

**This letter contains important information related to construction of private property water and wastewater systems within the Hamlet of Beaver Mines.**

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October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Beaver Mines Residents;

This letter is to inform residents and business owners that the MD of Pincher Creek (MDPC) will begin allowing permanent connection to the water and wastewater systems within the Hamlet of Beaver Mines **starting October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Please note that residents must not connect to the curbstops and stubbed sewer connection until their application has been approved and inspections have been completed. Residents MUST NOT connect without MD approval.

This letter also serves as notice under Bylaw 1344-22 Schedule B Section (2)(1) and Schedule C Section (2)(1) that connection within the Hamlet of Beaver Mines for all developed properties adjacent to a Distribution System Water Main and Wastewater Main will be mandatory by **January 1, 2028.**

## **GETTING CONNECTED**

### **Homeowner Connection Guide**

This guide is intended to be the main resource to assist homeowners in navigating the connection process. It can be found on the MD website (<https://mdpincercreek.ab.ca/content.php?p=730>).

### **Utility Services Guidelines**

A copy of the Utility Services Guidelines can be found on the MD website (<https://mdpincercreek.ab.ca/content.php?p=730>). These guidelines provide the minimal acceptable procedures and standards to be followed for design and install of private water and drainage (sewer) lines. They are intended to inform both contractors and property owners.

### **Pre-Qualified Contractors**

The MD has updated its website with additional pre-qualified contractors since the last update (<https://mdpincercreek.ab.ca/content.php?p=731>). Use of pre-qualified contractors is not mandatory, but meeting USG requirements is mandatory.

### **Service Connection Application**

A private service connection application must be completed with a new site plan and submitted digitally to [admininfra@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:admininfra@mdpincercreek.ab.ca) or dropped off in person at the MD office. Residents whom have lost or did not receive a copy of the new site plan for their residence with curbstops information can request a digital or printed copy from the MD office.

If additional guidance is required in this process, please refer to the Homeowner Connection Guide as a first step. Those having trouble accessing links or finding pages on the website may email the MD and request copies of the documents be emailed to them. Alternatively, hard copies of any documents (including site plans) may be picked up from the MD office.

## OLDMAN RESERVOIR WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

The MD remains in a **mandatory** Stage 3 - Extreme water restriction. See our website (<https://mdpincercreek.ab.ca/content.php?ias=notice>) for further details.

The MD is continuing to maintain our water supply with Alberta Government approval by trucking water and is working diligently on short and long term solutions. The Beaver Mines standpipe remains shutdown; Pincher Creek remains open as it is on a different water supply.

- The MD is anticipating some form of restrictions will remain in effect until at least Spring runoff

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Q1) Can residents still hookup this Fall?*

A1) Yes, residents can hookup this Fall. However, the MD is encouraging residents whom have the means to wait, to do so. We continue to process contractor and resident applications, but anticipate delayed response times for applications and inspections as resources are directed towards dealing with the water supply issue

*Q2) Is connection mandatory to the water and wastewater systems?*

A2) Yes, connection is mandatory to both systems by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2028

*Q3) What is the MD doing to secure the water supply for future drought conditions*

A4) Many different temporary and long-term options have been investigated. During the September 26<sup>th</sup> Council Committee meeting, Council resolved to:

- Proceed with upgrades to the water treatment plant to (more easily) maintain safe supply over the Winter by upgrading the trucking intakes
- Proceed with drilling into the Crowsnest River aquifer near our existing intakes as a permanent alternate water supply for all residents of the MD

The goal is to have both of these projects done this year. The MD is also investigating large volume (6-18 months) raw water storage projects to mitigate against future (more extreme) droughts.

*Q4) Has this situation happened before to the MD supply?*

A4) The seasonal storage level in the Oldman reservoir this year is the worst since the reservoir was filled, and is unfortunately forecasted to get worse. The MD's intakes into the reservoir were built in 2018, levels have not dropped below the intake since 2018

*Q5) Trucking costs and long-term upgrades sound expensive. Who will pay for all of this?*

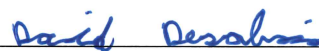
A5) MD Council resolved during the September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting to reach out to various Alberta Ministers to discuss the water supply issue and potential relief funding. We are also investigating grant funding for potential long term solutions (large volume raw water storage). The priority right now is maintaining a safe water supply for all residents. No final decision has been made regarding use of reserve funding or other sources.

We wish everyone in the community a safe, happy, and healthy Fall and Winter.

Regards,



Roland Milligan, CAO



David Desabrais, Utilities & Infrastructure Manager