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[Bill Cleverley](#). [Times - Colonist](#). Victoria, B.C.: [Nov 20, 2001](#). pg. B.1.FRO

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#### Abstract (Summary)

Well water in the **Senanus** area of Central Saanich is probably safe but tastes so bad you probably couldn't drink enough of it to keep healthy, Capital Regional District medical health officer Dr. Richard Stanwick has found.

The issue of water in the **Senanus** area of Central Saanich is a long-standing one in the municipality.

CRD chairman Christopher Causton said Stanwick will speak to his report at the CRD board meeting Nov. 28. However, the final decision on whether or not to pipe CRD water to the area rests with Central Saanich, he said.

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#### Full Text (373 words)

*(Copyright Times Colonist (Victoria) 2001)*

Well water in the **Senanus** area of Central Saanich is probably safe but tastes so bad you probably couldn't drink enough of it to keep healthy, Capital Regional District medical health officer Dr. Richard Stanwick has found.

Stanwick was asked to provide a report on the extent of the health hazard faced by residents of about 60 homes around **Senanus** Drive who rely on wells for their water.

Stanwick notes in his report that while some water samples in the area had sporadically elevated concentrations of metals such as copper, chromium lead and zinc, most were only just above the current drinking water guideline and could not be found in subsequent sampling.

But, he said the water is hard to drink.

"Given the poor esthetic quality of the drinking water, water treatment units would be required to enable individuals to consume the average recommended amount of water per day suggested by Health Canada and other authorities."

The issue of water in the **Senanus** area of Central Saanich is a long-standing one in the municipality.

**Senanus** residents say their water is unfit for consumption. It rots pipes, tanks and taps and even kills houseplants.

They have studies and health warnings to prove it. They want their area hooked

up to the municipal water supply, a project that will cost an estimated \$850,000.

On the other side, however, are people who worry that a supply of municipal water will only lead to development. They have their own studies showing the **Senanus** water is safe.

CRD chairman Christopher Causton said Stanwick will speak to his report at the CRD board meeting Nov. 28. However, the final decision on whether or not to pipe CRD water to the area rests with Central Saanich, he said.

"We were asked to see if we could get Dr. Stanwick involved because Central Saanich was deadlocked on this issue. Now they've got a report, I think it's still up to them to make a decision on what they want to do," Causton said.

A summary of Stanwick's report was on Central Saanich council agenda Monday evening.

Mayor Wayne Hunter said, procedurally, his council really can't decide the issue until Stanwick's report is received by the CRD and forwarded to his municipality.

#### Indexing (document details)

<b>People:</b>	<a href="#">Stanwick, Richard</a>
<b>Author(s):</b>	<a href="#">Bill Cleverley</a>
<b>Document types:</b>	News
<b>Section:</b>	<i>Capital Region &amp; Vancouver Island</i>
<b>Publication title:</b>	<a href="#">Times - Colonist</a> . Victoria, B.C.: <a href="#">Nov 20, 2001</a> . pg. B.1.FRO
<b>Source type:</b>	Newspaper
<b>ProQuest document ID:</b>	241361021
<b>Text Word Count</b>	373
<b>Document URL:</b>	<a href="http://proquest.umi.com.proxy.gvpl.ca/pqdweb?did=241361021&amp;sid=1&amp;Fmt=3&amp;clientId=5176&amp;RQT=309&amp;VName=PQD">http://proquest.umi.com.proxy.gvpl.ca/pqdweb?did=241361021&amp;sid=1&amp;Fmt=3&amp;clientId=5176&amp;RQT=309&amp;VName=PQD</a>

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