



COTOPAXI CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Fremont County School District RE-3

P.O. Box 385 ~ 0345 County Road 12
Cotopaxi, CO 81223



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Mrs. Van Esselstine - Superintendent

Mr. Eckelberry - Principal

March 20, 2019

Dear Cotopaxi Parents and Communities:

Re: Cotopaxi School Water Source

I would like to preface this notice by assuring the community that our water continues to test absent of aerobic spores, mpa and bacteria. However our location of the water source near Bernard Creek initiated an in-depth review of our system; since temperature and conductivity closely mirrored the creek this ultimately resulted in a reclassification of our system. Below is a brief description of this status change.

In August 2017, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division completed a Sanitary Survey of the Cotopaxi Water System identifying deficiencies and violations. This survey is completed every 5 years and in accordance with recent updates and evaluation guidelines by the State of Colorado. At that time, Cotopaxi School District and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment agreed to complete an in-depth series of sampling to evaluate the water due to this report.

Sampling was complete in November of 2018 and we received notification the end of January from the Colorado Department of Public Health that they had reclassified our system from Ground Water to Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water. With this reclassification, new requirements must be implemented to ensure compliance with the new regulations. We have been working closely with the department along with numerous agencies as we travel through this process. At the February Board Meeting several of their personnel were able to speak directly to the board and community regarding the full process, evaluation, final determination and next steps.

Unfortunately this means we must increase our current level of chlorination to the mandatory interim level until a final filtration system is engineered to meet the reclassification requirements. It is important to note students, staff and visitors will be able to detect the smell and taste of chlorine in our water. We have been assured by the Health Department these levels are safe, necessary and required by law. To help minimize this effect, we will be installing charcoal filters at several locations throughout the buildings which will reduce the chlorine taste during this transition.

This process will be a lengthy process which could last from 18 months to 5 years as we work to determine the best solution for our system and research funding sources to assist with associated costs. We are asking for your patience and assistance as we navigate these new requirements. Rest assured we are working with numerous agencies knowledgeable in this area along with communities and systems that have previously experienced this process. All have been extremely helpful to our district.

Again, I need to reiterate that although the chlorine levels will be increased from our past levels and thus the smell and taste will be altered, they are safe and established within regulatory guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding this situation, please feel free to contact me at the Cotopaxi Schools at either 719-942-4131 or by email at dvanesselstine@cotopaxire3.org. I will be back in the office on April 1, 2019.

Sincerely

Danielle Van Esselstine
Superintendent
Cotopaxi School District RE-3