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 Select language **Medical officer seeks further test of wells; [Final Edition]**[Richard Watts Times Colonist staff. Times - Colonist.](#) Victoria, B.C.: [Jul 20, 2001](#). pg. B.1.FRO**Other available formats:** [Abstract](#)**Find more documents like this:****People:**

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Dr. Richard Stanwick, the regional medical health officer, wants to conduct more tests on the wells and the water being used by the residents of about 60 homes on **Senanus** Drive.

Last May, faced with a deputation of **Senanus** residents, directors with the Capital Regional District voted to ask Stanwick to intervene. All they requested was an examination of the existing and sometimes conflicting reports on the water to determine if the health concerns are serious.

Gordon Denford, a **Senanus** Drive resident who has been trying for years to get water piped in, said he is happy Stanwick is taking such care.

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Victoria's top public health official wants to take no chances with his report on a divisive water issue in Central Saanich.

Dr. Richard Stanwick, the regional medical health officer, wants to conduct more tests on the wells and the water being used by the residents of about 60 homes on **Senanus** Drive.

"I certainly want to give the CRD as impartial a report as possible," said Stanwick.

In Central Saanich, the issue of water quality on **Senanus** Drive has degenerated into an impasse of conflicting studies and immovable political positions.

On one side are **Senanus** residents who contend their well water is unfit for drinking or even bathing at certain times of the year. The water is so fouled with heavy metals and other compounds that it kills houseplants and corrodes pipes and hot-water tanks, they maintain. They want a municipal water supply piped in.

On the other side are nearby residents who are defenders of Central Saanich's rural ambience. They see the municipal water supply as the first step on the road to development.

Last May, faced with a deputation of **Senanus** residents, directors with the

Capital Regional District voted to ask Stanwick to intervene. All they requested was an examination of the existing and sometimes conflicting reports on the water to determine if the health concerns are serious.

Stanwick said Thursday he has completed a review but wants a few more tests, and possibly some analysis done at an outside laboratory, to make sure nobody accuses him of being unfair or partial.

He said whether a supply of municipal water will lead to urban sprawl in Central Saanich is not his concern.

"My sole concern is -- 'Is this a health concern and how significant a health concern?' " said Stanwick.

"I am not the developmental health officer. The last time I looked I am still the medical health officer," he said.

Gordon Denford, a **Senanus** Drive resident who has been trying for years to get water piped in, said he is happy Stanwick is taking such care.

"Who better than the chief medical officer to look at it objectively and say whether or not there is a problem?" said Denford.

He said he is confident Stanwick's report will come back identifying the water as unfit. After that it will be up to municipal politicians to act.

But Denford noted politicians ignored medical opinions in Ontario in recent years, and in May, thousands of Walkerton residents became sick and seven people died from drinking contaminated water.

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