project progresses.