

Belfast Water District

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January 29, 2018

Dear District Customer:

On behalf of the Belfast Water District (BWD) trustees and staff, I am writing to inform you of some major changes that are taking place regarding the land where our office and garages are currently located. These changes will not have any adverse impacts on our rates or water supply.

Last fall, the BWD, through the City of Belfast, was approached about the possibility of selling our land and buildings at 285 Northport Avenue. The interested buyer is a Norwegian aquaculture company that was looking to build a major land-based salmon farming operation in the U.S. They are interested in our property because of its proximity to both salt water and fresh water sources.

It is important to note that while this property was once used for the District's water supply, it has not been used as a water source for 37 years and never will be again. Belfast's water supply is in the Goose River Aquifer in East Belfast. We have two wells there, which have been the sole supply of Belfast's water since 1980. These wells presently pump less than 200,000,000 gallons per year but have the capacity to pump over 500,000,000 gallons per year, giving us plenty of capacity for future growth.

After several months of negotiations, the BWD Trustees have authorized agreements with Nordic Aquafarms Inc. to purchase our land and buildings on Northport Avenue, pending further environmental testing on the land. If all of the tests go as expected, and everyone receives approval from all local and State agencies, Nordic Aquafarms will take ownership of the property later this year. Once it has received its necessary permits, the company will begin constructing its \$150 million state-of-the-art aquaculture facility, which will employ 40 - 60 people when the first phase is completed.

In addition to paying us a fair price for the land and buildings, Nordic Aquafarms also has agreed to purchase a significant amount of water from BWD, which will generate additional revenue for us, helping our ongoing efforts to upgrade and maintain the system, while keeping our rates as low as possible. The City of Belfast has agreed to financially participate in this transaction by offering to take ownership of the Little River Trail, ensuring that the trail will continue to be open to the public. The City also has agreed to donate property on Crocker Road to the BWD as a potential site for our new home.

The Belfast Water District, Nordic Aquafarms Inc., and the City of Belfast will be holding future informational meetings on this, and will be available to address any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Keith Pooler
Superintendent