

THE BIG EDDY

Water District	Watershed Number*	Source	User	Reserve Area Requested**
Revelstoke	1a	Clachnacudainn Creek		15.3
"	1b	Greely Creek		20.3
"	1c	Hamilton Creek	City of Revelstoke	5.6
"	1d	Bridge Creek		1.7
"	1e	Napoleon Creek		1.2
"	2	Dolan Creek	Big Eddy W.W.D.***	1.7



A History of the Big Eddy Waterworks District and its Long-Standing Battles to Protect the Dolan Creek Watershed Reserve



By Will Koop, September 30, 2013
 B.C. Tap Water Alliance (<http://www.bctwa.org>)

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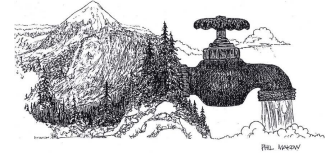
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A History of the Big Eddy Waterworks District and its Long-Standing Battles to Protect the Dolan Creek Watershed Reserve

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rural hamlet community of Big Eddy (named after a nearby and “big” half-circular whirlpool channel in the Columbia River) is located in the Province of British Columbia’s (BC’s) Interior rainforest, along the western bank of the Columbia River, and directly opposite the City of Revelstoke.

In 1949, a group of citizens from Big Eddy met to form a Waterworks District, and then became a government-certified incorporation responsible for the administration and distribution of fresh water for domestic purposes. Following the



March 1950 approval of the new Waterworks District heralded in the BC Gazette by the Lieutenant Governor, the Big Eddy Trustees did what many other communities, villages, towns and municipalities were accustomed to doing for some forty odd years at that time: they asked the government to protect their new drinking and domestic water source, the 440-hectare (1.7 square mile) Dolan Creek watershed, by way of a statutory tenure Reserve over Crown lands, which also included a small 10 hectare parcel of private lands.

Big Eddy’s big sister, the City of Revelstoke, had done likewise over thirty years previous: it had all of its drinking watersheds legislatively protected in 1917 as Watershed Reserves by the federal government.

Such land resource Reserves, freely available under both BC Provincial and Federal legislations, were created by conservation-minded governments in the late 1800s to wisely protect public interests, such as domestic and irrigation watershed source areas. The impetus for this conservation Reserve legislation and policy over community watersheds emanated from United States federal legislation in the late 1800s and quickly spilled over into the halls of Canadian Legislatures during a period of intense political land resource reformation. Strong laws and means were being forged to

protect and carefully manage the Nation's ('Public') forestlands against the unbridled and unprecedented destruction and clear-cut liquidation of forestlands by private landowners and timber barons underway at the time, the cumulative consequences of which had wreaked untold havoc on fresh water streams and rivers by way of flooding, erosion and pollution. Everywhere, water purveyors demanded protection.

Apparently the first Watershed Reserves established in BC were in 1905 and 1906 for the City of Vancouver, to protect the remaining Crown lands in the Capilano and Seymour River valley watersheds from further privatization and exploitation by American-based logging investment interests. Similar Reserves were then instituted by the federal government over intact watersheds – i.e., New Westminster City's Coquitlam watershed, the Town of Salmon Arm's East Canoe Creek, etc. – during its 1884-1930 administration of the Railway Belt through BC's Interior, a corridor belt of land extending some 800 kilometres in length and some 70 kilometres in width.

Early BC government public annual reports never tabulated or documented for the public how many community and irrigation Watershed Reserves were actually established and registered over the decades from 1905 to 1973, but according to Land Registry files there were a large number of them. And over three hundred Community Watershed Reserves were established in the decades following 1973.

For a period of time in the 1940s and 1950s, on its early Departmental Reference Atlas Maps the BC Forest Service inscribed the words ***NO TIMBER SALES*** directly overtop of the watersheds reserved for water purveyors under provisional instruments of the *Land Act*, areas usually identified within coloured circular or curved boundary lines. When referring to these maps, the bold-lettered words helped to remind resource administrators and planning foresters of the special protection status of these reserved watersheds, so that the public's land administrators would uphold their fiduciary and interest duty for BC's citizenry, Improvement Districts, and local governments.

Although the BC government's Crown Land Reserve legislation granted the Big Eddy protection of the Dolan Creek watershed from Timber Sales and other 'dispositions', this report investigates – based on internal records held by both the Big Eddy Waterworks District and the provincial government – a deep disturbing irony in how Big Eddy oddly and nevertheless had to fight to protect its protected Reserve, tooth and nail, for almost 50 years. In many ways, this report narrative about the Big Eddy Trustees' historic struggles represents the collective and often tragic and scandalous story inflicted upon the reserved watersheds assigned and administered by the government for BC's water purveyors.

Timber industry political lobby forces from both within and without government strategized and laboured to not only limit, counteract and ignore the legal tenure status of Big Eddy's Reserve, but all of the Watershed Reserves established for BC's water purveyors. The violations that occurred en masse in British Columbia regarding the public's Reserves were in no way an isolated incident: the violations were sourced from an organized assault since the 1940s on many hundreds of protected domestic watersheds situated on federal forest lands throughout the United States. In other words, while the Trustees fought to protect their legally protected watershed, the Big Eddy Waterworks District was unknowingly caught in a whirlpool, or gigantic eddy, of international intrigue.

Just before the creation of the Big Eddy Waterworks District, the BC government held its second and perhaps most significant Public Inquiry on Forest Resources (1944-1945). Narrated in Chapter Two, the Gordon Sloan Commission heard and received numerous testimonies and written

submissions on the resource protection of drinking water, irrigation water, and fresh water fish habitat. Both BC's Chief Forester (the top administrator in the BC Forest Service) and companies and lobby groups within the private forest industry sector urged the Commission to overturn and revise the government's policies that protected provincial parks and drinking and irrigation watersheds, and urged the Commission against adopting stringent measures recommended by Federal Fisheries inspectors and the fisheries industry to protect fish stream habitat with wide and lengthy intact forest buffer corridors.

After hundreds of Commission witness testimonies and written submissions were analyzed from thousands of transcript pages, Commissioner Gordon Sloan wrote a visionary and significant statement in his final report. Under the BC government's future proposed regime of "sustained yield logging" to be administered through both the establishment of Tree Farm License and Timber Supply Area agreements, Sloan proclaimed that the protection of drinking water was to be an "invaluable function," whereby "*a tree may be of more value in place in the forest than when converted into lumber:*"

A sustained yield policy, perpetuating our forest stands, will not only provide a continuity of wood supply essential to maintain our forest industries, primary and secondary, with consequent regional stability of employment, but will also ensure a continued forest cover adequate to perform the invaluable functions of watershed protection, stream flow and run-off control, the prevention of soil erosion, and of providing recreational and scenic areas, and a home for our wild bird and animal life.

Sloan's visionary statement to protect irrigation and drinking watersheds – enforced through government policy and through provisions of protected Reserve tenures – was later opposed and ignored by government and industry professional foresters.

By the 1960s, most of British Columbia's public forestlands had been systematically converted and dedicated to "sustained-yield" logging objectives assigned within the establishment of new forest tenure boundaries (Public Sustained Yield Units and Tree Farm Licenses). During this time, BC's Chief Forester began to openly wage an invasion on BC's protected community and irrigation Watershed Reserves, condescendingly referring to this public policy as an irritating, forty-year old "*problem of protection.*" His Assistant Chief Forester helped to initiate this invasion when he wrote instructions to his Forest District foresters in December 1960, stating that whenever possible they should implement trickery and deceptions in their formal letters of referral with both BC water purveyors and administrators with BC's Water Rights Branch concerning Timber Sale proposals, in order for private industry to access the timber in these reserved, restricted and otherwise dedicated public forest tenured lands.

The collective deceptions and incursions to protected drinking and irrigation watersheds that began and prevailed indiscriminately in the 1960s provoked significant public and water purveyor protest. Eventually, the Social Credit Party administration was forced to establish an inter-Ministry Task Force on community and irrigation watersheds in February 1972, the ongoing activities of which continued until October 1980 (through three separate political party administrations). During these internal Task Force proceedings and review, apparently no summary information or investigative accounts were tabled about the numerous incursions since the early 1960s to BC's protected community and irrigation watersheds by way of corruption and trickery within the Forest Service.

What did surface in April 1973, was an intriguing memo which stated that the ‘majority’ of community and irrigation watersheds (which apparently included Big Eddy’s Reserve) had not been identified or registered on the Ministry of Lands’ Departmental Reference Maps. The assumption by the inter-Ministerial Task Force membership was that these missing watersheds were to have been protected as Crown Reserve tenures. As stated in Lands Department annual reports, the Departmental Reference Maps were used on a daily basis by government Crown land resource planners as critical reference clearance tools in determining if there were any land use conflicts when reviewing resource tenure proposals, permits, and applications, which included Timber Sale proposals. Without being registered on the government’s central Reference Maps, these critical public watersheds had and could suffer environmental and health threats.

Therefore in May 1973, the New Democratic Party administration’s Executive of Deputy Ministers (assigned to oversee and administer the 1971 *Environment and Land Use Act*) ordered that all of the community and irrigation watersheds identified by the Task Force in a long data list of water purveyors, and all subsequent candidate water purveyor watersheds, were to be immediately established and registered with the Department of Lands as Watershed Map Reserves under the new provisions of the 1970 *Land Act* legislation. According to government records, from June 26 to December 1973, waves of Community Watershed Map Reserves were ordered to be established in a series of separate ordered blocks totalling almost 300 Reserves in number. Orders were also dispatched to automatically convert a number of remaining community watersheds, and any new community watersheds, into Watershed Map Reserves.

Water District	Watershed Number*	Source	User	Reserve Area Requested**
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Above: cut-out from a June 26, 1973 government memo list of community watersheds – under orders by the chair of the community watersheds Task Force – to be made Watershed Map Reserves. These Reserves had already been previously registered as Reserves.

Stated in Appendix A of the Big Eddy report, a *Land Act* Map Reserve is a simple and very powerful instrument of protection. It has been, and is still, used by government to protect a wide range of interests over Crown lands. Essentially, a Map Reserve is a mirror image of an Order-in-Council Reserve, with the distinction that a Map Reserve is an area of land kept in a legal state of protective waiting over a short or lengthy period of time (i.e., Community Watershed Map Reserves were all registered with an expiry year date of 9,999), and may then be transformed at any given moment to be permanently protected and baptized as an Order-in-Council Reserve. As defined by government interpretation policy, adhering to the legislation in the 1970 *Land Act*, all other possible interests on public lands are withheld in a Map Reserve – as they are in an Order-in-Council Reserve – while the reserved lands remain in a state of suspension from any and all “dispositions.” If the water supplies are to be completely protected from human industry or otherwise for the long term interests of BC’s water purveyors, then nothing should occur that would diminish or interfere with the land in its natural or given state. It’s quite simple and straight forward.

According to government records, the orders by the provincial government's Executive in May of 1973 – to establish community watershed Map Reserves, and that they be registered on all Departmental Reference Maps – were met with disdain and open rebellion by administrative government foresters who refused to both acknowledge the new Watershed Reserves and orders to officially register them on Forest Service Atlas Reference Maps. To quell this internal rebellion, the Deputy Minister of Forests was pressured by other members of the Land Use Technical Committee Executive to make his administrative foresters surrender and submit. While avoiding a public scandal or internal review over the corruption of the Forest Service with respect to the particulars of its dubious administration, the government's renewed and wholesale establishment of Watershed Reserves throughout BC was akin to refreshing both the Department of Lands' Central Registry or Register and its Map Referencing system, much like re-booting a computer's hard drive to update a critical software program.

By the end of the 1970s, top Social Credit Party administrators with the newly established and single-agency Ministry of Forests, influenced through lobbying efforts by the Council of Forest Industries, were distraught over the recent establishment of hundreds of Watershed Reserves by the previous political administration. In order to hide the existence and legal mandate of the Reserves from the public, unknown governmental parties therefore removed and edited out all numerous references and contextual descriptions made to the words "*Map Reserves*" that were initially included in the body of a 1977 draft Ministry of Environment document on the future management of BC's community Watershed Reserves. This fraud and deception perpetrated in the final October 1980 community watershed guidelines document (nicknamed the "Blue Book") accomplished two strategic outcomes: it brought utter confusion to government planning Ministries and administrators; and likewise left BC's water purveyors believing that their associated community and irrigation watersheds were unprotected sources and were seemingly subject to the forest management mandate of the revised 1978 *Forest Act*.

In the regular maintenance of this strategic deception, the Ministry of Forests subsequently and routinely 'concealed' the tenure status of the Reserves from public planning documents, and no definitions of these Reserves and their registered status histories were included in report and official Ministry glossaries. The deception, which the BC Tap Water Alliance has often referred to as being one of the most significant land resource scandals in BC's administrative history, was later further developed, re-shuffled and cemented by unknown parties in 1995 within the legislative implementation of the *BC Forest Practices Code Act*, whereby government administrators integrated BC's legally protected Watershed Reserves with un-reserved community and domestic watersheds in a new named and new numbered category of community watersheds, making it appear, once again, and now more officially under a legal fiction, that the unidentified Watershed Reserves were subject to new forest management objectives often called "Special Management Zones."

Clearly stated in the first September 1980 policy manual made specifically for BC's community watersheds and "approved by Executive Committee" – a policy document never disclosed to BC's water purveyors – land use activities and tenures in Watershed Map Reserves and Order-in-Council Reserves were strictly forbidden and restricted territory: "*New dispositions may be made where the activity is compatible with the intent of the [October 1980] Guidelines and not detrimental to the community water supplies and where the land is not affected by an Order-in-Council or Map Reserve.*" (Bold emphasis)

As narrated in the B.C. Tap Water Alliance's 2006 book, *From Wisdom to Tyranny: A History of British Columbia's Watershed Reserves*, contrary to legislation that mandated it to do so, the government's Land Use Coordinating Office (LUCO) had consistently failed to reveal the tenure status and function of Community Watershed Reserves in all of the government's Regional Land Use and Sub-Regional Land Use planning processes and final documents ongoing since 1989: i.e. the East and West Kootenay Land Use Plans, the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, etc.

Despite the earlier cloud of confusion hanging over the Big Eddy Trustees about the legal function of a Watershed Reserve, Big Eddy's records clearly show that when the BC Forest Service's Kamloops and Nelson Forest District Office Managers tested and tricked Big Eddy with Timber Sale disposition proposals in the 1950s and 1960s, the Trustees vigilantly opposed each Sale through written return correspondence. Had the Trustees conditionally relented to any terms of the Timber Sale proposals, by either not responding or by agreeing to the proposals in writing, the Forest Service could have taken advantage of the Dolan Creek Watershed Reserve tenure status by arguing internally that the Trustees therefore were no longer interested in the Reserve tenure and its legal purpose.

As a result of the Big Eddy Trustees' firm and consistent position against Timber Sale proposals stated in correspondence records, and despite the Trustees inadvertent ignorance of the Reserve powers, after fourteen years of failed attempts the Nelson Region Forest District finally relented and acknowledged to the Big Eddy Trustees in writing in 1965 that the Dolan Creek water source was a Watershed Reserve, and therefore no further Timber Sales would be proposed. The matter, however, did not and would not end there.

In the early 1970s, BC Hydro & Power Authority, a powerful BC Crown corporation created in 1964, proposed to construct a large hydro electric dam on the Columbia River about six kilometres north of Big Eddy. The complex project application included a new, lengthy and wide stretch of right-of-way route for the electrical transmission lines. That proposed linear clear-cut would intersect the Dolan Watershed Reserve, the location of which was not physically far and directly upstream from Big Eddy's water intake reservoir. During the consistent fracas that resulted with Big Eddy about this proposal from 1974-1983, the government failed to inform Big Eddy and the BC Water Comptroller's legal hearing and proceedings in Revelstoke City about two matters: that the Dolan watershed was protected with a conflicting Map Reserve tenure; and that orders had been given to BC Hydro by the Task Force on community watersheds, along with corresponding orders by a Regional Resource Management Committee, for Hydro to avoid future right-of-way transmission routes in community watersheds that were protected through Reserve legislation.

In aid of Big Eddy's concerns, the BC Department of Health in Vernon (while not made cognisant of the Dolan's Reserve tenure status) wrote that BC Hydro's proposed route inside the small watershed would ruin and alter the quality of Big Eddy's water supply. During the BC Water Comptroller's legal hearings that took place in Revelstoke City about BC's Hydro Revelstoke Dam project, Big Eddy Trustees presented persuasive arguments on the protection of Dolan Creek. As a result, Hydro promised to compensate Big Eddy on all associated costs by creating an interim, alternative groundwater source, all combined costs amounting in the arrears of over \$1,100,000. The payment was perhaps the first such significant compensation precedent in the Province. Hydro was also ordered to abide by a detailed, legal Guidelines agreement created for the clearing and logging of the right-of-way forest lands, during which time the Big Eddy Trustees kept careful watch over the construction work and reported on a series of infractions by the logging contractor who violated the Guidelines agreement.

Because of additional related costs from the right-of-way construction activities to the Big Eddy Waterworks District which Hydro refused to comply with, Big Eddy launched a formal complaint with the BC Environmental Appeal Board in 1983. The Board not only ruled in Big Eddy's favour, it also declared that the Dolan watershed "*in future be closed and secured from public access by foot, horseback, and wheeled or tracked vehicle.*" The Appeal Board was made unaware that the Dolan was already protected by Reserve legislation and tenure under the *Land Act*, but nevertheless and appropriately advised for its future protection from both human and domestic livestock entry. Had the Appeal Board been notified of the conflicting tenure status of Dolan Creek, it would have investigated the implications and perhaps have given a more noteworthy finding, which in turn may have created a domino inquiry effect on the government's mismanagement of Watershed Reserves that had been seriously underway for some twenty or more years.

According to government records, the Environmental Appeal Board ruling to restrict public access in the Dolan watershed infuriated Social Credit Party top administrators in the Ministries of Forests and Environment. They were deeply troubled because the two Ministries were now consenting, corrupt partners in the midst of a provincial conspiracy, plotting a full assault against BC's water purveyors meant to compromise and subject their legally protected watershed sources to forest management and livestock grazing servitude.

Linked with this conspiratorial agenda, government records also show that BC's Chief Forester had wrongfully and knowingly consented to include the conflicting Dolan Community Watershed Map Reserve tenure lands into the provincial Annual Allowable Cut, an inclusion co-approved by administrative professional foresters in the Nelson Region Forest District. The principal method by which the Chief Forester (and those assigned to do so) could justify including the Dolan Reserve into the Ministry of Forests' forest management land base (determined by calculating 'netting down' procedures) was by having the Provincial Ownership Code books 'fudged' or 'cooked.'

For comprehensive and legal planning procedures, all lands in British Columbia are coded by government according to Land Ownership status. Such coding is critical for determining which lands are and are not subject to forest harvesting and range livestock resource management for the Ministry of Forests, or for other land permitting uses under the administration of other government agencies. For instance, by the early 1980s *Land Act* Order-in-Council Community Watershed Reserves and Community Watershed Map Reserves were numerically identified and coded by the government as part of group number "69," and were provided a corresponding "N" hyphen-linked with this number to denote these Reserves' independence or exclusion from the Provincial Timber Harvesting Land Base. By surreptitiously switching, altering and reformatting the Land Ownership Code from a "69-N" to a "69-C" status in the central computer bank files and print-out sheets was the only way of questionably including the Dolan into the domain of the Timber Harvesting Land Base. Of course, the same would have to be repeated for any or all of BC's Watershed Reserves that were targeted primarily by the Ministry of Forests. It was all strictly 'hush-hush.'

In the Spring of 1984, the now Orwellian-like Ministries of Forests and Environment sprung their secret plans to invade the Dolan Reserve on the unsuspecting Big Eddy Waterworks District. Both Big Eddy and two other water purveyors at and near the Town of Creston (with domestic water rights in the Duck and Arrow Creek Watershed Reserves) became the partnered Ministries' first guinea pigs when the Ministries introduced a new draft provincial planning process, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). Ironically, IWMPs were specifically designed by the two Ministries for BC's Community Watershed Reserves, a glaring oxymoron.

Leading into this IWMP process with Big Eddy, the Ministry of Forests Nelson Regional Forest District failed to sway and seduce the Big Eddy Trustees with an invitation to participate in an organized public relations “show-me” tour of the Blewett Demonstration Forest set up a few kilometres west of Nelson City. Narrated at length in Chapter 8, Demonstration Forests were an old forest industry tool and strategy meant to con and brainwash water purveyors and the public, in this instance by the Blewett water purveyors, a number of whom had been synergized by the Ministry of Forests and the forest industry to sanction logging in their domestic watersheds, two watersheds of which had been protected as tenured Watershed Map Reserves. However, the Big Eddy Trustees did their homework, found out about the track record of Crestbrook Forest Industries, the Cranbrook City-based licensee logging in the Blewett, and kept away from the brainwashing event.

Big Eddy Waterworks fights logging in watershed

Lloyd Good of the Big Eddy Waterworks presented City Council Monday with information on the problems of the Ministry of Forests plan for logging of the Dolan Creek watershed which provides water to Big Eddy.

Good said the watershed provides water to about 1000 people and at present the water does not need to be chlorinated.

In 1983 the ministry came up with a proposal to have Kozek Sawmills log 100 - 150 year old hemlock in the area. Although the hemlock has no commercial value, according to Good, the ministry wants to reseed

the area.

Also according to Good, Gordon Edwards wants to log his private property in that area. The Waterworks had earlier refused Edwards permission to come through the watershed. Now the ministry is allowing Edwards to build a logging road so he can truck out “40-50 truckloads of logs.” Good said that would cause a faster runoff and cause silt in the water, making chlorination “probably necessary.” It would also open up the area to snowmobiles, dirt bikers and cross country skiers. Good maintained costs of maintaining the watershed would increase.

Big Eddy Waterworks has requested the road permit be put on hold until a public meeting can be held.

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Review Classifieds
section**

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From late 1984 to early 1988 during a long series of meetings and IWMP scripts concerning Big Eddy, numerous revisions were made to the IWMP central document which continued to abide by a controversial management component: a network of road access and clearcutting on more than half of the small Dolan Reserve. In the end, in 1988 the Big Eddy Trustees stood their ground and prevailed against the IWMP document and its authors, rejecting over three years of taxpayer public relations-based attempts by the Ministries of Forests and Environment to change their position against logging, a position the Trustees consistently had held since 1950.

While the Big Eddy machinations were underway in the 1980s, BC’s water users, water purveyors and citizenry got politically organized to speak out and rally against the government’s collective incursions to community watersheds. Dozens of local community organizations were formed as a result, and in 1984 many banded together to form a central lobby group, the BC Watershed Alliance, after a provincial conference was held in August in the lower Slocan Valley called *For Love of Water*. The Alliance’s internal records and legal reviews of government legislations indicate that none of the lawyers, groups and organizations were cognizant of the existence and legal powers of Watershed Reserves. It was a very serious political knowledge gap pointing to the success of the Social Credit administration in having kept the Reserves more or less hidden from the public. Unfortunately, the first proper analysis of Watershed Reserves by BC citizenry seems to have occurred in 1992-1993 by the Tuwanek Ratepayers during a Ministries of Forest and Environment review of protection and logging issues in the Sunshine Coast Regional District’s Chapman and Gray Creek Watershed Reserves.

In their arguments and public meetings with the Ministries of Forests and Environment in the 1980s, the organized concerns of these groups, and those registered with the BC Watershed Alliance, which included the activities of Big Eddy, drew significant attention to the issues of public

liabilities and financial compensations to BC's water purveyors resulting from cumulative logging activities in community watersheds. According to internal government records, these concerns prompted the Ministry of Forests to have the BC Attorney General's legal staff conduct a thorough and ongoing internal analysis of liability, recorded through a long series of confidential memos, correspondence records and reports. Never before published, the *Big Eddy* report presents a summary of the government's internal legal documents and initiatives, and the government's onerous decision in 1989 about its liability responsibilities: it decided to simply abandon and ignore these rather daunting compensatory responsibilities.

The Big Eddy had an early, central role in these collective liability matters, because the Trustees had been responsible for establishing two important precedents: having BC Hydro dish out over \$1 million in compensation costs; and by the 1983 ruling of the Environmental Appeal Board.

Collectively, provincial water quality standards and objectives for BC's community watersheds were being systematically degraded in the 1980s, primarily by way of aggressive forest management activities and livestock grazing. So powerful were the integrated political interests to degrade them, that even when *The BC Committee for Safe Drinking Water*, comprised of BC Medical Association physicians, spoke out repeatedly against the government's policies in the early 1990s, nothing changed. When the NDP administration created the *Safe Drinking Water Regulation* in 1992 (linked to new federal regulations and directives on drinking water), the *Regulation* failed and ignored including a necessary and logical provision to physically protect drinking water sources, despite the fact that a large block of them were supposedly protected as tenured Watershed Reserves, and despite pre-election promises by the administration to protect drinking watersheds in general.

Because of the increasing sorry state of drinking water linked to the invasion of community watersheds, in the 1992 *Regulation* was a new mandate to 'chlorinate' all surface water sources, something that didn't sit very well with BC's water purveyors, who were now being told by the government that they themselves had bear the financial and treatment onus for what private commercial interests were largely responsible for by way of government policy.

The hamlet of Big Eddy and the City of Revelstoke immediately lashed out and merged to forcibly oppose the government's chlorination treatment mandate, because for many decades neither water purveyor had previously treated its water intake sources: forty years for Big Eddy; and sixty years for Revelstoke City. On December 2, 1992, over 500 people from Revelstoke City and Big Eddy crammed into a public school gymnasium to hear a lively public panel debate on the government's drinking water *Regulation*. At the event, panel speaker NDP elect Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Jim Doyle, made a significant announcement. Due to the public furor about the chlorination mandate provision in the new *Safe Drinking Water Regulation* by many British Columbians, the Ministry of Health had just made an amendment, whereby: "*Revelstoke would not have their water treated if it does not need to. And I think that you, and most other people in the province, are now convinced of that, then Revelstoke water is just fine and leave it alone. I am here to say that your water will not be treated and I feel your water is as good as you say it is.*"

After a mysterious, minor drinking water contamination event in Revelstoke City's water distribution system in 1995, the government immediately ordered the City to treat its water, and an expensive water filtration plant was eventually built at the Greeley Creek intake. The Big Eddy Trustees continued on its own to oppose the chlorination treatment of its water supply system from the gravity-fed Dolan Creek. Because of Big Eddy's stubborn non-compliance with new

government regulations, in July 2002, Norman Clarkson, the manager of Health Protection with the Interior Health Authority in Vernon City, sent Big Eddy an official double-registered letter and ordered that it “*sever the pipe supply water from the Dolan Creek source in the pump house, and fill the ends of the pipe with concrete.*” Dolan Creek, the community’s water source since 1950, went into hibernation while Big Eddy was ordered to drink from and domestically use nearby electrically-pumped groundwater sources that were originally tapped during BC Hydro’s right-of-way construction in the early 1980s.

According to recent computer data records with the BC Ministry of Lands Regional office in Cranbrook (Front Counter), both Dolan Creek and Greeley Creek are, oddly, no longer status registered as Watershed Reserves. Apparently these computer data omissions seemed to have occurred sometime before late 1997, and apparently without government administrators notifying the Revelstoke City and Big Eddy water purveyors. After discovering the mystery, on June 4, 2013 the B.C. Tap Water Alliance notified the City of Revelstoke of the mystery status in a letter to Mayor and Council, and advised the City to contact the government immediately and have Greeley Creek reinstated as either a Map Reserve or an Order-in-Council Reserve in order to protect the City’s “*vital interests.*”

Alarmingly, the BC Tap Water Alliance discovered in March 2013 (announced in its March 21, 2013 press release) how the BC Liberal Party administration secretly demoted the protected tenure status of over sixty Community Watershed Map Reserves over a four and half year period from late 2008 to 2013, and allegedly did so without notifying each water purveyor to whom the Reserves were assigned for protection. Ever since the re-establishment of Watershed Reserves en masse in 1973 following, no administration has yet dared to do what this administration recently did. The Map Reserves were demoted from Section 16 Map Reserve status to the unprotected tenure status as Section 17 Land Act Designation Reserves.

These demoted Map Reserves were located within the operational boundaries of Ministry of Lands’ South Coast Region, a large Region extending from: the Lower Fraser River Mainland by Metro Vancouver eastward to the Town of Hope and northward up the Fraser River Canyon area; from the Howe Sound area by West Vancouver northward to the resort area of Whistler and the Town of Pemberton; and from the Sunshine Coast area northwest to the Powell River area. Unlike Map Reserves, Section 17 Reserve tenures exclude prohibition of dispositions, and provide government administrators with the Ministry of Environment discretionary powers and latitude to allow dispositions to be made by other resource Ministries (i.e., Timber Sales, etc.), if the dispositions are deemed “compatible” by the Ministry of Environment.