



WATER FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT

Health Protection

Premises Name Savary Shores Improvement District	Tel: (604) 414-8448 Fax:	
Premises Address Savary Shores Savary Island, BC V0N 2G0	Inspection Date March 24, 2026	Time Spent 4 hours
Operator (Person in Charge) Janine Reimer		
Inspection Type Evaluation		

Observed Violations
There are no observed violations.

Section Details

Comments
VCH ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT
Prepared by: Jack Davidson, Drinking Water Officer (DWO)
For: Savary Shores Improvement District Water System
Operator: Kerby Fisher, with administrative oversight by Janine Reimer
Owner: Savary Shores Improvement District
Date: 2025

SYSTEM OVERVIEW
The Savary Shores Improvement District Water System serves an off-grid improvement district on Savary Island, with the pumps and related works powered by a generator supplemented by solar energy.
Source: Water is supplied from two drilled wells located on SSID Lot 129, a communal lot protected and reserved for drinking water purposes.
Well #1 - Well Depth 111 feet, WTN 44211, Date 1969, Volume <?> US gpm Well #2 - Well Depth 110 feet, WTN 108810, Date 2011, Volume <?> US gpm
Treatment: There is no water treatment or disinfection, as the groundwater was historically assumed not to be under the direct influence of surface water. However, this assumption merits further investigation due to relatively elevated nitrate concentrations in the aquifer and the proximity of the wells to sewerage systems.
Storage: Groundwater is pumped directly to the upper 10,000 Imperial-gallon reservoir tank and then gravity-fed to the lower 40,000 Imperial-gallon tank. The upper tank is the main supply source for the upper section of the distribution system, while the lower tank supplies the lower section.
Distribution: Water is directed to 216 primarily seasonal residential connections. Curb-stop connections are mostly equipped with check valves. The system also serves as a fire suppression system.

CHEMICAL ASSESSMENT
The most recent full-spectrum water test, conducted in 2025, confirmed that all health-related chemical parameters met the safe limits established by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ). Note: Full-spectrum water testing is required once per year. The next test is due in 2026. Additionally, nitrate analysis is required biannually.

Other Parameters of Note - Nitrates: Nitrate concentrations in the water supply are elevated relative to typical background levels but remain below the maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) established by the GCDWQ (MAC 10 mg/L). Concentrations are consistent with historical trends and generally range between 2 and 4 mg/L; while higher than desirable, they do not pose a significant health risk.

The persistent elevation indicates the need for continued monitoring, and nitrate analysis is conducted on a biannual basis in accordance with permit conditions. Nitrates are naturally occurring and may also result from leaching or runoff associated with agricultural activities, manure, and domestic sewage; their presence suggests a potential pathway for contamination and highlights the vulnerability of the semi-confined aquifer to surface influences.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Water suppliers are required to regularly test for bacteriological quality as specified by the regulation and their operating permit. Note: See the sample range reports included with this report for further details.

Frequency: Bacteriological sampling in 2025 met the frequency requirements specified in Schedule B of the Drinking Water Protection Regulation.

Permit conditions require monthly bacteriological sampling, with a minimum of 6 distribution system samples and 1 raw source water sample.

- **Distribution System:** 77 samples were collected from 7 sites during 2025.

- **Raw Source Water:** 24 samples were collected from the wellheads.

Quality: Bacteriological sampling results in 2025 did not meet the potability standards specified in Schedule A of the Drinking Water Protection Regulation. Schedule A requires that if only one sample is taken in a 30-day period, it must have no detectable total coliform, and if multiple samples are taken, at least 90% must have no detectable total coliform, with none exceeding 10 per 100 mL; E. coli must not be detected in any sample.

- **Total Coliform:** Detected in 10 samples (9%).

- **E. coli:** Detected in 1 sample.

COMMENTS

- A boil water notice was issued in October 2025 for 14 days following a positive low-level E. coli count and elevated total coliform counts. It is thought that the counts may be related to challenges with sampling procedures and aging sampling stations. Work is underway to improve standard practices and upgrade stations.

- The water system currently operates without treatment or disinfection and relies on the quality and protection of its source water, supplemented by routine bacteriological and chemical sampling. However, the semi-confined aquifer, historical challenges with nitrate contamination, and the high density of sewerage systems suggest a potential pathway for contamination (primarily viral). As such, SSID's wells have been tentatively classified as GARP – Virus Only. SSID has been asked to weigh options: a permanent water quality advisory or installation of treatment.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

Annual Report: Prepare and publicly distribute the annual report by June 2026 – template provided with report.

Emergency Response Plan: Review and update the emergency response plan by June 2026 – template provided with report.

Full Chemical and Nitrate Analysis: Sample as per permit conditions – see link for details:

<https://www.vch.ca/en/media/12836>

Bacteriological Sampling: Sample as per permit conditions.

Monitoring and Maintenance: Continue to develop written standard operating procedures for bacteriological sampling, and general system maintenance activities such as system flushing, well disinfection, and storage tank cleaning. Record all monitoring results and maintenance activities for operational tracking.

Construction Permit: Application required for major upgrades or expansion of the system.

Treatment Options: Pursue treatment options – UV and/or chlorination.

Hazard Rating For Your Facility: High Moderate Low

DWO

DWO Printed Name

Jack Davidson