



MEDIA RELEASE

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***Cryptosporidium* Detected In Bull Run Drinking Water**

Drinking water continues to be safe, public does not need to take action

The Portland Water Bureau received results today from a sample collected on Sept. 24 that was positive for *Cryptosporidium*, a potentially disease-causing microorganism. The detection was from a sample collected from the Bull Run Watershed intake as part of ongoing monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*. One *Cryptosporidium* oocyst was detected in this 10-liter sample. This is the first detection since a series of detections spanning from January to March of this year.

The Portland Water Bureau has monitored for *Cryptosporidium* under conditions of a variance for the treatment of *Cryptosporidium* issued by its regulators at the Oregon Health Authority. As a result of the detections earlier this year, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) informed the Portland Water Bureau that the variance from treating for *Cryptosporidium* would be revoked no later than Nov. 22, 2017. On Aug. 2, City Council directed the bureau to construct a water filtration plant to meet the *Cryptosporidium* treatment requirements. The Portland Water Bureau will submit a schedule for construction of a filtration plant and ongoing measures to continue to protect public health to OHA by Oct. 11.

“At this time, the bureau and public health partners at Multnomah County continue to believe Bull Run water is safe to drink,” said Portland Water Bureau Administrator Michael Stuhr. “We will continue to monitor for *Cryptosporidium*, protect the watershed, notify the public, and work with our health partners to make the best decisions for public health.”

As always, the bureau recommends that people with severely weakened immune systems seek specific advice from their health care providers about drinking water. There is no need for the general public to take additional precautions.

“We continually monitor for human illness caused by *Cryptosporidium* but since past detections of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in Bull Run water have not been associated with an increase in human disease, I do not expect it to be different this time,” said Multnomah County Health Officer Dr. Paul Lewis.

The bureau will continue to sample the Bull Run for *Cryptosporidium*; gather information about these detections; and notify its regulators, health officials, and the public of any additional detections.

The public and the media are encouraged to view all sampling results posted to the City’s website at www.portlandoregon.gov/water/cryptoresults.

Customers with questions regarding water quality can call the Water Line at 503-823-7525.