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Ask For: Stephen Rooney

Dear Awatere/Seddon water customer

This is an update to advise on progress on dealing with algae affecting the Awatere/Seddon drinking water network.

As explained in my letter of 25 May, Council engineers, working with scientists at the Cawthron Institute and public health officials from the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board, are investigating why algal filaments are getting into the network and whether they pose any health risk.

We took new water samples last Thursday and Friday, immediately downstream of water meters, followed by samples of algae from meters. We also tested water from the Wheelers Hill and Lions Back tanks.

The good news is the latest round of tests, carried out in the Cawthron laboratories this week, confirmed our earlier assessment that there is no health risk.

Our focus will now expand to how we can stop the algae entering the network in the first place. We will also continue to regularly test water samples.

Let us know if you have noticed algal filaments in your water or a drop in water pressure at home. If you think you have lower than normal water pressure, I encourage you to check your home's tap and shower head filters, water filters, dishwasher filters and washing machine filters, and remove any filaments you find.

Call the Council call center on 520 7400. We can give you further advice if you need it.

We'll continue to work closely with the Public Health Unit of the NMDHB and keep them informed of the situation. We have an emergency response plan in place, and will act immediately if we have any concerns about drinking water quality.

I will also keep you updated. You can also go to our website to find further information on the Awatere supply:

www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/utilities/water-supplies/awatere-water-supply

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROONEY

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OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ENGINEER