

**Public Comments on Water Treatment Options**  
**Weekly Compilation for week of June 30–July 10, 2017**  
of comments submitted via <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/water/73924>

Following the June 27, 2017, Portland City Council [work session](#) to discuss options for treating Bull Run drinking water for *Cryptosporidium*, the Portland Water Bureau created a [submission page](#) for public comments on its website. When encouraging the community to submit their thoughts via social media and the bureau homepage, the Water Bureau communications group offered to compile comments weekly and share them with City Council.

**Here is the compilation for June 30–July 10, 2017.** Please contact Water Bureau Communications Director Nicole Adams, [Nicole.Adams@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.Adams@portlandoregon.gov), with any questions or comments.

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**1.**

**6/30/2017**

I think it's worth our money to upgrade to a filtration system like most other municipalities use. The long time period until it will be ready is embarrassing. I did not see this option in the slide deck, but, in the interim, it seems like we should be able to more quickly ramp up a chlorine dioxide or ozone treatment process to protect our water between now and when the filter is finally ready. While we are making these water system improvements, can we please also get fluoride added to our water supply? Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**2.**

**7/3/2017**

I support Portland Water Bureau's efforts to build a ultraviolet light treatment plant in the Bull Run watershed to treat *Cryptosporidium* which has been detected in the watershed. Here's a link to the original Bull Run watershed *Cryptosporidium* report entitled "Comparison of Method 1623 and Cell Culture-PCR for Detection of *Cryptosporidium* spp. in Source Waters," Applied and Environmental Microbiology, February 2003, Vol. 69, No. 2, pgs. 971-979. <http://aem.asm.org/content/69/2/971.full> Here is the text about isolates SW15 & SW22 in Figure 4 which were samples from the Bull Run watershed: Isolate SW15 was obtained from a sample collected at the Oregon site, which is fully protected from human impact. This isolate was different from the *C. parvum* bovine genotype at three nucleotide positions but clustered with the bovine and murine genotypes (Fig. 4). It is possible that this isolate represents a new genotype of *C. parvum* from a wild animal host. Another isolate (isolate SW22) was obtained from the Oregon site and was identified as the *C. parvum* bovine genotype. This report states that *Cryptosporidium parvum* was detected in the Bull Run watershed. I also support the Portland Water Bureau's idea to set aside monies in the Rate Payers Stabilization Fund, or sinking fund, on a yearly basis over time to pay for the future construction of a direct filtration treatment plant at Lusted Hill. Although there are other types of filtration plants, this concept is likely less expensive than a membrane filtration plant. A membrane filtration plant would require disposal of collected substances. It would be a good idea to educate the public ultraviolet light treatment & the different types of filtration treatment plants so they know which method would be least expensive & the most effective for reducing exposure to *Cryptosporidium* in the Bull Run surface source water. Perhaps information from the public options discussion from February-May 2004 would be useful, but updated to current research. The public is likely to ask for such information. It would be best to educate the public about each treatment option & site your sources so they can read the research on their own time if they choose to do so. This will combat false, misleading, inaccurate, & incorrect information from citizens who aren't microbiologist experts & citizens who claim neither ultraviolet light treatment or direct filtration treatment is necessary to treat Bull Run surface source water for *Cryptosporidium*. There are

citizens that will tell the Water Bureau & City Council to fight against the OHA & USEPA on this matter. USEPA's LT2ESWTR is not going to be rewritten.

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**3.**  
**7/6/2017**

I am in favor of the city investing money towards a filtration system that will safeguard our drinking water against earthquakes and other natural disasters. The UV solution is stopgap that does not make our city more prepared and will cost more in the long run.

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**4.**  
**7/6/2017**

I have lived in Portland my entire life. The taste of Portland's water is 2nd to none. PLEASE do not add chlorine to our water. Thank you.

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**5.**  
**7/7/2017**

Dear Commissioners, Please consider the option to filter vs using the less expensive UV option. We should prepare for future threats from pollutants as well as micro organisms. For these reasons I suggest a filtration system. The type of filtration, the quality, durability, track record and maintenance costs should be factored into the decision because filtration systems vary.

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**6.**  
**7/7/2017**

The way the city has handled its business over the past 10-15 years makes me pretty frustrated. It doesn't take a genius to realize that as the population increases that contaminants such as cryptosporidium will become more of an issue. I entirely agree with the feds that treatment is needed. If the city had not made such poor decisions with respect to water department billing systems and treating the reserve as a bank account for other projects (no thanks to Sam Adams), this project may have started much sooner and the health risks to Portland citizens would either be under control or coming much sooner. Please get your act together and for heavens sake, use your funds with greater care. I don't want to see the water department privatized, because there is no competition with infrastructure like this, but public departments need to act professionally and make intelligent decisions.

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**7.**  
**7/7/2017**

I don't believe we need to treat our drinking water from Bullrun. From what I've learned, there is no proof that people get sick from cryptosporidium from animals in water sources. Our water source is one of the best and the cleanest in the world and a few bugs shouldn't bother us.

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**8.**  
**7/8/2017**

If what I have heard is correct, cryptosporidium contamination discovered recently is very likely to be due to the year's record rainfall, unlikely to be repeated, and is not causing measurable health issues. Do not build a hugely expensive treatment facility until and unless we know we will need it on a regular basis!

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9.

**7/9/2017**

Approach 2: Filtration. This seems like the most viable option for both short term and long term needs. It also appears to be the most "natural" approach, which Portland residents might like better. Overall, I'd like to see filtration systems using charcoal and other percolation methods used to treat our Bull Run water source since it can minimize many other issues such as turbidity and cyanobacteria. While the cost is higher, it sounds like this filtration system will be a better overall program than the cheaper, less useful UV approach. Overall, the filtration approach will likely be of more benefit to Portland residents than the other alternative. I hope that you take this as a challenge to apply an innovative, sustainable, and environmentally sound approach with the filtration system. We already use an innovative system by protecting our watershed; let's keep up with that mindset! Thanks for taking the time to review my comment! Have a great day.

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10.

**7/9/2017**

It seems that these options are both going to have nearly insignificant impact on rates, when amortized over a 50 year period. Furthermore, if it takes almost 10 years before the hard construction costs for a filtration plant hit, any rate increase could be very gradual. Filtration makes more sense: 1. Uncertainty due to climate change 2. There's a really good chance something is going to happen in the next 25 years which requires additional treatment. Wouldn't it suck if that happens in 10 years and we had decided on UV? 3. Ability to increase water supply - especially important due to climate change and the associated wetter, more concentrated winters. I believe filtration is really the only "no regrets" option