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MEDIA RELEASE

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For more information, contact the Water Bureau's Public Information Officer at 503-823-8064

Cryptosporidium Monitoring Update

Detections from routine monitoring in the Bull Run. Coordination with health officials continues.

The Portland Water Bureau received results from ongoing monitoring from the Bull Run Watershed intake for *Cryptosporidium*, a potentially disease-causing microorganism. One *Cryptosporidium* oocyst was detected from a 50-liter sample collected on Monday, Nov. 19, 2018. Prior to this detection, *Cryptosporidium* was last detected from the Bull Run Watershed intake on Nov. 11, 2018, when one oocyst was detected in 50 liters of water.

The bureau is serving 100 percent Bull Run water as its source of drinking water. The Portland Water Bureau does not currently treat the Bull Run for *Cryptosporidium*, but is required to do so under the drinking water regulations. Portland is working to install filtration by 2027 under a compliance schedule with the Oregon Health Authority. In the meantime, the Portland Water Bureau is implementing interim measures such as watershed protection and additional monitoring to protect public health. Consultation with public health officials has concluded that at this time, customers do not need to take any additional precautions.

Exposure to *Cryptosporidium* can cause cryptosporidiosis, a serious illness. Symptoms can include diarrhea, vomiting, fever and stomach pain. People with healthy immune systems recover without medical treatment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people with severely weakened immune systems are at risk for more serious disease. Symptoms may be more severe and could lead to serious or life-threatening illness. Examples of people with weakened immune systems include those with AIDS; those with inherited diseases that affect the immune system; and cancer and transplant patients who are taking certain immunosuppressive drugs.

The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that a small percentage of the population could experience gastro-intestinal illness from *Cryptosporidium* and advises that customers who are

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immunocompromised and receive their drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed consult with their healthcare professional about the safety of drinking the tap water. The Portland Water Bureau and Burlington, City of Gresham, City of Sandy, City of Tualatin, Green Valley, GNR, Hideaway Hills, Lake Grove, Lorna Portland Water, Lusted, Palatine Hill, Pleasant Home, Raleigh, Rockwood, Skyview Acres, Tualatin Valley, Two Rivers, Valley View and West Slope Water Districts receive all or part of their drinking water supply from the Bull Run. To learn if your drinking water comes from Bull Run, please contact your local drinking water provider.

The public and the media are encouraged to view all sampling results posted to the City's website at portlandoregon.gov/water/cryptoresults. The bureau will notify the media and public immediately should further test results indicate a risk to public health and precautions are necessary.

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