



Comment from: PWB Treatment Plant - 143195

1 message

Webform via Multnomah County <webmaster@multco.us>

Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 12:07 PM

Reply-To: Webform <webmaster@multco.us>

To: LUP-Comments@multco.us

Submitted on Thursday, June 29, 2023 - 12:07pm

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Testimony:

Testimony in support of Portland Water Bureau Treatment Plant June 30-2023

Mike Persons [12100 SE Virginia Ct, Sandy, OR 97055](#)

My name is Mike Persons. I am the president of Skyview Acres Water Company (Skyview), a cooperative providing domestic water to ninety households in rural Clackamas County who would otherwise not have access to domestic water except by private well.

Skyview once was a for profit company, and is now a not for profit company. As a small private company, Skyview started purchasing water wholesale from Portland in 1975. In 2001, the customers purchased the company and formed a Cooperative with about 70 customers. By 2010, Skyview had grown to about 75 customers, exceeding the limit of 69 set by PWB. Skyview needed more water storage capacity. In 2014, Skyview partnered with City of Sandy to connect to the new mainline constructed by Portland, utilizing the 1 million gallon storage in the Sandy system. Skyview then gradually added service connections reaching the current 90 connections.

Skyview's testing problems started in 2015 soon after changing our water source from Portland to Sandy. A few months of water quality testing revealed high levels of Halo-acetic Acids. While Sandy was able to delay actions to correct bad test results by mixing/diluting Portland water with other water sources, Skyview did not have other water sources or capacity to mix/dilute our water. Therefore, since 2016, Skyview has been under Oregon Health Authority 'consent order' to correct the water quality problem and provide safe drinking water to customers as required by law. Skyview has taken steps since 2014 to solve the problem. In 2015/16, the Hauglum main water line was replaced with 2 water lines (\$154,000) so that Skyview could construct a treatment facility (\$81,000) at our water storage site and install filters to remove precursors to halo-acetic acids and trihalomethanes. We installed as much filtration as our space would hold. In 2020/21, Flushing Stations were installed (\$15,000) at the far ends of our main water lines, since time in the pipe allows disinfection byproducts to increase. In 2020, Skyview separated the customers on Lusted Road, since that water line was about a mile long and had consistently bad test results. This segregated line was then sourced with water from the original Portland line that had already received secondary treatment. This \$23,000 project cured the testing problem for a small portion of the Skyview system. Total capital cost to Skyview customers to attempt to correct water test results: about \$273,000.

Except for the lower portion of the water system, Skyview efforts to correct the water quality problem have failed (although just barely). For example, the most recent test average level of Halo acetic acids is 87 parts per billion, when acceptable level is 80 parts per billion, and the most recent test average for Trihalomethanes is 69 parts per billion when acceptable level is 60 parts per billion. Bottom line: The water we receive from Sandy via Portland has disinfection byproduct levels that we have so far been unable to correct.

As I understand, Sandy and Portland have now come under state and federal directive to fix their water quality problem. The Sandy/Portland deadline for correction is 2027. The 'fix' is the proposed Water Treatment Plant to be built by the Portland Water Bureau. Since Skyview gets our water from Sandy, and Sandy gets water from Portland, when Portland/Sandy problem is fixed, Skyview's water quality problem will be fixed.

Since January 2023, Skyview has been under an Administrative Order by the Oregon Health Authority which allows us to continue providing water until the Sandy/Portland treatment facility is completed, and we then pass safe water tests. Skyview will not pass safe water tests until Sandy/Portland water passes safe water tests. Skyview is relying on the planned Sandy/Portland water treatment facility to enable us to provide safe drinking water to our customers.