

**Public Comments on Water Treatment Options
Weekly Compilation for week of July 10–July 17, 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 July 10–July 17, 2017. Please contact Water Bureau Communications Director Nicole Adams, Nicole.Adams@portlandoregon.gov, with any questions or comments.

1.
7/11/2017
Filtration plant will future proof our system. UV seems like a band aid fix.

2.
7/11/2017
While I think the detections are too small to worry about and are likely always going to be the type from wildlife, the reality is that there are always going to be threats to a safe drinking water supply, even one as wonderful as ours, regardless of State and/or Federal regulations & rules. I am more than a little annoyed that what I consider overly-broad and poorly worded regulations often force us to have to spend money to re-work our system on things that may not be so detrimental upon further research. However, one of the main reasons our system is so great is because the people who designed and built it were thinking ahead and considering impacts of the future. They had to fight to get the water system built when there were many in the government and society of Portland 1800's who did not believe it was necessary to build the system we are so proud of today and who thought it was all a big waste of money. Now that we have our system I feel that Portland continues to take it for granted and now wants to ignore the forward thinking approach that has served us so well. We continue to debate the need for system improvements that will 1- preserve and improve our seriously aging and

seismically vulnerable system, 2- place the Water system in a position to handle future threats that are yet to be discovered or just not currently cause for alarm until science reveals otherwise. We know that a filtration system will be the best method to address current and future contaminants because it has the ability to remove more contaminants than a UV treatment system would destroy. Yes, UV is great and would work on Crypto currently but I suspect we will be faced with this choice over and over again, with the price escalating each time we debate. If we aren't going to build both, (which I think would be good back-up and responsible emergency planning) I would vote for the filtration system over the UV because that way we are taking the offensive, proving we are good stewards of our water system and planning ahead so that we are in a much better position to handle (with less expenditure in the long term) the next threat and/or regulation we are sure to be faced with. Disclosure: I am a Portland Water Bureau employee.

3.

7/11/2017

Let's do the treatment that gives us the most flexibility long term and improves our system's resilience against a multitude of threats. Let's not go for the quick fix, even if it costs more to do the right thing..

4.

7/11/2017

Over the last few months myself and visiting daughter has experienced strange intestinal cramps and diarrhea after drinking large glasses of tap water.

5.

7/12/2017

The City of Portland has far too many problems with the water department and it is time to stop kicking the can down the road and begin to face the problems.1. If the cryptosporidium problem can be addressed immediately with a UV system then that should be planned for as soon as possible. But wherever the UF system is installed it should be with the understanding that a full filtration plant will also soon be constructed in conjunction with the UV treatment.2. When the UV system is installed then Portland will also have a perfect site to also add a Poly-orthophosphate as part of the water treatment process to help sequester the lead and copper in the piping and eliminate the Lead issues that have bedeviled

Portland this year.3. As The Bull Run Reservoir gets older and global warming becomes a more present reality then algae in the reservoir will become a problem. (Look at what happened to the Mokelumne Reservoir in California last year). The disinfection byproduct levels will begin to increase and a filtration plant will become a necessity. 4. Finally, Portland should no longer have any open reservoirs in the distribution system. They should have been phased out years ago. Portland needs to begin treating the water system with the importance it deserves, raise the rates and begin fixing the many problems, instead of lurching from one crisis to another.

6.

7/14/2017

I am a registered nurse who works with telephone triage/nurse advice. We seemed to receive a larger than normal number of calls of symptoms similar to Crypto prior to the news release of it in our water supply. I would like to suggest partnering with the different health agencies to consolidate information. I think it would be beneficial for finding new outbreaks of disease in the community. As to Crypto treatment, I am in favor of building filtration facility now, rather than starting with UV and postponing the filtration facility. We had other incidents of bacteria in our water supply. I think it would be a better long term investment to just bite the bullet now

7.

7/15/2017

It's time to take some serious measures and bring the Metro Water Supply up to standards that most large metropolitan cities have. The city of Portland notoriously mismanaged funds and there needs to be an accounting and the savings for a new upgraded filtering system. The problem and situation is going to continue to increase, it's going to get worse and burying your heads in the sand is not the answer, nor is denying that it's a problem. Millions of people have health conditions that make them extremely susceptible to developing problems with the cryptosporidium.

8.

7/15/2017

I became sick as a dog for weeks. I eliminated every vitamin, medication and then foods. I was itching internally through my entire body. It was incessant I couldn't sleep or function. I am a disabled person and this added misery was horrible. Finally I eliminated drinking any tap water. Within days my itching cleared and I started feeling better. Why am I paying for water I cannot drink?