



**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL  
3805 WEST VAN GIESEN  
WEST RICHLAND WA 99353  
Office 509-967-3425 Fax 509-967-2251**


August 21, 2009

City of West Richland  
Roscoe Slade  
3801 W. Van Giesen  
West Richland, WA 99353

Dear Roscoe:

Having reviewed the City's hydrant flow model, I support the City's use of nesting in its calculations of Fire Suppression Storage and Standby water supplies for its Water System Plan.

Sincerely,



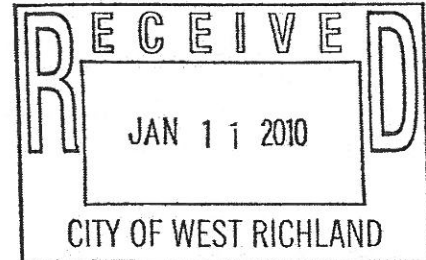
Layne Erdman  
Fire Marshal, City of West Richland



# Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

January 8, 2010

Roscoe Slade, Public Works Director  
City of West Richland  
3801 W. Van Giesen  
West Richland, WA 99353



**Re: *The City's Comprehensive Water System Plan***

Dear Roscoe:

Thank you again for giving the Fire District the opportunity to comment on this very important document. I am following up to an earlier letter (December 1, 2009) regarding the Nesting concept concerning water storage in the Cities reservoirs in.

In the earlier letter I asked for additional information from the City and their engineering firm JUB. Public Works Director Roscoe Slade provided me not only with that information but a meeting with JUB engineering.

After reviewing the assumptions, calculation and data that the City and JUB presented on the Nesting concept that follow the Department of Health standards for nesting. I am now comfortable in agreeing to the Nesting concept with the following water system assumption.

That the City Water Department operates the City Reservoirs at capacity as the water model for fire flow is calculated to include the nesting. That the practice of lowering the levels of the reservoirs during minimal usage to obtain "turn over of the water" not be practiced. That some other method is used other than lowering the level of the reservoirs.

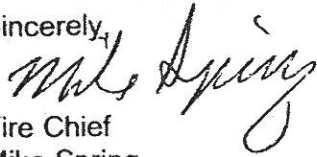
That some type of automatic alarm system or notification system be put in place in the event that a low reservoir level occurs within the City and that the Fire District be notified through SECOMM to the Duty Officer of this within some short period of time.

That some policy be adopted that if low level occurs that the inter-tie with the City of Richland is opened to its maximum, so this is made available to remedy the situation immediately. That this occurs with out interpretation or hesitation or that automatic valving and telemetry be installed to operate the valves when critical levels are reached.

That some type of policy be adopted that in the event of a system wide power outage that the Districts Duty Officer be notified through SECOMM. That some sort of public notification occurs to limit the amount of domestic use until normal operation can resume and that the reservoirs levels can be stabilized.

That the City develops a plan to finance and obtain back up generation capacity for all wells that are critical for fire flow and to meet the water system demands that automatically start and power these wells without the need for human intervention. So that power outages are no longer an issue concerning fire flow and reservoir water storage.

Sincerely,



Fire Chief  
Mike Spring

***According to the U.S. Fire Administration, "More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year. When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent,"***

Cc: Commissioners  
West Richland City Council  
D.O.H. Office of Drinking Water

## Roscoe Slade

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**From:** Roscoe Slade  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010 10:32 AM  
**To:** 'Chief401'  
**Cc:** Donna Noski  
**Subject:** West Richland Water System Plan

Mike,

Thanks for the nesting letter dated January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Let continue to meet regularly to discuss water related issues.

In regards to your letter, the City's practice of "turning over the reservoirs" to maintain adequate chlorine residual throughout the City's water system is necessary in safely providing a high quality of potable water to our residents. I want to ensure you that this practice has not and does not impact the requirement maintain a minimum volume of water for fire fighting activities. The City's consultant determined that a minimum of 960,000 gallons of water needs to be stored within the City's three reservoirs within pressure zone 4 for fire fighting activities. The City's telemetry system low level alarm is set for the following reservoir levels: Both Flat Top Reservoirs 6ft and Candy Mtn. Reservoir 4ft. The normal operating level of these reservoirs is typically in the 8ft to 14 ft range. At these minimum levels, the combination provides for approximately 1,025,000 for fire fighting activities. Modification of the City's telemetry system so that the fire district receives automated notice with low level alarms is possible, but would require re-programming of the City's telemetry system. Modification of the City's water system to include backup power generation for each of the City's water sources is not a requirement from the Health Department due to the City's numerous water sources and the reliability of Benton REA 's power grid, but maybe something for Council to discuss and consider. I have the City's consultant generating a preliminary estimated of the capital cost to provide backup power at each of the sources.

The City has an existing Emergency Response Plan that addresses a wide variety of emergency events associated with the City water system that including power outages. West Richland Municipal Code Chapter 13.68 addresses emergency water conservation and rationing if needed during an emergency. Let me know if you would like copies of each of these for reference.

Thanks again for reviewing and commenting on the City's draft Water System Plan. Further discussions will be needed to determine future City / Benton County Fire District #4 partnerships to jointly address and finance some of the aforementioned items.

Roscoe

