

February 20, 2019

140 Request of Dee White to address Council regarding Portland values, science and lead in our drinking water (Communication)

My name is Dee White.

It is well established that even at low levels, lead is a potent, irreversible neurotoxin that is especially damaging to pregnant women and young children's developing brains. A recent groundbreaking study also links lead to significant heart-related deaths in the US every year.

EPA scientists and water quality engineers nationwide know; the more corrosive the water, the more it will pull lead out of plumbing and into our drinking water. We have been an outlier for years with historically high levels while similar cities such as Seattle got to work decades ago and have shown significantly lower levels of lead ever since. **Our local water officials have obfuscated on the reasons why our lead levels remain so much higher than Seattle's.**

In the 90s, the Portland Water Bureau crafted a less rigorous "alternative" to the federal Lead and Copper Rule that mitigates for lead paint in lieu of controlling lead in our drinking water. Is this a Portland value – is it even good science? Why aren't our government officials at the state and local level earnestly and aggressively addressing this serious problem that has caused a silent public health threat and infrastructure damage in this community? And is it good science or a Portland value that 22 years later, the Portland Water Bureau has no data or analysis to show that this home spun substitute for the federal rule has shown progress or improvement in reducing lead in our homes, schools, parks, or businesses. In fact, Portland remains at the top of the heap with the highest lead levels of all large public water system in the US.

Being guided by good science and Portland values does not mean burying the lessons of Flint, dismissing public concern, and condoning improperly treated water. Your rhetoric is counter to your data, and it's insulting.

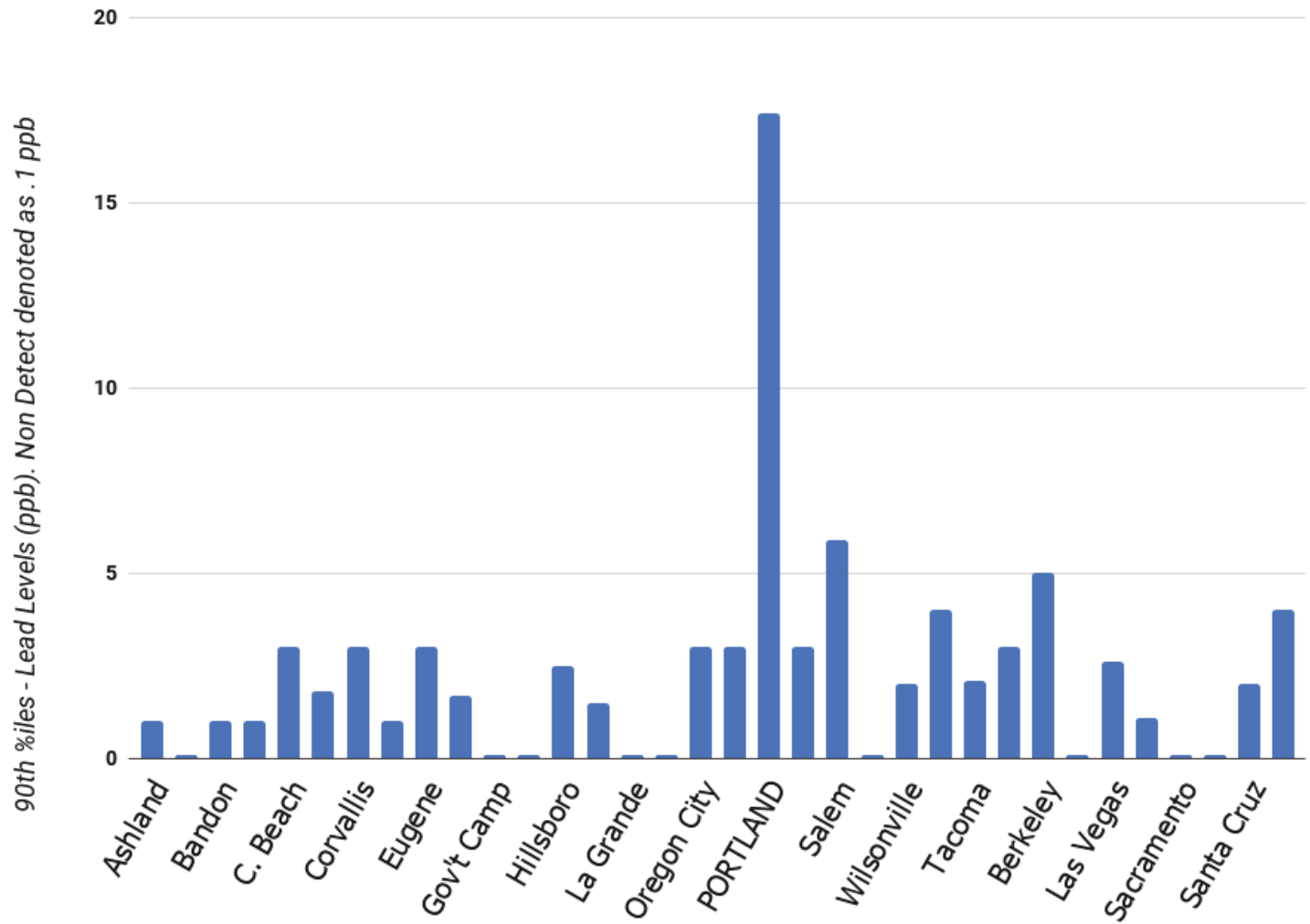
Last year Commissioner Fish proclaimed, "There is no lead in our water!" This is absolutely deceptive word play, since it conflates Portland's pure but corrosive Bull Run SOURCE WATER with DRINKING WATER that the Bureau has failed to properly manage.

It is disingenuous to pass blame to the schools in 2016, then to customer plumbing in 2017 and 2018, when it has been your responsibility to accept responsibility as you are legally required to do, and urgently protect our drinking water now – as you should have done over 20 years ago.

How is this acceptable?

Albany	1
Ashland	1
Baker City	0.1
Bandon	1
Bend	1
C. Beach	3
Coos Bay	1.8
Corvallis	3
The Dalles	1
Eugene	3
Gold Beach	1.7
Gov't Camp	0.1
Grants Pass	0.1
Hillsboro	2.5
Hood River	1.5
La Grande	0.1
Medford	0.1
Oregon City	3
Pendleton	3
PORTLAND	17.4
Roseburg	3
Salem	5.9
Tigard ND	0.1
Wilsonville	2
Bellingham	4
Tacoma	2.1
Seattle	3
Berkeley	5
Fresno	0.1
Las Vegas	2.6
Palo Alto	1.1
Sacramento	0.1
San Diego	0.1
Santa Cruz	2
Flint	4

Source: 2017 Annual CCR, western U.S. - Lead is regulated at Water customer taps



Davis, Meghaan

From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Davis, Meghaan
Subject: RE: January 9 communication subject/topic

Hi Meghaan,
I am so sorry, I spaced it.

Portland Values, Science, and Lead in our Drinking Water

Take care,
Dee White

From: Davis, Meghaan [mailto:Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Dee White
Subject: RE: January 9 communication subject/topic

Hi Dee,

It looks like I never received your topic for February 20th communication slot, if you could send it to me because I need it by Monday or else we're going to have to give that slot away.

Thank you -

Meghaan Davis
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The City of Portland, Oregon
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130
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Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: RE: January 9 communication subject/topic

Thanks, Meghaan. I have it down and will get subject in soon. Happy New Year!

dee

From: Davis, Meghaan [<mailto:Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Dee White
Subject: RE: January 9 communication subject/topic

Yes, there is

Meghaan Davis
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From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: RE: January 9 communication subject/topic

Megan, is the 20th still available? And if yes, can you please sign me up. Will send subject line very soon. Most likely about lead in our drinking water.

Thanks!
Dee White

From: Davis, Meghaan [<mailto:Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Dee White
Subject: RE: January 9 communication subject/topic

Yes, we have 2/13, 2/20 and 2/27 available and Fritz will be absent on the 20th and 27th

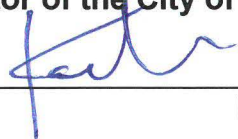
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FEB 20 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed FEB 12 2019
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		