



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief Barbara A. Lazore
Chief James W. Ransom
Chief Monica M. Jacobs
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams
Sub-Chief Ronald LaFrance Jr.
Sub-Chief Pamela D. Brown

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information:
Public Information Office
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Tel: (518) 358-2272 ext. 286 or
Fax: (518) 358-9675

TRIBE'S WATER SYSTEM BEING UPGRADED

Water Tower Shut Down for First Time

Akwesasne Territory. In order to continue to provide the St. Regis Mohawk Community with clean and safe drinking water, the tribe has begun its 30-year maintenance plan on its 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank/tower on McGee Road. The plan involves re-painting the interior of the tank and will require that the tower be shut down for one month beginning on September 18th. No water rationing will be necessary, but consumers are urged to not engage in excessive usage. Before the tower is put back into operation on October 27th, it will be checked for completeness, proper disinfection and sampled. There should be no differences in water pressure or quality when the tank goes back on line. The exterior will be repainted next year, but will not require a shut-down.

Since the tower will be off-line for the first time, other measures will be taken to maintain water pressure at 80 – 85 PSI. The existing high lift pumps are wired with four variable frequency drives (VFD) and programmed to provide enough pressure in the distribution system. The variable frequency drives will gradually turn and slow down the pump speeds instead of instantly turning them on and off. This will save on upkeep costs, reduce wear and tear on pumps and motors and save on electricity.

The water outage on Friday September 19th was due to the VFDs losing their signal and causing the pumps to turn on and off as pressure dropped resulting in a 20 PSI increase every three to five seconds. Around 10:30 PM, a signal loss of two minutes caused the pumps to speed up as fast as they could go, resulting in a dramatic increase in pressure that created a hole in the main line across from the Bear's Den with a loss of pressure and no water service.

412 State Route 57
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Phone: 518.358.2272
Fax: 518.358.3205

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

Notices to boil water were sent to CKON radio station as a precaution since re-pressurizing the system results in stirring up silt inside the pipes, causing discolored water in some areas. The notices were lifted after re-pressurizing and hydrant flushing. Bacteria samples were collected as a safety measure and all results came back negative. The water system is presently running well and providing the community with clean, safe water and sufficient pressure for fire fighting, a main priority.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.