



TOWN OF GIBSONS

PO Box 340
474 South Fletcher Road
Gibsons BC | VON 1V0

T 604-886-2274

F 604-886-9735

info@gibsons.ca

www.gibsons.ca

May 13, 2019

Gibsons District Energy Utility (GDEU) – Update: Spring 2019

GDEU Master Plan to be Updated

As you may know, the Town of Gibsons recently completed its budget process for 2019. The newly adopted budget includes \$25,000 in funding to update the GDEU Master Business Plan, as much of the foundational data of the original plan (which was prepared more than five years ago) has changed. We expect that the new Master Business Plan will analyze a range of key issues, including whether the Town should expand its geo-fields and how current residents might be given an opportunity to “opt-out” of the existing GDEU. Once the new plan is complete, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the findings with interested residents.

Parkland Phase 3 and 4

The development of Parkland Phase 4 is now underway. While it was originally envisioned that all four phases of Parkland would be serviced by the GDEU, the existing geo-fields only have the capacity to support the 58 homes located in Parkland Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Additionally, a decision about whether to invest in supplementary geo-fields cannot be made prior to the delivery of a new GDEU Master Plan (as discussed above). As a result, the developer has been permitted to move forward with his development plans and the homes in Phase 3 and Phase 4 of Parkland will be serviced by traditional utility infrastructure.

Loss of Pressure in Geothermal Plant

As we communicated previously, the geothermal plant which supplies heating and cooling fluid to residents of Parkland Phase 1 and Phase 2 recently experienced a gradual loss of pressure, which we believe is related to a leak. In response, we attempted to find the location of the leak by isolating the pump station from the balance of the system, and then monitoring the loss in pressure at the plant. This first test indicated that the leak is not within the Geothermal field or the pump station.

We then proceeded to isolate the distribution piping, which feeds all houses in Phases 1 and 2. This test indicated the leak is on the Woodsworth - Payne Rd - Goddard Rd corridor, with the most probable location being on Woodsworth Rd. However, as the timing of this testing corresponded with the rise in

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“Nature is our most valuable asset”

the temperature outside (which caused residents to reduce the use of their heat pumps), the pressure at the plant stabilized and we were ultimately unable to pinpoint the exact location of the leak.

More leak-testing methods are currently being evaluated and residents will be informed in advance if these tests will affect them.

New Communication Options Available

As the GDEU online forum has not been adopted by enough residents to make it useful, we have decided to eliminate this communication tool.

Instead, we will be introducing a digital newsletter (which will be similar in style to this one) for all residents who provide us with their email address. To be added to this email list, please send an email to info@gibsons.ca with the words "GDEU newsletter" in the subject line.

If you would rather receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail, please provide us with your name and mailing address, either by email to: info@gibsons.ca or by calling the Town at 604.886.2274 and asking to be added to the GDEU newsletter mailing list.

In closing, I would like to thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to register to receive our future Parkland newsletters, and also for your patience as we continue working to resolve the system's current operating issues.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tardif
Manager, Maintenance and Operations

