

GREEN PETER DRAWDOWN FAQ – CITY OF SWEET HOME

1. How is our water supply impacted and what are the financial implications?

To compensate for the new water conditions, the City has incurred additional expenses in terms of chemicals, testing, overtime, and community water supplies. The City is tracking those expenses.

2. Is the city or any other entity testing the water for heavy metals, arsenic, and mercury from the silt? Are the filters in use capable of removing heavy metals?

The City sent samples to an independent lab to test for mercury on 11/15. While our filters are not specifically designed to filter out heavy metals, heavy metals generally are combined with non-soluble materials, which are filtered out.

3. How often are the sand filters changed and how many are there? Is there a maintenance cycle?

There are three sand filters that are changed based on the condition of the sand. A typical life cycle for the filters is 10 years, but Sweet Home uses them far less than they were designed for so their life cycle may be longer (Even with the recent water conditions).

4. Who bears financial responsibility for this?

Currently, the City is bearing the financial impact. We are tracking expenses.

5. Can the city and other municipalities that have been impacted by this court order take action against the environmental group involved in the lawsuit and show the human impact and that we have a right to clean drinking water, despite the desired impact to fish?

Legal options are still being investigated, and we are discussing with multiple law firms. We are currently exploring multiple legal options, and are discussing with other cities and the County.

6. Who were the groups involved in filing the lawsuit?

The plaintiffs were the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, WildEarth Guardians, and the Native Fish Society.

7. What is the amount (in levels) of filtration/cleaning/sanitizing chemicals that have been released into the water since October 1st, and at what levels do those chemicals become harmful, either through consumption or skin exposure?

The water has been testing within parameters and at much lower chlorine levels than other cities. Our level of chlorine residuals has been 1.5 mg/l over the last month. The maximum allowable level for consumption is 4.0 mg/l.

8. Why are we (ratepayers) paying for the additional costs to clean the water?

There has not been a cost increase for rate payers.

9. What is the plan for Sweet Home if the lake is no longer usable/attractive as a place to visit?

City staff are constantly evaluating economic development opportunities for Sweet Home and will continue to do so including Quarry Park, and our trail systems.

10. Will the city continue to provide free bottled water?

Because water is currently testing safe for drinking and other uses and has been back to pre-drawdown quality for the last week (as of 11/20), the City will not be providing additional water at this time. If conditions change, we will re-evaluate.

11. What compensation will there be for the loss of revenue due to lost visitors for recreation or special events?

The City is currently looking at all economic impacts and assessing options.

12. What compensation will there be for illnesses caused by polluted water?

There is currently no funding available for medical-related issues, but the City also has not received any reports with doctor-verified information that we can investigate. If you have health-related concerns, please work with your healthcare provider and maintain all your documentation.

13. What compensation will there be for homeowners needing to deepen wells?

The City is currently investigating funding options for low-income residents that may need to deepen their wells.

14. Has the city tested the drinking water for organic and inorganic contamination?

Yes, this is a standard part of our testing protocol.

15. Can we hold the environmental groups financially responsible for the damages?

As of right now the City is investigating its financial options for recovery through various avenues.

16. Are all parts of the city affected or only certain parts?

We have received reports from various parts of Sweet Home at varying times over the last several weeks. If you wish to make a report regarding your water, even on our Facebook page, please be sure to include your address or general area so we can investigate and track.

17. I don't see the question I submitted on here. Where is it?

As questions were received, they were divided by jurisdiction. We have answered questions that we think are best directed to the City of Sweet Home. The remainder of the questions have been directed to the US Army Corps of Engineers. There were also questions received the day of the meeting of 11/20 that were not able to be addressed; these will be added and answers will be provided in an updated FAQ at a later date.