



T3-2022-16220 comments

1 message

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Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 1:35 PM

To: "LUP-Comments@multco.us" <LUP-Comments@multco.us>

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Please see the Oregon Health Authority's comments regarding Portland Water Bureau's application, attached. Thank you!

Kari Salis, PE

Technical Manager

OHA Drinking Water Services

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Land-use_Public-comment_OHA.pdf

328K



June 9, 2023

T3-2022-16220 Comments

LUP-Comments@multco.us

1600 SE 190th Avenue
Portland OR 97233-5910

Land Use Planning Board:

OHA's Drinking Water Services (OHA-DWS) submits this testimony in support of Portland Water Bureau's (PWB) land use application for its Treatment Plant, Raw and Distribution Water Lines, and Communications Tower. PWB with its Bull Run surface water source currently lacks treatment for cryptosporidium, which is in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and a potential risk to the health of PWB's drinking water users. To address this compliance issue and potential risk to public health, PWB is currently under a Bilateral Compliance Agreement with OHA-DWS to construct a drinking water filtration plant that is fully operational by September 30, 2027. PWB received a conditional approval from OHA-DWS on April 25, 2023, for the engineering plans and specifications. One of the conditions for our approval is for PWB to receive an approval for the land use by this Board.

DWS would like to emphasize to the board the public health significance of this treatment plant and its timely completion. Delays in the project resulting in PWB not meeting the compliance schedule could result in significant ramifications, such as continuing risk to human health and potential civil penalties for PWB.

PWB provides drinking water to over one million people in Oregon including vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, infants, and those with compromised immune systems, as well serving hospitals, schools, childcare facilities, and food and beverage producers. PWB gaining approval for its land use application will help meet the established schedule to complete construction of the treatment plant and is essential to attain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and protecting public health. For these reasons, OHA-DWS unequivocally supports PWB's application.

Sincerely,

Samina Panwhar
Manager, Drinking Water Services
Oregon Health Authority

Rachael Banks, MPA
Director, Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority