



Nick Fish, Commissioner
Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator

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March 21, 2016

Mr. Dave Leland
Manager, Drinking Water Services
Center for Health Protection
Oregon Health Authority
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 930
Portland, Oregon 97232

RE: Portland Water Bureau and the Lead and Copper Rule

Dear Mr. Leland:

As part of our shared commitment to public health and safety, I write to discuss the Portland Water Bureau's ongoing compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) and to request a meeting to discuss this issue further.

Recent events in Flint, Michigan have focused national attention on lead. Last week, Dennis McLerran, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Administrator, contacted the Water Bureau. Among other things, we discussed the EPA's heightened concerns on the issue of water quality, and Administrator McLerran requested information about our continued compliance with applicable regulations. We agreed it would be prudent to reach out to you as the state primacy agency.

As you know, since November 1997, the Water Bureau has been operating under an Oregon Health Authority (OHA) approved program deemed as "optimal corrosion control treatment for lead and copper at the customer taps throughout the regional distribution system." This program, developed in collaboration with OHA and local partners, has reduced lead in drinking water and reduced exposure to lead from all sources. Significantly, it was developed at the time the Bureau had five large, open reservoirs.

Portland's history with open reservoirs is coming to a close as we comply with the requirements of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). Our compliance date for the open air reservoirs requirements of LT2 is 2020. In December 2015, we disconnected the three Mount Tabor open reservoirs.

This summer, we plan to disconnect the Washington Park Reservoirs and begin construction of a new, covered reservoir at that site. Additionally, we have completed and put into operation

temperature control gates on the Bull Run Dam 2 Intake Tower that supplies water to the Portland system.

In anticipation of these changes, we began a Water Quality Corrosion Study (Study) in April of 2014 using the services of Black & Veatch Corporation. We are collecting preliminary data and expect to gather substantially more data over the next year.

In light of the foregoing, we wish to extend an invitation to you and your staff to join us at a meeting in April at a mutually agreeable date and location. We will also be extending a similar invitation to Dan Opalski, EPA Region 10 Director of Office of Water and Watersheds, and his staff.

We propose to discuss the following issues at the meeting:

1. The City's LCR compliance to date;
2. Our ongoing Water Quality Corrosion Study;
3. A schedule for completing the Study and any necessary follow-up actions for which we will be accountable.

Further, we propose another meeting in late summer to review the Study's data in greater detail and develop agreed upon next steps.

In closing, we remain fully committed to fulfilling our compliance obligations and protecting public health. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael Stuhr, P.E.
Administrator

CC: Dan Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds
EPA Region 10

Nick Fish, Commissioner
City of Portland