

February 28, 2012

File: 5620-01-INTAKE

REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

Via email:  
Mr. Trevor Wicks  
[trentec@shaw.ca](mailto:trentec@shaw.ca)  
Qualicum Beach, BC

Dear Mr. Wicks:

Re: ASR Reports in Newspapers

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2012. Statements in newspapers may not always be totally accurate or complete. We will attempt to respond to your letter in general terms.

The Englishman River Water Service (ERWS) Management Board meeting held in Parksville on February 22, 2012, included informative presentations and discussion by ERWS staff, Associated Engineering, Dennis Lowen Hydrogeology Consulting and David Pyne of ASR Systems LLC. Management Board meetings are open to the public and include a question period and opportunity to discuss the ERWS project with staff and consultants. The presentations from the meeting are available on the AWS/ERWS website: [www.arrowsmithwaterservice.ca](http://www.arrowsmithwaterservice.ca). You may wish to consider attending future meetings of the Board to gain a better understanding of the ASR project and obtain more direct answers to your questions.

The newspaper's reference to above-ground storage tanks at an estimated \$600 million was I believe in response to your prior suggestion that numerous smaller storage reservoirs could be constructed in the water service area for considerably less than the cost of ASR storage. The \$600 million is an estimate of constructing traditional above-ground potable water storage reservoirs with sufficient capacity to meet the 1,000,000 cubic meters of storage needed for the bulk water service areas. One cannot directly compare the costs of constructed potable water storage reservoirs with the cost of the Arrowsmith Lake raw water reservoir – they are very different infrastructure. Also, the \$6 million cost of the Arrowsmith Dam represents 1995 dollars and as you will appreciate, infrastructure costs have increased substantially over the last 15-20 years.

Some of the comments in your letter suggest that you may not understand or appreciate the purpose and benefits of ASR. The purpose is not to clean and cool the water but to store it for later use.

ASR is a relatively new technology although it has gained substantial use around the world in the last 10 years. It has been found to provide a viable and successful opportunity to support water needs during higher demand periods by storing water that is readily available during wetter, high river flow periods. Preliminary investigation to date indicates that the Nanoose Creek Aquifer has good potential for success for the ASR project. Further assessment is planned to confirm this potential.

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All infrastructure installed under the AWS/ERWS program will be owned by the Arrowsmith Water Service (Parksville, Qualicum Beach & RDN) or the Englishman River Water Service (Parksville & RDN).

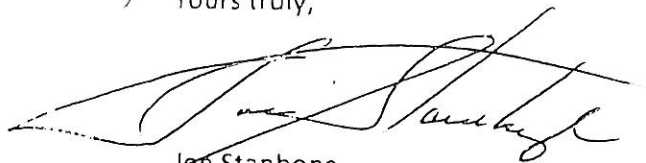
The newspaper's reference to "cavernous spaces" is misleading. Water is stored in the natural aquifer and storage capacity will depend on the characteristics of the aquifer.

The cost of storage comparisons relates to the significant costs associated with constructing conventional above-ground storage reservoirs (capital works) compared to the costs of utilizing the ASR technology.

ERWS is a Joint Venture of the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo. The ERWS area includes the City of Parksville and those areas of French Creek and Nanoose Bay that are within the RDN French Creek and Nanoose Bay Peninsula bulk water service areas. The area does not include all of Nanoose Bay but Fairwinds is within the bulk water service area. The RDN Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area represents the area within Nanoose Bay that is in the bulk water service area. You may access a map of the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area on the RDN website ([www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and link through to Water Smart Communities, or directly through: [www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=1175](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=1175)).

I trust the above information is helpful to you.

Yours truly,



Joe Stanhope  
Chair

cc: Carol Mason, RDN  
Fred Manson, Parksville

bcc J Finnie, RDN