



Randy Leonard, Commissioner  
David G. Shaff, Administrator

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 600  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1926  
Information: 503-823-7404  
[www.portlandonline.com/water](http://www.portlandonline.com/water)



An Equal Opportunity Employer

January 4, 2012

Dave Leland  
Oregon Health Authority  
Office of Environmental Public Health  
Drinking Water Program  
800 NE Oregon St, Suite 640  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Leland:

The Portland Water Bureau (PWB) today received notification of preliminary laboratory results indicating a detection of *Cryptosporidium* in water from the City's Bull Run source collected on December 30, 2011. The lab results show that one *Cryptosporidium* oocyst was present in a 50-liter (~13 gallon) sample collected at the City's raw water intake. A second oocyst was present in a 10-liter sample collected from a location further upstream.

PWB will send the laboratory slides containing the oocyst to a second EPA-certified laboratory for confirmation of the original lab results. Additionally, PWB has arranged to have the lab samples sent to the University of Texas School of Public Health to undergo DNA analysis. This analysis may provide genotype information which could help determine the significance of this detection.

As you know PWB's *Cryptosporidium* testing is part of the City's interim water quality sampling program, begun last December, as it awaits a final decision from the Oregon Health Authority regarding a potential variance to the treatment requirements of the federal Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). As described in Portland's interim monitoring plan, PWB is implementing increased monitoring which will consist of collecting four 50-liter samples a week for a total volume of 200 liters beginning immediately.

At this time, PWB has informed the Multnomah County Health Department and your office of the preliminary lab results and neither agency has indicated a concern regarding any public health impacts. In the midst of a high volume sampling program, it is not unexpected that a small number of *Cryptosporidium* organisms would occasionally be found in untreated surface water. Today's results are the first to indicate the presence of *Cryptosporidium* at the Bull Run raw water intake since 2002. Since the last detection of *Cryptosporidium*, PWB has conducted over 725 samples totaling over 19,269 liters without finding it.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

David G. Shaff, Administrator  
Portland Water Bureau