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*updated June 2, 2009*

## LT2 EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

What: A Work Session to discuss water treatment options with City Council

When: Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Time: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: City Hall Council Chambers, 1220 S.W. Fourth Avenue

In January 2006, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new drinking water rule under the Safe Drinking Water Act called the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2).

According to the EPA, "The purpose of the LT2 rule is to reduce illness linked with the contaminant Cryptosporidium and other disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water." Cryptosporidium is a micro-organism (protozoan) naturally present in bodies of surface water throughout the world. Surface water supplies are particularly vulnerable if, unlike the city's Bull Run supply, they regularly receive runoff or pollution from human or animal wastes.

Compliance with the LT2 will require Portland to build a new treatment plant to either remove or inactivate Cryptosporidium. The treatment options available to the city for this include filtration (either traditional or newer micro-membrane technology to remove the parasites), ozonation (the introduction of ozone to water to destroy the Cryptosporidium oocysts) or ultraviolet radiation (ultraviolet lights irradiate the Cryptosporidium oocysts to prevent them from reproducing which is commonly referred to as inactivation).

Under the direction of Commissioner Leonard, the Water Bureau is pursuing the following compliance strategies:

1. Attempt to obtain a variance to the treatment portion of the rule from the EPA. A variance could conceivably allow the bureau to avoid the expense associated with building new treatment if the city can demonstrate to the EPA that due to the nature of the Bull Run source, additional treatment is unnecessary.
2. Request that Portland's congressional delegation introduce federal legislation allowing Portland to continue to use its Bull Run source water without additional treatment.
3. Plan and budget to achieve compliance with the LT2 rule as written. This includes the development of a treatment plant to comply with the water treatment requirement of the rule.

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The purpose of the June 23rd Work Session is to provide the Council with information regarding its treatment options in complying with the new regulations.

David G. Shaff, Administrator  
Portland Water Bureau

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