

June 24, 2009

Water File: 1001868

Mike Squire
Arrowsmith Water Service
c/o City of Parksville
PO Box 1390
Parksville BC V9P 2H3

Dear Mike Squire:

Re: Water release from Arrowsmith Lake

This is a follow-up letter to the City of Parksville's letter dated April 16, 2009, and the meeting held on June 23, 2009 between this office and the Arrowsmith Water Service partners (Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), Town of Qualicum Beach, and City of Parksville) and the fish agencies Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division (MOE-ESD) regarding the Arrowsmith Lake Reservoir Provisional Operational Rule dated January 2, 2008 that requires the maintenance of 1.6 cubic metres per second of flow in the Englishman River at the WSC gauging site at the old Island Highway bridge.

The Arrowsmith Lake reservoir has not filled to-date, (one metre below full supply level on June 23rd) and the flow at the WSC gauge in the Englishman River is reading 1.4 cubic metres per second.

A preliminary Arrowsmith Reservoir Rule Curve chart (copy enclosed) was presented by Mike McCulloch, MOE-ESD that has identified lake level zones that determine what flows are required at the WSC gauging station. These zones were determined using the previous seven years of lake operations, and may change as more operational experience is gained. This draft document was reviewed by the group, and it was agreed that the chart was an important tool to help manage the water in the reservoir.

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Having taken the above into consideration and in response to your request for a reduction in the minimum flow requirement in the stream at the Island Highway bridge, please note:

1. The preliminary Arrowsmith Reservoir Rule Curve zone chart will be used in the 2009 water release period (June to November 2009).
2. If reservoir /lake levels drop below the 2004 water levels before July 24th then the fish agencies and Arrowsmith Water Service will meet with Water Stewardship Division (WSD) to review water release options. A conference call is to be held in the last week of July to review operations to date.
3. The Arrowsmith Water Service will maintain an updated public website that reports Arrowsmith Lake water operations.

The WSD contact on this matter is Cameron Bezanson at 250 751-7117 in Nanaimo.

Yours truly,



Paul Marquis
Assistant Regional Water Manager
Water Stewardship Division

Enclosure: rule curve chart

pc: Mike McCulloch, Anadromous Fisheries Specialist,
Environmental Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment, Nanaimo
Margaret Wright, Restoration Biologist, Oceans and Resource Restoration,
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nanaimo
Bob Weir, Director, Engineering and Utilities, Town of Qualicum Beach
John Finnie, General Manager, Environmental Services,
Public Works and Operations, Regional District of Nanaimo

Arrowsmith Reservoir Rule Curve

