

*working for clean rivers*

# CLARIFIER

MARCH  
2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## A Message From Jim Hagerman



Recruitment for a new BES Director officially began last week. Commissioner Fish's office organized two focus groups last month with members of the community and BES employees to identify what the participants see as the most important skills and qualifications for a bureau director. Some common themes emerged in the two sessions that helped improve the position announcement.

We've developed a recruitment brochure and are sending it to several industry groups including APWA, NACWA, WEF and the AWWA. The brochure, which is posted on the [BES website](#), provides an interesting look at the bureau and the city.

In addition to national outreach, the city will place ads in local newspapers El Hispanic News, The Skanner, the Asian Reporter and the Portland Observer. We will also use targeted email blasts to reach potential candidates around the country.

This is an excellent position with an outstanding bureau, so I'm expecting considerable interest. The goal is to have a new director on board by the end of this fiscal year.





## CBWTP Moves Toward 100% Biogas Utilization

Last month, the Portland City Council approved a contract for final design of a facility at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant to convert biogas into compressed natural gas vehicle fuel. The plant produces about 600 million cubic feet of biogas every year. This project would allow the plant to re-use nearly all of the biogas it produces.

An Environmental Services study of re-use alternatives found that the vehicle fuel option is the most economical and has the greatest environmental benefit by reducing diesel fuel use and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The CBWTP facility could produce the equivalent of 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel daily. That's about 25 percent of the City of Portland fleet's daily fuel consumption.



*The current cogeneration facility uses about 40 percent of the plant's biogas.*

Environmental Services is exploring several possible uses for the fuel the plant would produce including selling it to Northwest Natural, selling to Portland area garbage haulers to fuel trucks, fueling city vehicles, or fueling trucks that haul biosolids for land application. It would cost an estimated \$10.9-million to design and construct a facility to process and store biogas and a vehicle fueling station at the CBWTP. Environmental Services is exploring available grants and other financial incentives to help reduce project costs. Construction could start early next year and the facility could be operational by 2017.

The CBWTP has increased biogas re-use over the years. More than 30 years ago, Malarkey Roofing Products® began purchasing the plant's biogas to power part of the company's manufacturing facility. Malarkey currently purchases about 20 percent of the CBWTP's biogas. The plant uses another 20 percent to fuel boilers that produce heat for buildings and the solids treatment process.

In 2009, the CBWTP installed two 850-kilowatt engine-generators fueled by biogas that generate electricity, and heat recovery, for the wastewater treatment process. The cogeneration facility uses about 40 percent of the plant's biogas. Converting biogas to vehicle fuel will re-use biogas the plant flares and the CBWTP will re-use practically all the biogas it produces.



## Slough Awards

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council recognized Environmental Services Field Operations Manager Randy Belston last month with its 2014 Leadership Award. The award recognizes Randy's work in developing a partnership with Roosevelt High School that brings students to the Water Pollution Control Lab to learn about environmental jobs in their community and raise environmental awareness.



*Randy Belston talks with students from Roosevelt High School. Randy received the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's 2014 Leadership Award.*

The annual Slough Celebration also recognized several other Environmental Services staff. The Council gave an Achievement Award to the Colwood Property Project, which Shannah Anderson has worked on for BES. The Mason Flats Restoration Project also won an Achievement Award. The BES team of Sean Bistoff, Chris Lastomirsky, Dave Helzer, Brad Huard, Patty Nelson, Ryan Durocher, Ken Finney and Susan Barthel worked on the Mason Flats project.

Check out the videos the Columbia Slough Watershed Council produced about the [Roosevelt High School partnership](#), the [Colwood Property Project](#) and the [Mason Flats project](#).

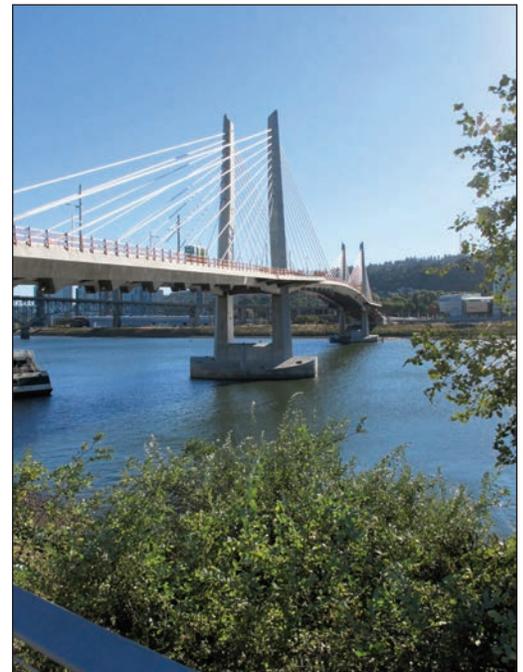


## Twelve Years of Streamlining

Portland's groundbreaking [Streamlining Agreement](#) has been smoothing the way for in-stream construction and restoration projects for 12 years now. It was the first agreement of its kind between federal regulatory agencies and a local government when the city signed it in February 2003. In 2006, other state and local agencies signed on.

The agreement fosters collaboration in environmental permitting and makes the process more effective. The agreement has helped nearly 60 city projects with 168 permits issued to date.

*The streamlining team worked with TriMet on permits for the Tilikum Light Rail Bridge.*





## Requested Budget

Environmental Services has submitted a *FY 2015-2016 requested budget* asking for a \$132.8-million Operating Budget and a \$104.6-million CIP Budget that supports 537.70 FTEs. Bureau staff met with the bureau's Budget Advisory Committee seven times as part of the process to develop the requested budget. The committee studied BES finances and trends, operating programs, and our capital improvement program.

The requested budget focuses on repairing and protecting Portland's aging sewer infrastructure, and the continued integration of green infrastructure with traditional pipe systems as a cost-effective solution to sewer issues. To fund our work, BES is requesting a 3.85% residential sewer rate increase effective on July 1, 2015. That would increase the average monthly residential sewer bill by \$2.51.

Next week, the city holds the second annual utility rate review to present the proposed Water Bureau and BES budgets to the public. The Utility Rate Review is scheduled on Thursday, March 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Montgomery Park Banquet Room, 2701 NW Vaughn. The City Council begins budget work sessions the following week. The BES Council work session is scheduled Thursday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m. The Mayor's proposed budget is due on April 28.



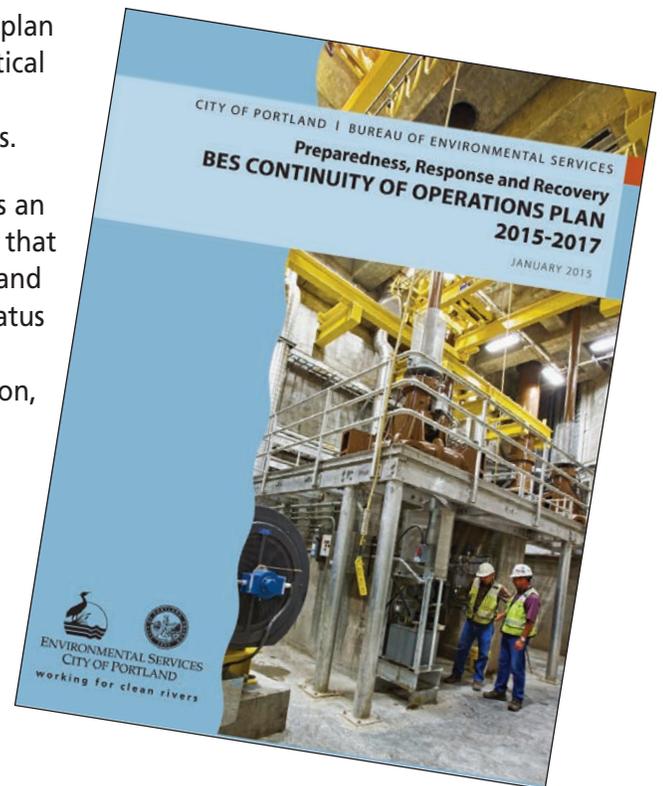
## COOP Update

Environmental Services has updated the bureau *Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)*. The plan will help the bureau continue providing critical services to protect public health and the environment during a range of emergencies.

Keeping your contact information current is an important part of the COOP. The city needs that information to keep track of its workforce and to keep our families informed about our status if we're working during an emergency situation. To update your contact information, go to the [city SAP portal](#) and click on "Personal Information."

The COOP identifies employees who are considered essential during an emergency and describes the roles of both essential and non-essential employees.

Thanks to Steve Behrndt and Sarah Covington for their work on the COOP.





## New PEERs

The recent PEER Program recruitment brought ten new volunteers into the program. PEERs are BES employees who take special training to learn how to be sounding boards and objective listeners for their co-workers about problems in or out of the work place. New PEER volunteers are training this month. Thank you to the new volunteers and the PEER volunteers who are continuing their services. Here is a list of new volunteers and existing PEERs.

New PEER volunteers are Becky Tillson, Sean Bistoff, Stephen Himes, April Murphy, John Wilson, Rhonda Anderson, Carol Justice, John Petty and Kristen Acock.

Existing PEER volunteers are Susan Barthel, Shannah Anderson, Gudmun Sangolt, Claire Houston, Dick Brixey, Kristen Thomas, Taryn Meyer, Jordan McCann, Jenny Martinez, Beth Hiscott, Sherri Peterson, Kathryn Dusza, Brandon Wilson, Laura Sloan, Michael Sisler, Huong Nguyen, Patty Nelson, Alicia Gruber and Helena Abernathy.

Get more PEER information on the BES intranet or contact PEER Program Coordinator *Alice Coker* at 3-7914.



## New Stars

The Environmental Services Recognition Committee circulates eight Shining Star Awards throughout the bureau. Employees give them to co-workers to recognize outstanding achievement and notable performance on the job. Recipients display the Shining Star on their desk for two months, then pass it on.

The Shining Star acknowledges achievements and good work that might otherwise go unnoticed in a bureau as large as BES. When it's time to pass on your Shining Star, consider employees in all groups, as well as your own work team or group.

Here is a list of new Shining Stars.

Erik Durshpek	Shining Star # 1	to Ray Lions
Claudia Sterling	Shining Star # 2	to Joe Hoffman
Katherine Freeman	Shining Star # 3	to Valerie Joachim
Candi Burck	Shining Star # 4	to Baron Howe
Mat Dorfman	Shining Star # 5	to Matt Krueger
Svetlana Pell	Shining Star # 6	to Rosa Lehman
Beth Hiscott	Shining Star # 7	to Michael Hauser
Bill Evans	Shining Star # 8	to Sue Terzo

Read more about this awards program at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars).

## **Wellness Tip**

Vitamin E has a number of health benefits. It protects cell membranes from free radical damage; supports the structure of skeletal and heart cells; helps form new red blood cells; and maintain stores of vitamins A and K, iron, and selenium. You can get your vitamin E as a supplement or in foods such as nuts, spinach, sunflower seeds, wheat germ and whole grains.

Thank you to Dawn Hottenroth for the wellness information she has provided for the Clarifier over the years. Dawn is moving on and Sophia Terry will supply our wellness tips beginning with the April Clarifier.

## **Contact your PEERs**

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. [Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CITY OF PORTLAND  
working for clean rivers



### **Our Mission**

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

### **Our Vision**

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes)  
Nick Fish, Commissioner James Hagerman, Interim Director

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