

From: [meyersbill](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Water Bureau Bond
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:47:33 PM

Good Morning Mayor Wheeler and Council members,

We urge you to postpone any decisions on the \$750 million Water Bureau infrastructure bonds before you this week. We understand that much or all of that money is for the proposed filtration plant.

Here are our reasons:

1. The cryptosporidium problem can be solved for about \$100 million, not the \$1+ billion this new plant will cost.
2. The Water Bureau's own findings suggest this plant will add as much as \$500 a year to each Portland water bill. In addition, Portland needs to know how much that figure could raise if wholesale customers pull out of the Bureau's plan. Gresham and Rockwood have contracts expiring soon. Tualatin Valley District is pulling out and West Slope is thinking about it.
3. This size commitment on the part of Water Bureau rate payers should be addressed by a full city council before the citizens are committed to the debt.
4. The Council is dealing with the damage from the Coronavirus, the I-5 corridor and other issues that require time, money and lots of thoughtful consideration. This bond should not have the same priority.
5. Please ask yourself: the middle of this pandemic the proper time to take on three quarters of a billion dollars in debt, plus whatever additional resources will be needed to take the proposed filtration plant to completion?

We urge you to postpone the vote on this water bond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill and Nicki Meyers

Sent from XFINITY Connect App

From: [JENNIFER S HART](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: \$745 million Water Revenue Bonds
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 8:17:48 AM

City Council,

I am writing in concern for the \$745 million in Water Bonds Revenue. I am shocked that this Subject is being discussed with our Communities, State, and Country in “Economic Turmoil” and a “Covid19 Crisis”. These Bonds are totally inappropriate, and City Council would be doing a great disservice to the rate payers, the people of Portland and other communities that purchase water from PWB.

Knowing there is a Federal Mandate for Cryptosporidium, the current Covid19 situation, and our current Economic Crisis- a more economical solution (UV) needs to be considered.

Shame on City Council if these Revenue Bonds are voted through!

Sincerely Concerned,
Jennifer Hart

Sent from my iPad

From: [Carol Cushman](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Dragoy, Astrid](#)
Subject: testimony for item 271
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:45:44 AM
Attachments: [LWV financing LT2 4-2020.docx](#)

Attached is testimony from the League of Women Voters in support of seeking funds through WIFIA to be addressed at City Council on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.



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The League of Women Voters of Portland

618 NW Glisan Street, Suite 303, Portland, OR 97209

503-228-1675 • info@lwvpdx.org • www.lwvpdx.org

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April 7, 2020

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To: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioners Chloe Eudaly, Amanda Fritz, and Jo Ann Hardesty

From: League of Women Voters of Portland
Debbie Kaye, president
Carol Cushman, Action Committee member

Re: Item 271: Water revenue bonds to finance water system capital improvements

In 2017, the League of Women Voters of Portland added its voice in support of compliance with the LT2 regulations, leading to City Council approval of building a filtration plant. We have followed the planning for the plant through regular attendance at Portland Utility Board meetings.

As the project moves forward through design and into construction, the League now supports using the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program to help finance revenue bonds. This is a wise financial decision since the WIFIA, as described by the EPA, offers loans with low, fixed interest rates.

Off Board Leaders

Adrienne Aiona

Doreen Binder

Mary McWilliams

Betsy Pratt

Phil Thor

Thank you for standing up for prudent steps to carry out this project.

From: [Juno](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Water Filtration Project-Please hold!
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:01:00 PM

To Mayor Wheeler and the Portland City Commissioners,

Have you even checked with the federal government to see if they will postpone the crypto mandate?

Why are you NOT stopping to think the Water Filtration project through right now? With the existing economic climate and with the majority of businesses closed and individuals out of work, is it prudent to continue on like we are a booming economy?

Why can't you stop and do the minimum right now? Please, I beg you. What you will be doing if you continue is driving the people out of our area because NO-ONE will be able to afford to live here.

None, I mean none, of us can afford an expensive water filtration treatment plant, now more than ever!!

Thank you for your serious consideration...

Deborah Wilson

From: [Cris Courter](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Vote to Consider Bond for Water Infrastructure
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:02:30 PM

To Whom It May Concern :

During this very serious Corona Virus time , with so many out of work, so many sick and dying, so many Portlanders under severe stress, it is absolutely insensitive and arrogant and, no other way to put it, Greedy on the Portland City Council's part to even be considering a 745 million dollar bond to support water infrastructure including a water filtration facility . The economic downturn in our city is going to last a long time. Please, it makes no sense to be pushing for this vote at this time. Unless, of course, you have another agenda that puts the people of Portland second.

Sincerely,
Cris Courter

Sent from my iPad

From: [Suzanne](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: April 8 agenda - \$745 bond for water infrastructure
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:33:02 PM

To the City Council of Portland, Oregon

Tomorrow April 8th your agenda shows you will be considering and possibly voting for approval of \$745 million in bonds to support water infrastructure which would include an over one billion dollar filtration plant. Since the water can and should be treated for much less money and considering our current situation with thousands unemployed, businesses closed and the devastating economic impact it seems completely inappropriate and insensitive to be considering any additional expenses that would strap ratepayers for years to come. Our world has changed dramatically in the last several months and adjustments must be made to move forward successfully. The Bilateral Compliance Agreement between OHA and PWB is a changeable document and now is the time to change it! There are different treatment options to handle cryptosporidium and other locations that require much less pipe with both resulting in decreasing the overall cost. PWB projects are too expensive and even the water wholesalers can't afford to remain connected.

The people of Portland deserve more from the City Council! You, the councilors are in charge and responsible not the Portland Water Bureau. Protect your people!

Suzanne Courter



From: [Dee White](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: testimony from Dee White April 8 2020 meeting agenda 271
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:33:04 PM
Attachments: [The Battle of Bull Run by Doug Larsen \(2\).pdf](#)
[Testimony April 8 2020 \\$745 million revenue bond.pdf](#)

Attached from Dee White

Thanks, Karla!

Dee White

April 8, 2020

[271](#) Authorize water revenue bonds to finance water system capital improvements and refund water revenue bonds (Ordinance) 20 minutes requested

My name is Dee White. I am adamantly opposed to authorizing \$745,000,000 for ratepayer-liable water revenue bonds at this time of world despair and economic collapse for an **unnecessary, inelegant and prohibitively costly** water infrastructure project that is **politically driven**.

I am absolutely positive that the federal government would give Portland a waiver from the cryptosporidium LT2 unfunded mandate at this time of strife and sickness on our planet. Plans for this chemical consuming, carbon dioxide spewing megaproject run counter to all of the climate change policy-making that you guys have been promoting and passing and which will continue to promote and pass after the coronavirus pandemic passes.

Why is asking the EPA for a waiver from the cryptosporidium LT2 rule not swiftly being pursued? **We need a \$500 million EPA WIFIA loan to maintain and replace our aging infrastructure system meaning, the distribution PIPES. We have the second highest lead (a neurotoxin of which NO LEVEL is acceptable) of all large utilities in the country** and it's partially because our distribution system is 1) corroding (thanks to PWB's harmful treatment decision to use chloramines) and 2) have not been cleaned or flushed for the entirety of their useful life. The large proportion of our distribution pipes, never flushed, never cleaned! Poor water quality and ineffective treatment continuously places water customers at risk of sickness, not to mention poisoning with lead. Corroded mains in the city rupture frequently and destructively.

All of you can claim innocence from not knowing all of the scientific details that individual and environmental justice advocates know and repeatedly try to explain to you, but you cannot claim that you have never heard it. And since all of you as at-large elected members of the commissioner-form-of-government City Council are in the singular position of authority and accountability on all matters of the public's health and welfare and the city's fiscal health, I am asking you to please try and understand these scientific details. They are critical to know before making a decision of this much consequence for the ratepayers of this stressed and

depressed community. Science has been ignored and stupidly disputed to justify the need for this megaproject treatment plant.

The treatment plant will provide no health benefit for the ratepayer. Zero. **Who exactly is benefiting from this billion dollar ratepayer funded project?**

Another cost/benefit analysis needs to be done since the cost has over doubled since the original abbreviated cost benefit analysis was done in 2017, which even caused Mayor Wheeler to chuckle it was so ridiculous.

There also needs to be a bona fide risk analysis done as well, from both FISCAL and SCIENTIFIC standpoints, meaning what of the chances of Portland ratepayers being so buried in arrears that the city will not be able to pay for debt service. What are the chances that with the largest wholesale accounts leaving that Portland ratepayers are going to be able to absorb the additional rate increases that will be needed to recover this plunge in revenue?

What are the chances that multiple lawsuits will occur and is there a limit to legal expenses that ratepayers will incur to defend a \$1.5 billion new trophy water infrastructure project that will provide them with no benefit?

There are cryptosporidium LT2 alternatives that have been ignored such as UV and ozone, like our big sister city Seattle, built for 1/10 of the cost – about \$150,000,000. As Commissioner Hardesty asked “why do we need a Cadillac?”

And then there’s the basic fact that the Bull Run water system was in compliance and qualified for a waiver from the EPA rule from the very beginning of the rule’s implementation. And as the PWB said, their main hurdle to building a megaproject filtration plant was/is the purity of Bull Run water. We should not be in this place right now, where we, the ratepayers, are staring into this bottomless cavern of debt with no way out, no alternatives, no exit strategy and **no scientific inquiry**. The PWB has been drowning us in false data and non-scientific facts for too long.

The PWB has been coveting this inelegant and consumptive technology since the 80s. The technology is seriously outdated. There are other solutions; there are holistic solutions, technological solutions (biological, UV, Ozone). And, finally, there is the most fair and sensible solution to do nothing, which Council could do

by writing a letter to the EPA, like New York did, and get a permanent waiver from treating for a problem which does not exist at Bull Run.

Did you know: The US Forest Service, in cahoots with the Portland Water Bureau, got away with logging at Bull Run from the 50s through the early 80s? [Here](#) is an article titled “The Battle of Bull Run: When science meets politics and policy, the outcome may depend more on values than on objectivity” by Doug Larsen. It is also attached with my testimony.

The PWB decided they wanted to build a filtration plant at Bull Run to filter the water from all of the runoff from the logging. (This is why turbidity is one of the reasons the PWB gives for needing the filtration plant, even today, in spite of the fact that there have only been a few turbidity events in the past 100 years.) Old reports done by the crony engineering firms CH2MHill/Jacobs, MWH/Stantec, Black and Veatch, and others never die. They just get recycled through the PWB communications department year after year and fed to the hapless public decade after decade. And here we are today in this sad and depressing position of watching this horror unfold as you authorize more debt for the ratepayers and this community.

Please vote no and stop this unfair and unkind political policy.

American Scientist

The Battle of Bull Run

DOUGLAS LARSON

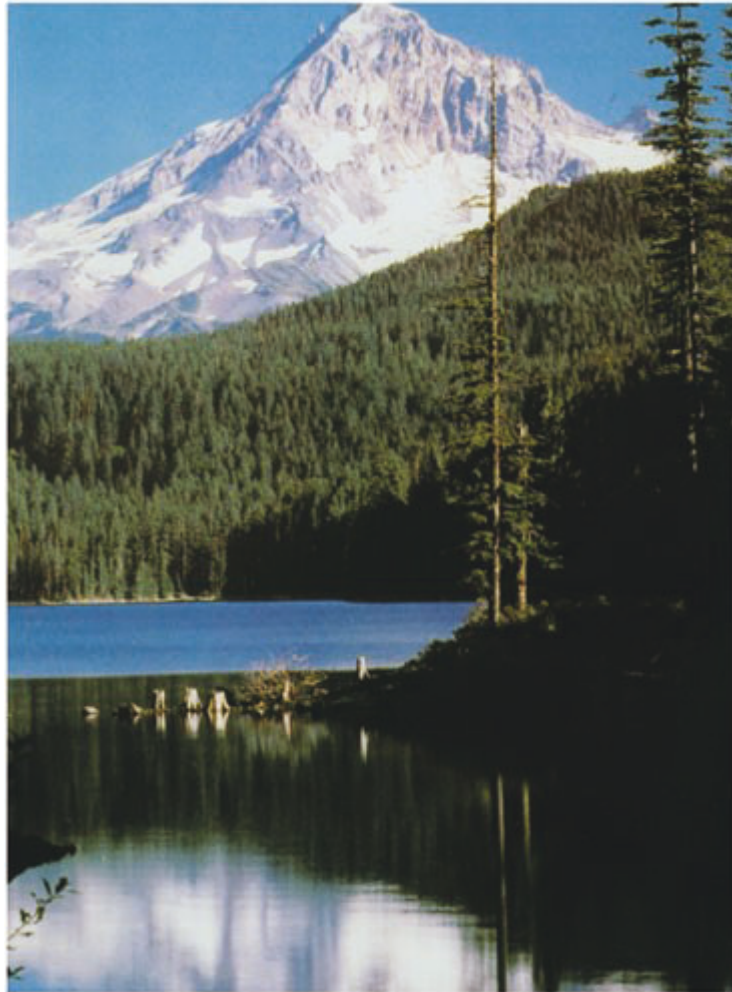
When science meets politics and policy, the outcome may depend more on values than on objectivity

POLICY

While watching Roman Polanski's classic 1974 movie *Chinatown* recently, I was reminded of a similar Machiavellian drama that played out here in Portland, Oregon, over several decades. Polanski's movie is based loosely on the California water wars of the last century involving controversial and underhanded efforts by the City of Los Angeles to acquire water rights in the

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Owens Valley for the city's municipal water supply. What happened in Portland was also about greed and bureaucratic malfeasance that nearly destroyed the City of Portland's principal source of drinking water, the Bull Run Watershed serving about one million people. The long, bitter struggle over the watershed's use became known as the Battle of Bull Run.



The Bull Run watershed, a 65,000-acre parcel in the Mount Hood National Forest, provides Portland, Oregon's drinking water. For nearly 60 years, the watershed was protected by federal regulation. Then, in 1952, the Forest Service proposed clear-cutting in the forest to reduce fire danger. Controversy ensued, and by 1972, 16,000 acres has been cut. Despite formation of a scientific advisory committee, no protective action was taken until a 1996 rain storm required the system to be shut down because of sediment and other debris.

Photograph courtesy of the Portland Water Bureau.

As a participating scientist in this conflict, I learned some hard lessons about the role of scientists in factious environmental issues: First, the systematic process of scientific research is not well-suited to resolving issues in which prevailing economic or political forces demand simple, prompt answers. Second, scientists who seek nothing but truth in their investigations are often ignored or, worse, defamed by those whose economic or political agendas are threatened. And third, despite the common belief that scientific objectivity and science-based decisions will prevail over the rough-and-tumble world of confrontational politics and competing self-interests, the capacity of scientists to solve environmental issues fairly and expeditiously is usually overestimated. The ensuing, often acrimonious scientific debates become themselves stumbling blocks to final resolution. Meanwhile, the public waits for these interminable conflicts to be resolved, confused by the barrage of technical information and disinformation, and thus unsure of whom to believe. At stake is the region's economic prosperity on the one hand, and environmental quality and dwindling natural resources on the other—in other words, competing values. In the end, resolution is often achieved not by scientific resolution and decision-making, but by people simply deciding what they value most.

Bull Run Watershed

Thirty years ago, I was asked to serve on a nine-member scientific panel commissioned by the City of Portland to oversee logging operations in the

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Bull Run Watershed. The panel—called the Bull Run Advisory Committee, or BRAC—focused on a key, extremely controversial question: What are the long-term consequences, if any, of large-scale, commercial logging in the Bull Run? The watershed, which is part of the Mount Hood National Forest, covers roughly 65,000 acres. In June 1892, President Benjamin Harrison signed a proclamation declaring the Bull Run as a national forest reserve, thus placing the watershed under federal protection as Portland's water supply.



When logging began in the Bull Run watershed, the Portland Water Bureau devoted considerable effort to assuring the public that there was no risk to their water supply. This newspaper photograph of diapered horses removing logs was one example of fanciful public relations; in reality, trucks routinely plied 300 miles of crude logging roads to remove timber from the forest. By 1972, 16,000 acres had been clear-cut.

Photograph courtesy of the Portland Water Bureau.

On April 28, 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Bull Run

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Trespass Act (Public Law 206), which made entering the watershed illegal for persons other than “forest rangers and other persons employed by the United States to protect the forest, and Federal and State officers in the discharge of their duties, and the employees of the Water Board of the City of Portland.” Frank Dodge, Portland’s first superintendent of the Water Board (1897–1914) staunchly opposed any efforts to log the watershed.

The watershed remained almost inviolate for nearly 60 years, its runoff protected by a largely unbroken expanse of centuries-old trees. But in 1952, a Forest Service district ranger drafted a milestone secret memorandum in which he advocated logging in the Bull Run. Titled “Plan of approach to better management of the Bull Run Watershed,” the memo stated that “Many are convinced that to keep their water pure, the watershed must remain forever untouched.” And so, “a tremendous PR job is needed to change this thinking of some 50 years standing.” The Forest Service estimated that Bull Run timber sales would yield at least \$1 million annually but was reluctant to admit that money-making was the chief incentive for logging the watershed. A more high-minded, compelling rationale was given: the need to lessen the chance of catastrophic fire by removing “decadent” old-growth timber. Fearing that the watershed’s old-growth forest was a fire hazard, capable of destroying the city’s water source, Portland’s mayor and city council quietly engaged in backdoor negotiations with the Forest Service to log the Bull Run.

Beginning in 1958, hundreds of loggers and their equipment entered the

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watershed daily to clear-cut magnificent stands of timber at great risk to the purity and safety of Portland's drinking water. Logging continued apace despite a growing body of scientific evidence indicating that deforestation caused water-quality deterioration. By 1972, roughly 16,000 acres of the watershed had been clear-cut or otherwise impacted by logging activities. Forest Service plans called for clear-cutting more than one-half of the entire watershed by the year 2000.

Because of the watershed's remoteness and a near-blackout on publicity, few people realized that the watershed was being logged. Those who learned about it were assured by the Portland Water Bureau that the logging was minimal and posed no threat to drinking water. Incidental news stories gave the impression that the logging was a mom-and-pop operation using horses to haul out downed timber. Newspaper photos pictured horses wearing diapers to avoid contamination. Public-relations photos, distributed by the Forest Service and the Water Bureau, showed the watershed as a pristine, undisturbed forest.

But, in fact, much of the forest was devastated, its majestic old-growth timber stands reduced to thousands of stumps stretching across an empty landscape scarred and battered by corporate deforestation and littered with debris left by logging crews. Industrial logging equipment, not diapered horses, extracted the logs and hauled them out of the watershed. Log trucks, bulldozers and other heavy equipment plied the estimated 300 miles of primitive, unsurfaced logging roads that honeycombed the watershed.

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In 1973, a retired Portland physician named Joseph Miller Jr. sued the Forest Service for violating Public Law 206, the 1904 Bull Run Trespass Act. From his home near the Bull Run, Miller had often observed loaded log trucks coming out of the watershed, concluding that the logging was far more extensive than anyone had believed. In 1976, U.S. District Judge James Burns ruled in favor of Dr. Miller, finding that not only was the logging illegal, but that it failed to protect the forest, despite the claims of the Forest Service. Logging was halted, and the watershed was closed again to public entry. Shortly, though, acting on a measure sponsored by Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield and Oregon Congressman Robert Duncan, Congress rescinded Public Law 206 and replaced it with the Bull Run Watershed Management Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-200). With this new legislation—signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on November 23, 1977—Bull Run logging was legalized.

Continued logging created sizeable clear-cut openings in the forest, exposing it to unimpeded runoff and wind. In December 1983, a powerful windstorm swept through the watershed, flattening about 300 million board-feet of timber. The Forest Service acknowledged in a 1987 environmental impact statement that 70 to 80 percent of the downed timber was immediately adjacent to clear-cuts. Citing the need to salvage fallen and shattered trees, to “protect water quality,” the Forest Service permitted loggers to clear-cut large segments of the roughly 6,000 acres affected by the storm. But this action only increased the risk of further timber blowdown.

Scientific Debates

Scientists, including those of us on the Bull Run Advisory Committee, were divided on the logging issue. Logging proponents argued that sustainable timber harvests reduced the risk of catastrophic forest fire, although records indicated that logging operations had started more than 95 percent of all fires reported in the Bull Run. Scientists opposed to logging claimed that clear-cuts and logging roads exposed the watershed to soil erosion and landslides. Dissent was evident even within the Forest Service: Although the supervisor of the Mount Hood National Forest insisted that “logging has had *no* effect on water quality,” Dr. Richard Fredriksen, a Forest Service watershed scientist, warned that logging could have a “dire and long-lasting effect” on water quality. “Water quality,” wrote Fredriksen in a 1975 Forest Service publication, “is optimum from forest land when the forest on that land remains *undisturbed* and human entry is restricted.” In July 1987, after 30 years of clear-cutting, road-building and other destructive land-use practices, the chief of the Water Bureau publicly declared that “water quality is now better, we believe, than it has ever been.”

All parties involved in the debate—BRAC, the Forest Service, the Water Bureau, the timber industry and environmental activists—generally agreed that any decisions regarding whether or not to log must be “science-based.” BRAC, for example, retained three independent, highly respected fire-management experts to evaluate the disputed policy of clear-cutting to

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reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. They concluded that old-growth forests were less susceptible to fire than young stands of trees, thus challenging the notion that clear-cutting protected the city's water source over the long run. Obviously disappointed, the Forest Service and the timber industry hastily organized an opposing panel of "in-house" fire experts, whose leanings were suspiciously pro-logging. Unsurprisingly, they promptly arrived at a different conclusion.

The Battle of Bull Run raged for years, with neither side able to move forward. Scientific data supporting one side's position was summarily rejected by the other as inconclusive or incorrect. Weary of fruitless bickering, endless debate and personal attacks, scientists gradually withdrew from the field of battle. In 1989, BRAC was dissolved and replaced by another scientific panel that was equally ineffective.

Disaster Strikes, then Salvation

While the scientific debates dragged on, the logging continued unabated. Then, in February 1996, unusually heavy rains struck the watershed, sending untold quantities of eroded soil and other watershed debris into the City of Portland's two storage reservoirs. Lacking a filtration plant to clean muddy water, the city was forced to shut down the entire Bull Run water-supply system. The city switched to its emergency backup water source, a well-field situated along the Columbia River. Had this source not been available, Portlanders would have surely found themselves in a drinking-water crisis.

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But the well-field itself has potential problems, notably its limited capacity to supply water over a long period and its location near industrial areas where soils were heavily contaminated with carcinogenic chemicals.

Shortly, at the behest of Portland's mayor and city council, Senator Mark Hatfield introduced legislation in Congress that now prohibits all logging in the Bull Run. This legislation, called the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996, was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on September 30, 1996. Ironically, it was Hatfield's 1977 legislation that rescinded the 1904 Bull Run Trespass Act and reopened the watershed to the timber industry.

The Battle of Bull Run had finally ended. The scientific debate over the effects of logging became a moot point. The long and arduous road taken 20 years earlier by scientists in search of the truth ended abruptly with a political decision. What the public valued most was clean, safe drinking water secured for themselves and their children's children. Deeply troubled by the sudden and unexpected failure of their drinking-water source, Portlanders simply decided that waiting for scientific answers was not worth further risks.

Postmortem

Although the Bull Run watershed is now officially protected, the excellent water it once produced is muddied during winter rains by runoff from exposed forest soils and abandoned, eroded logging roads. The Water

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Bureau attributes the muddiness simply to “torrential rains,” but yearly rainfall patterns and amounts have not changed significantly since 1900. Unable to filter the water to meet drinking-water standards, the Water Bureau is forced periodically to shut down the Bull Run system and switch to backup wells. The shutdowns, lasting two weeks or longer, are becoming a yearly occurrence. Records indicate that the Bull Run system was never shut down during the nearly 70-year period that preceded logging.

Portlanders are now faced with the ugly trade-off of periodically drinking wellwater, the reliability of which is questionable, or installing an expensive filtration system—costing up to 500 million dollars—to avoid shutdowns. This is a legacy of watershed mismanagement and failed stewardship. Centuries will pass before the watershed is fully restored to its pre-logged grandeur.

This article is dedicated to Dr. Joseph Miller Jr., who passed away in June 2007 at age 96. Dr. Miller fought vigilantly and incessantly for 20 years against the U.S. Forest Service and the timber industry to save the Bull Run watershed. For this, the City of Portland and its citizens owe him a great debt of gratitude.

From: [Lorie McFarlane](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: NO WATER service during COVID 19 pandemic. Wed agenda is not addressing urgent issues
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:03:04 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)



What is wrong with this picture?

"Excellent" water? "Excellent" is simply a word that provides a false assurance, and avoids regulatory and public health language, and sends a mixed message to the public, who knows little about a \$1.5 billion planned filtration plant for crypto?

TODAY, why isn't the Council agenda preempting business as usual? How about speaking to **the pandemic and NO customer access to washing hands** - safe, clean running water is supposed to be PWB's business?

We know customers still have no running water, because they were shut off by the Bureau sometime in the last month or year, and their account past-due sent to collections. We do not know how many, because the Bureau refuses to divulge **HOW MANY customers have no "excellent" (PWB language) running water** during this pandemic - COVID 19 - a community transmission disease that cannot be slowed if you cannot "wash your hands as often as you can" (-- Dr Anthony Fauci, NIH)

Right now, in other towns, and other states like Michigan and Ohio and Illinois, etc. **City leaders and water directors are doing the right thing; ensuring water is reconnected quickly and safely** to customers without service (for non-payment). This is not only an environmental justice issue - the right to (safely treated!) drinking water - but it is an urgent disease spread by community transmission, a pandemic issue.

Sincerely,
LMcFarlane

McClymont, Keelan

From: Mark Wheeler <mark@rootsrealty.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: [User Approved] Please oppose the new Water Bureau bond and the chemical-adding filtration plant

There is no public health or other proven benefit to this project and other, much lower cost options are available. Thank you.

Mark Wheeler
628 SE 58th Avenue
Portland, OR 97215

McClymont, Keelan

From: Jerzy Giedwoyn <jgiedwoyn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: new water prject

It looks as unnecessary and very expensive. It is potentially threatening human health. Can result in expensive litigations. Please table it until coronavirus is over and we can discuss it.
Jerzy giedwoyn MD FACC

McClymont, Keelan

From: Stan Hoffman <stanhoffman@mindspring.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Water Bond

I oppose the bond and filtration plant (agenda item 291, previously 271) for the following reasons:

- Economic impact. Given the unprecedented loss to revenues, the increase in unemployment, and the distress and failure of many businesses due to the closing down of so much during the current emergency caused by the Covid-19 virus, it does not seem prudent to be adding \$750 million worth of debt at this time. We have already spent \$16 million on UV radiation that will be useless if the new chemical system is installed. Let's postpone this project until the more immediate economic issues are dealt with.
- Health impact. There is no proven benefit to public health from this project. None.
- Trust in government. When a project of this size with no impact on the current emergency is done at a time when signatures for referral cannot be collected, when in-person public testimony is impossible, when the press cannot cover proceedings, and the attention of the general public is fixated on adjusting to a new and restrictive lifestyle and fear of catching Covid-19, it throws into question the integrity and intentions of the city government. At this time when there is so much to distrust about government in general, wouldn't it be wonderful if Portlanders could be proud of our city government for how it prioritizes the needs of the citizens, including economic welfare, health, and participation in decision making?

Respectfully,
Stan Hoffman
2905 NE 38th Ave.
Portland OR 97212

McClymont, Keelan

From: Dee White <deewhite1@mindspring.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Testimony Dee White \$745 million bond for filtration and pipelines
Attachments: Testimony Dee White \$745 million filtration bond April 13 2020.pdf

Attached.

Thank you so much, Karla.

Dee White

Testimony of Dee White \$745 water revenue bond for filtration plant and pipelines

April 13, 2020

This was my oral testimony. Four citizens gave testimony, Floy Jones, Lauren Courter, Jeff Knapp and Dee White.

Here is the link to the youtube eGov meeting. Audio only due to COVID 19 pandemic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V5nSEg-Vec> @56.50

April 8, 2020

271 Authorize water revenue bonds to finance water system capital improvements and refund water revenue bonds (Ordinance) 20 minutes requested

My name is Dee White. I am adamantly opposed to authorizing \$745,000,000 for ratepayer-liable bonds at this time of world despair and economic collapse for an **inelegant and costly** water filtration project that is **politically driven. Looks like the cost is now at \$1.5 billion.**

Commissioner Fritz it is incumbent on you to inform the public about the 7000 jobs you speak of. Are these permanent jobs or just temporary?

Plans for this chemical consuming, carbon dioxide spewing filtration plant run counter to all of the climate change policy-making that you guys have been promoting and passing and which you will continue to promote and pass after the coronavirus pandemic passes. Over 8000 dry tons of chemicals will be trucked in and used per year for this filtration plant. And then there's the gaseous chemicals including ammonia, ozone and CO2 that will also be trucked in in massive quantities.

I am asking you today to please try and understand the science behind the cryptosporidium LT2 rule AND the Lead and Copper Rule. We have the second highest lead in our drinking water of any large utility in the US are you are failing to address that. And this filtration plant is not going to fix the lead.

The science is critical to know before making a decision of this much consequence for the ratepayers in this depressed and stressed community. Science has been ignored and

stupidly disputed to justify the need for this filtration plant while the water bureau egregiously give us false assurance that lead is not a problem in our drinking water.

This plant will provide no measurable, health or otherwise benefit for the ratepayer. **Who exactly is benefiting from this \$1.5 billion dollar ratepayer funded project?**

There are cryptosporidium LT2 alternatives that have been ignored such as UV and ozone, like our big sister city Seattle, built for 1/10 of the cost of this filtration plant. As Commissioner Hardesty asked “why do we need a Cadillac?”

We should not be in this place right now, where we, the ratepayers, are staring into this bottomless cavern of debt with no way out, no alternatives, no exit strategy and **no scientific inquiry.**

Again I ask, who will be benefiting from this \$745 million bond?

Please vote no and rethink your regressive and unkind Bull Run drinking water policy.

Addendum: There is a shocking and potentially devastating lack of transparency in the ordinance and impact statement and in the presentation given to Council on April 8, 2020. No one asked any questions about this massive amount of debt the ratepayers are looking at having to pay.

And yes, the PWB wholesale BASE is set to take a nosedive by 2026 with Gresham and Tualatin Valley leaving the system. Now the RETAIL base (Portland-only customers) is going to be taking an even larger plunge due to the entire food, hotel, etc business. Further, Portland Parks and Recreation is the water bureau’s largest retail customer – **the largest retail water user is our Parks and Recreation bureau.** Please consider all of these facts and implications.

There is NO MENTION of the amount of the bond in the subject line and barely mention in the body of the legislation. NO MENTION in the legislation of the cost being now close to \$1.5billion, just this deception in the citizen Impact Statement:

“The proposed authorization amount is forty-nine percent of total estimated Bull Run Treatment Program costs as allowed under the EPA’s WIFIA program.”

McClymont, Keelan

From: Glenda Wheeler <gjensonwheeler@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:18 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: WEDNESDAY 15, 2020 Vote on \$750 MILLION WATER REVENUE BOND

This email is to ALL City Council Members:

VOTE NO!!!! ON \$750 MILLION WATER REVENUE BOND.

HOW CAN IT BE THAT THERE IS NO IN PERSON PUBLIC TESTIMONY, NO PRESS IN CHAMBERS, NO ONE PAYING ATTENTION TO THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS BOND.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO ADD TO MASSIVE DEBT AND INEVITABLE CONTINUOUS RATE INCREASES FOR AN UNSUPPORTED PROJECT, WHEN MOST CITIZENS STRUGGLE TO PAY THEIR ALREADY HIGH WATER BILLS.

THERE IS NO PUBLIC HEALTH OR OTHER PROVEN BENEFIT TO THIS PROJECT WHEN OTHER, MUCH LOWER COST OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

PLEASE VOTE NO!!! TO THE BOND AND THE CHEMICAL-ADDING FILTRATION PLANT (AGENDA ITEM, 291 PREVIOUSLY 271)

McClymont, Keelan

From: Kathleen Pozzi <kmpozzi@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Cc: kathi Pozzi
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO!!! TO THE BOND AND THE CHEMICAL-ADDING FILTRATION PLANT (AGENDA ITEM, 291 PREVIOUSLY 271)

This email is to [ALL City Council Members:](#)

VOTE NO!!!! ON \$750 MILLION WATER REVENUE BOND.

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PLEASE VOTE NO!!! TO THE BOND AND THE CHEMICAL-ADDING FILTRATION PLANT (AGENDA ITEM, 291 PREVIOUSLY 271)

McClymont, Keelan

From: Anna Antonia Giedwoyn <agiedwoyn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Please vote NO on water bond this Wednesday

Dear City Hall Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed water bond, Item 291. My family, my neighbors and I strongly urge you to vote “No.”

We do not want or need additional chemicals added to our drinking water. There is no public health benefit associated with the chemicals the Portland Water Bureau would use. On the contrary, as you probably know, it is well-established that aluminum has been correlated with cancer and has no place in our drinking water.

We are counting on you to protect our water and taxpayers’ ability to pay mortgages and/or rent, particularly during this vulnerable time in the midst of a global pandemic that has destroyed the economy and so many taxpayers’ livelihoods.

Please vote “NO” on Item 291.

Thank you and stay safe!
Anna Giedwoyn

From: anninfriend@aol.com
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Vote being held Wednesday, April 15th, 2020 Regarding Agenda Item 291
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:27:47 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the Portland Water Bureau's proposed \$750 million dollar water revenue bond that the council will be voting on this Wednesday, April 15th, agenda item #291. It seems like an expenditure that is unnecessary and it is being voted on at a time where it is very difficult to have public input. Why isn't this something that the public should be able to vote on? I am not in favor of a filtration plant that will add chemicals to our precious Bull Run water. Who benefits. Not the public that you are supposed to be serving. Once again, I oppose this bond and the filtration plant. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Debby Friend

From: [Gilman Vital](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: [User Approved] bond and the chemical-adding filtration plant (agenda item, 291 previously 271)
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:27:07 AM

i oppose the bond and the chemical-adding filtration plant (agenda item, 291 previously 271)

Gilman Vital

From: [Jill Roberts](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the water revenue bond
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:35:18 AM

I am a lifelong Portlander and 4th generation native Oregonian and I urge the Council to vote NO on this bond. Portlanders already struggle to pay their water bills. The expense and debt this bond creates is irresponsible. Ratepayers should have a voice!

Furthermore, the level and type of filtration is unnecessary and there is absolutely no public health benefit to this project.

Vote NO!

Sincerely,

Jill Roberts
436 NE Hazelfern Place
Portland, OR 97232

From: [Lori Murphy](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: \$750 million water revenue bond - NO
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:54:50 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

During the height of the Corona virus pandemic, it is ridiculous the Portland Water Bureau wants to pass a \$750 million water revenue bond. The Portland Water Bureau has intentionally timed this vote so signatures cannot be collected for referral as we are on virus lockdown.

The bond is primarily for the chemical-adding filtration plant which more than doubled in cost between when the PWB brought the plan to Council in August 2017 (another date when no one was paying attention, as most were out-of-town at the end of summer) and 2019. There should be in-person public testimony. This is no time to add to massive debt and inevitable continuous rate increases for an unsupported project, when most struggle to pay their already high water bill. There is no public health or other proven benefit to this project and other, much lower cost options are available.

Sincerely,
Lori Murphy
Portland, OR

From: [Bull Run Water Guardians](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Water Revenue Bonds item 291
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:55:55 AM

RE: Water Revenue Bonds item 291

April 13, 2020

Dear Commissioner,

We must all face the new realities brought on by COVID-19 and global warming; as commissioners, it is critical that you treat decision making and fiscal responsibility with the same sense of urgency and gravity as your citizens.

The Portland City Council is in possession of a much lower cost, much faster to implement, and much more an environmentally friendly solution to the EPA LT2 mandate.

“What you see in front of you here, on this table, is 700 pages of drawings. And what you see behind you, on a stack that is knee-high, are the specifications for a UV plant...”

“This pile of paper is worth \$16 million, so you have a UV design on the shelf.”

Mike Stuhr, Director of the Portland Water Bureau, June 2017

We the citizens are quite aware of key facts that are either absent or spun to us repeatedly:

1. The proposed Water Revenue Bonds are in reality, DEBT. An astounding amount of it.
2. The WIFIA program would also support a UV treatment facility! It is ABSOLUTELY NOT tied to filtration.
3. Even with low interest, spending 10X more than necessary is wildly negligent. The UV solution created specifically for the LT2 rule, bought and paid for by the citizens, was presented to cost \$105M vs the filtration plant which is likely to exceed \$1 BILLION.
4. Seattle, San Francisco, New York, and other cities were also advised by their professional water bureaus and consultants and they chose UV to protect their citizens, the public dollar, and the environment, now and for the future. They mention these facilities and attributes with pride – you could too!
5. If job creation is now a new urgent justification for this plant, then you must acknowledge that building the UV plant would also create many jobs and critically, in the immediate future, not years from now.
6. The planned filtration facility is among the worst choices environmentally. We care about our health and this planet. The construction and operation of the proposed filtration facility will mean:
 - Millions of pounds of new chemicals every year applied to our drinking water
 - Thousands of cubic yards of chemically exposed waste, year after year after year...
 - Millions of pounds of CO₂ injected into the atmosphere – contributing to global warming and air pollution
 - A further acceleration of skyrocketing water rates to residences and businesses (faster than healthcare!)
7. The \$51 million contracts awarded to Stantec for the filtration facility design contract would by itself cover approximately half the cost of the UV plant and that could be underway right now.

Stop those expenditures and re-direct those monies responsibly to meet the citizen's needs while protecting the environment.

Sincerely,

Bull Run Water Guardians

BullRunWaterGuardians@Gmail.com



From: [Beth Kerwin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Agenda item 291
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:08:45 AM

Hello-

There is no proven benefit to moving forward on a 750 million bond for a water revenue bond, which would include chemicals in our pristine Bull Run water! This is NO time to add massive debt to our already extremely high water bills.

If anything, we need a public vote!

Thanks for your consideration.

Beth Kerwin

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tom C.](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: No on borrowing for filtration plant
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:26:21 AM

Dear Portland City Council,

I strongly oppose building the chemical-adding filtration plant and the borrowing of so many hundreds of million dollars to build it.

There is no proven public health benefit and there are other lower cost options available; just look at Seattle.

I'm sick and tired of politicians and bureaucrats who dream up grandiose plans paid for by the sweat equity of the citizens.

And one last point, directed to Commissioner Fritz, I receive a discounted rate because of my income level and I still can't afford my water bill. Shame on you for being so insensitive.

Respectfully,
Tom Curtin

From: [peggy mead](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: \$750 million water revenue bond
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:21:25 AM

I oppose the \$750 million water revenue bond.

Peggy Mead
505 SE 73rd AVE
Portland, OR 97215

From: [Anna Fritz](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Water Bureau Bond
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:50:57 PM

To members of Portland City Council:

Because my life is in upheaval as a result of the coronavirus pandemic (like most of us) I only just learned that City Council is voting on a \$750 million bond for the Portland Water Bureau tomorrow morning. I am shocked to learn the city would consider adding massive debt to the shoulders of its citizens at a moment when most of us are drowning financially, all to build a chemical-adding filtration plant that we don't even need.

In the 20 years that I've lived in Portland, I've watched the PWB squander our money on unnecessary projects over and over again. We have pure, clean drinking water from the Bull Run, as long as we continue to do a good job of protecting it. Let's focus our resources on that, rather than on expensive, unnecessary projects that will later just give us an excuse to be lax in guarding the purity of our water source.

As a working musician, I already struggle to pay the water bills for my home. With all of my work cancelled because of the pandemic, the last thing I need to be worrying about is helping foot the bill for an unnecessary PWB project, the price tag for which keeps increasing (the cost has more than doubled since it was brought to council in 2017.)

Thank you for your hard work during this difficult time.
Please take into consideration that this is a hard time to get input from your constituents, and know that there are many others in the community that feel as I do.

Best,

Anna Fritz
cellist / folksinger
anna@annafritz.com
503-771-0726
annafritz.com

From: [Leslie Chester](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: PWB
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:14:34 PM

In 2017 PWB asked Council to throw away the \$16 million of your money already spent on UV radiation (EPA compliant option) for a \$350- \$500 million chemical- adding filtration plant that will provide no public health benefit. By 2019 the price doubled to \$820 million- \$1.5 billion. In 2017 the PWB failed to tell Council of the cost of pipes necessary to bring water to the filtration plant at their chosen Carpenter Lane site !! It is on Carpenter Ln. where the PWB recently purchased a million dollar mansion, the 3rd water house purchased with our money in recent years.

Why on earth (except greed) did the city council vote to scrap a low cost EPA approved system for the filtration system currently being voted on. I realize that most of city council does whatever the PWB wants, (I've watched this in horror for years) but I'm holding out for Joanne Hardesty, for whom I voted because I think she might care about our exorbitant water bills that will only become more so. I voted for her because she convinced me she cared about the people in Portland.

SCRAP THE FILTRATION PLANT AND GO WITH UV. PLEASE VOTE NO ON A NEEDLESS \$1.5 BILLION PLAN.

Thank you,
L Chester
Portland water customer

From: [floy jones](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition testimony, documents against \$750 million bond and filtration plant
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:40:46 PM
Attachments: [annual wq graphs, 2nd.pdf](#)
[Treatment Plant Q&A response\[14071\].pdf](#)

Please enter the attached items and comments below into the record on agenda item 291 (formerly 271) the \$750 million water revenue bond. The community is against chemicals, costs, and additional risk of cancer associated with the filtration plant. No one supports spending \$1.5 billion on a filtration plant that will not only provide no measurable public health benefit but provide no proven benefits.

I am providing a link to the public opposition phone testimony on this issue, Wednesday, April 7, when the City, State and most of the country is on COVID pandemic lockdown. No one allowed was/is allowed to testify at City Hall, no City Hall live video was available for the community and this was Easter week with no opportunity for church or other celebration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V5nSEg-Vec>

The \$750 million bond item starts at around 55 minutes, with public testimony shortly after. Skip past the next item to around minute 1:13 to hear Commissioner Hardesty (sounds like she will support this bond, but not filtration, though the bond ties WIFIA loan to filtration) and Commissioner Eudaly saying the increase in cost has influenced her.

One of the PWB's M.O. is to get Council to approve a project then the budget minimally doubles or more than triples in cost. We not talking about a few thousand dollars but tens millions of to hundreds of millions of dollars. The Willamette River Crossing project (a 7th Willamette river crossing), doubled in cost almost immediately after approval. Demolition of two of the city's most significant historic resources, Washington park reservoirs and replacement with half the storage, 13 million gallons , (less than ¼ th the size of Powell Butte tank increased from approx.. \$64 million (a high cost for a tiny tank) to **\$205 million**.

The filtration plant was brought to Council without revealing that the estimate provided Council did NOT include the cost of pipes which would double the cost to between \$820 million and \$1.25 million.

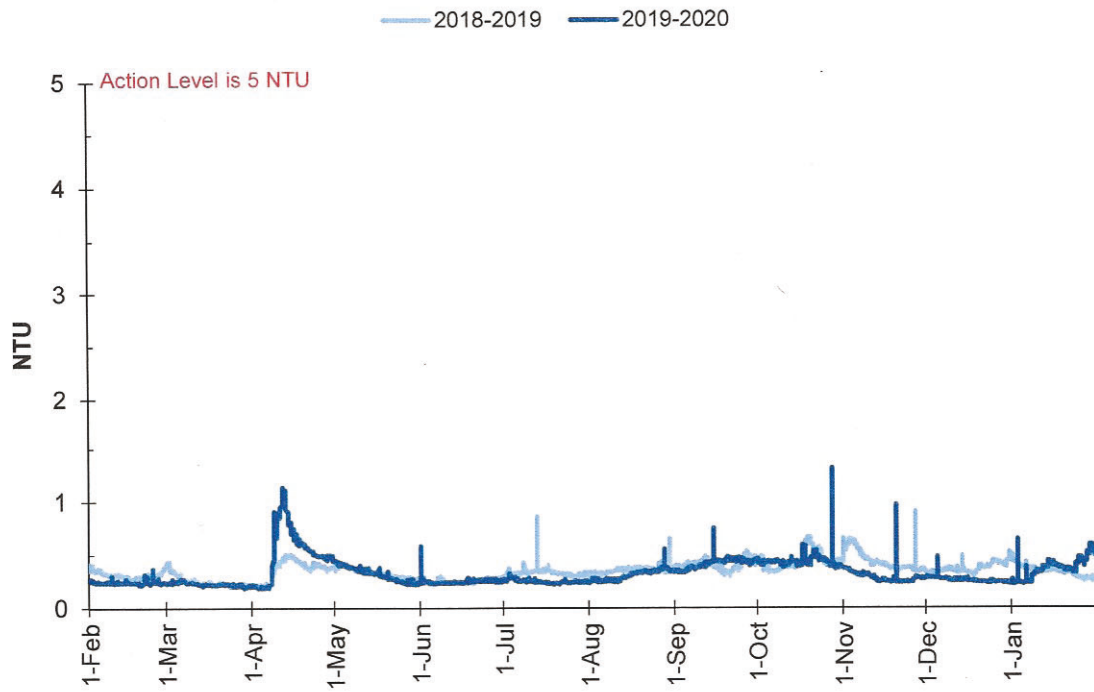
The **attached PWB annual turbidity graph** shows, contrary to Water Bureau and Commissioner Fritz's statements, that turbidity could not be lower. Year after year these same reports are presented to wholesale customers yet withheld from the website. Before making statements about turbidity, reviewing the facts would seem prudent.

Another M.O. of the PWB is to bring controversial projects to Council or for a so-called "public" meeting at the holidays when no one is paying attention. Over the recent decades where I've spent tens of thousands of volunteer hours addressing a variety PWB budget projects and illegal spending, the Water Bureau has brought controversial projects Christmas week, Thanksgiving week, twice now at Easter, and they like August when the community is out-of-town.

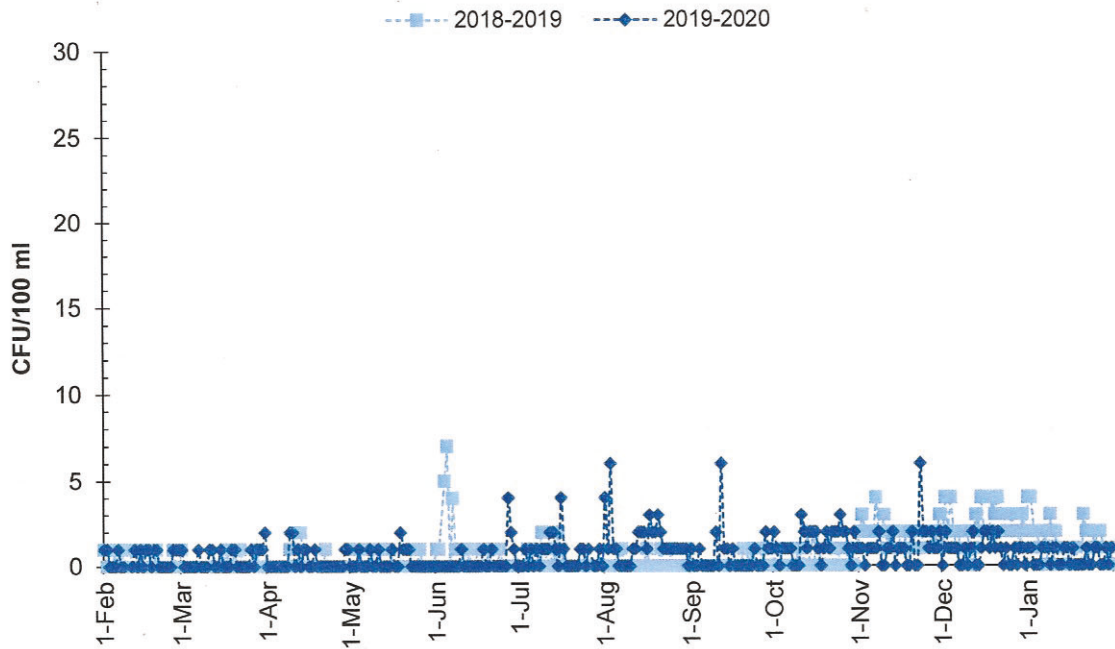
The **attached Q and A response** addresses all of the other unsubstantiated arguments by the PWB.

Annual Water Quality Graphs

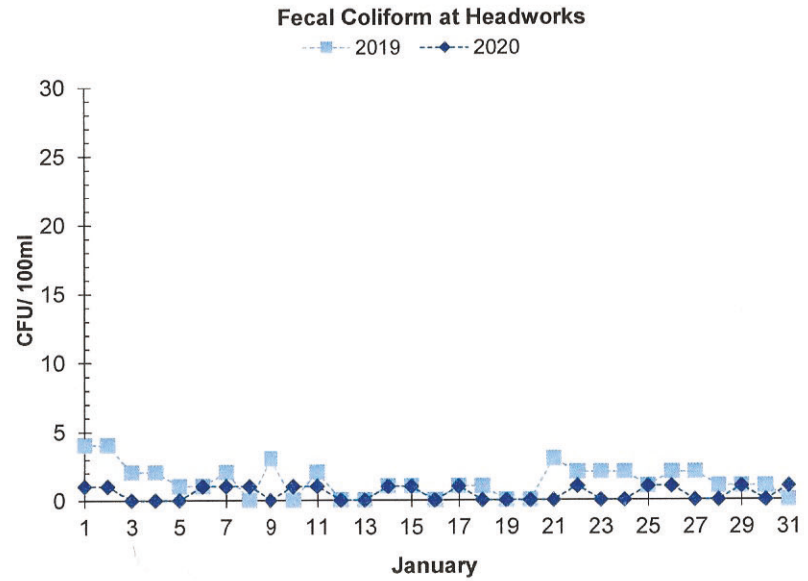
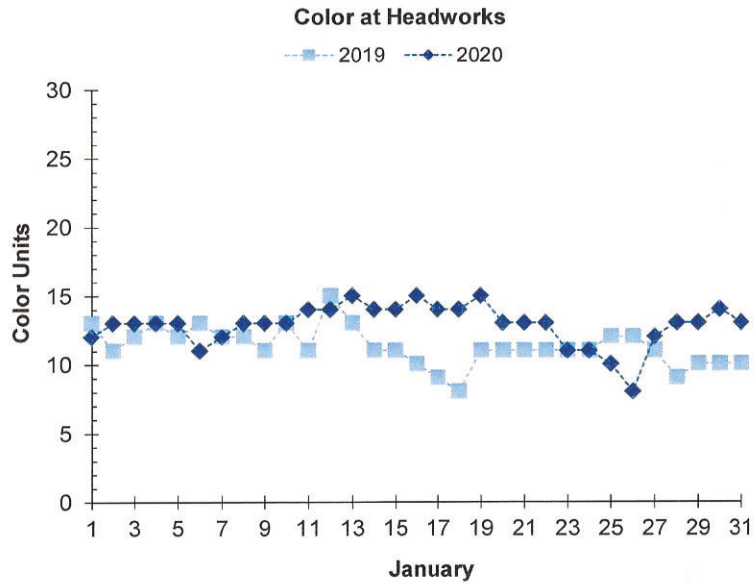
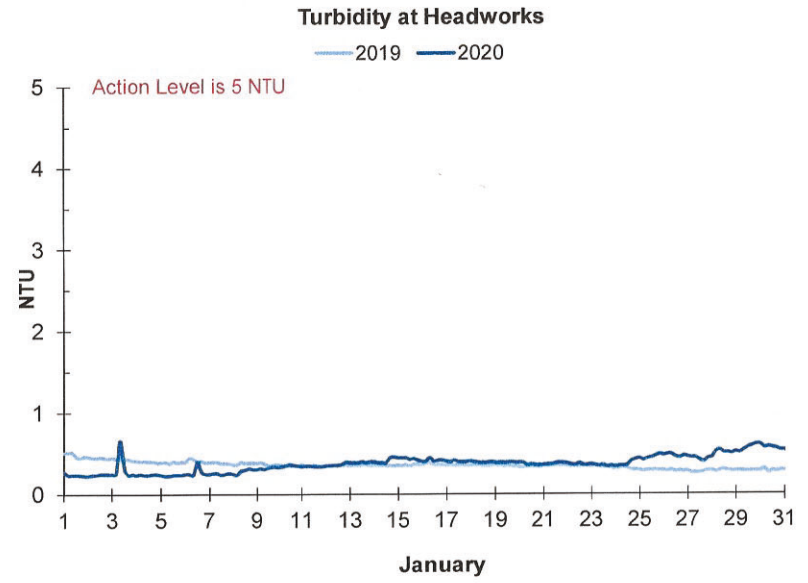
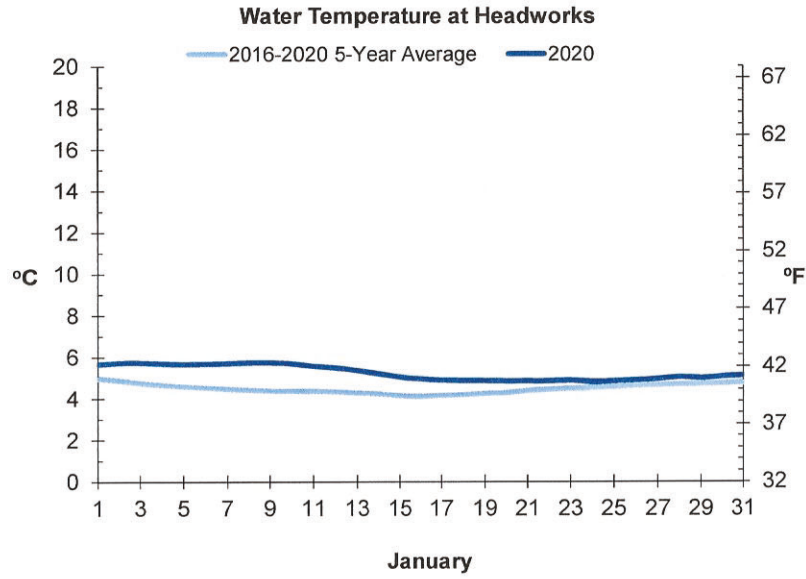
Turbidity at Headworks



Fecal Coliform at Headworks



Monthly Water Quality Graphs



To: Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners

From: Floy Jones

November 26, 2019

Why was the PWB so vague in their response to questions from the Mayor and Commissioner Hardesty on November 20, 2019?

POLLUTED WATERSHEDS=FILTRATION PLANTS

When Mike Stuhr says there are thousands of filtration plants around the country what he is not telling you is that thousands exist because there are thousands of polluted watersheds. Tens of millions continue to drink water across the country sans a filtration plant.

There is good reason why the Large Unfiltered Working Group sent pages and pages of substantive, significant critical comments re: the EPA LT2 rule. The LT2 rule is extremely flawed. New York, Boston, Seattle, San Francisco, and Tacoma all signed on to the Unfiltered working group's comments. The ONLY LARGE UNFILTERED SYSTEM THAT DID NOT SIGN ON WAS PORTLAND. Why? Because the PWB had been working backroom, with their cozy consultant and the EPA LT2 lead, Stig Regli, in support of the flawed rule in order to help them in their effort to push through build projects otherwise denied. Emails and other documents made clear that the PWB and the global corporation they brought to the EPA LT2 FACA committee never advocated for the most pristine watershed in the nation, Bull Run. Hundreds of examined volumes of PWB and EPA LT2 material support this. There is good reason why NYC is so proud of primarily remaining unfiltered as recently reported in the NY Times. They like other unfiltered systems are able to focus their efforts and resources more efficiently elsewhere, retain good tasting, smelling water, and limiting chemicals in their water. Boston won a lawsuit against EPA in order to avoid filtration. Seattle and San Francisco are unfiltered.

The Water Bureau avoids the fact that a filtration plant will negatively impact the taste, smell and feel of Portland's water. They avoid releasing their consultant report on the potential public health risks associated with filtration plants and they avoid any public discussion of the common cancer-causing filtration chemicals of alum, aluminum, and acrylamide. Stuhr likes to say they are a public health bureau yet withholds significant risk information related to their projects.

FUTURE REGULATION ARGUMENT DOESN'T HOLD WATER

Evidence does not support the argument that construction of a filtration plant anticipates any future regulations. There are no regulations on the horizon of 15-20 years that would affect the federally protected Bull Run watershed as long as humans and cows are kept out. The PWB knows this that is why they do not mention any particular regulation or issue in the pipeline.

Filtration plants do not remove pharmaceuticals such as those found at the Columbia South Shore Well field (estrogen, psychotropics, pain killers etc.), the most likely target of future regulations. Watershed protections keep these contaminants out of Bull Run.

In that the PWB was the only utility seated at the EPA Federal Advisory Committee table crafting the LT2 rule, and that their water bonds indicate that they stay abreast of regulations they would know of any regulations on the horizon in the next 15-20 years. Since none would in any way impact Bull Run they remain vague in answering questions.

EPA has yet to promulgate regulations they had on the books for future promulgation 25 years or more ago.

CATASTOPHIC TURBIDITY CLOGS FILTRATION PLANTS

Another Stuhr argument was that "filtration" will save us from muddy water during winter storms. Portland's turbidity has been low for years, but muddy water can and does overwhelm filtration systems and they have to shut down and are overwhelmed as evidenced by the disaster in Milwaukee, WI, the basis of the EPA LT2 rule. The EPA rule was promulgated as a result of a **filtration plant failure** in Milwaukee, WI, a highly polluted watershed that includes industry, cities and livestock feedlots providing the sources of human and cow species of *Cryptosporidium*. These two species are the two proven to be infectious to humans and have caused public health problems. The majority of *Cryptosporidium* species (such as the wildlife species in Bull Run) are harmless to humans.

Portland has spent a lot of money to develop several back-up water supplies including multiple interties, the Columbia South Shore Wellfield, the Powell Valley wells. The PWB also volunteered Portland ratepayers to finance the decommissioning of old logging roads that are the financial responsibility of the Forest Service. The decommissioning of the roads has helped reduced high turbidity events.

"FILTRATION SOLVES ALL" - NOT SO

When selling the waste of \$16 million spent on UV radiation, the PWB said a chemical-adding filtration plant would solve any and all hypothetical low-probability issue. Now they've slipped in the addition of Ozone, an independent stand alone LT2 compliance option because filtration is not a solve all as they claimed in 2017 before revealing the piping costs.

WIFIA LOAN COMMENTS

Contrary to the PWB implication a WIFIA loan application is not limited to this project, one only has to read the online criteria to see that any project over \$20 million is eligible, for example a seventh river crossing, the Willamette River Crossing, yet another project where costs greatly increased after budget approval.

UV COSTS DECLINED OVER TIME

Mike Stuhr suggested that project costs only increase over time. This is not correct. UV Radiation costs have significantly declined over time. PWB project costs increase, in part, because of all of the bells and whistles that the PWB adds to projects after approval. This is exactly the answer David Shaff (Stuhr's predecessor) gave when I asked while touring the Powell Butte II tank, how is it that the Powell Butte II costs climbed so high.

The PWB has consistently chosen the most costly and unnecessary option for regulatory compliance.

Regarding in town storage facilities the EPA LT2 final rule documented public health problems only with buried reservoirs with no science to support a requirement to "treat or cover" open reservoirs. There was no requirement to bury or eliminate open reservoirs. EPA inexplicably eliminated a "risk mitigation" reservoir option included in the draft rule, an option supported by other utilities and community stakeholders, including the majority of the City's 2004 \$500,000 (five hundred thousand) reservoir panel that deliberated the issue for three months. The panel outcome resulted in the ultimate termination of the MWH Global Tabor burial contract. In an effort to intimidate the public, the PWB had earlier bought reservoir covers for the Washington Park reservoirs. Then they tried to secretly sell them at a big loss on Ebay. The grill work for the covers was another wasted expenditure.

Utility managers in Rochester, NYC were flabbergasted by the price tag for PBII more than double what such a project would cost there. The cost of the tiny 12.5 million Washington Park reservoir would be even more shocking at \$205 million, an increase of 400% over the \$67 million in the planning documents.

NEAR HALF A BILLION SPENT ALREADY-WHAT DID WE GET?

What did the community get for the near \$500,000,000.00 (five hundred million) spent on reservoir burial projects?

1. No measurable public health benefit.
2. A 50 million gallon reduction in in-town water storage. The upgraded open reservoirs stored 50 million gallons more water than the replacement tanks.
3. Gross reduction of the value of the tens of millions of dollars spent on open reservoir upgrades designed to last for 50 years per PWB consultant reports, completed as the PWB fast-tracked burial projects. Immediately after years of construction work on upgrades at the historic reservoirs Mt. Tabor and Washington Park, the Water Bureau pushed a fast-track plan to bury the reservoirs that had just been upgraded.
4. Massive debt, yearly rate increases burdening the middle class
5. Risks from cancer-causing Nitrification, a problem with covered storage. EPA who long ago documented this public health problem with covered storage said they failed to address this issue when promulgating LT2.

The PWB now has to manage this public health problem as discussed at wholesale customer meetings. Los Angeles has installed UV bulbs containing mercury inside buried tanks to remediate Nitrification caused by lack of sunshine.

6. Investigative reporting by KOIN 6 News revealed that the costly CH2MHill built Powell Butte II tank was leaking from the start enough to fill an Olympic-size pool with a highly unusual number of cracks, 3200.
7. Escalation of costs for the ever growing smaller, now 12.5 MG Washington Park tank from \$67million to \$205 million dollars. (\$67 planning, \$76.3 (Oct. 2013 CIP), \$170,063 (Oct. 2014), \$190,000 (Oct. 2015), \$205,000 million (Oct.2018 CIPAR)

As no drinking water has been served from Washington Park reservoirs for 7 years, the PWB has demonstrated that demolishing two of the City's most significant historic resources was not necessary.

Note: Seattle built a 60 million gallon Maple Leaf tank at the same time PWB was building. Their tank is 10 MG larger than PBII but cost \$55 million, nearly two thirds less.

LT2 *Cryptosporidium* Bull Run Treatment Plant

\$16 million spent on planning for UV Radiation, with plans for construction of other buildings (cutting trees for Leed buildings) in the Bull Run watershed.

Millions spent on consultant contracts to negotiate the LT2 rule, lead a treatment plant panel, UV pre-design work hidden in water main "Flexible Service" contract, evaluate public health risks of filtration, study the open reservoirs, etc.

Now, the PWB wants City Council to ignore their "oops we forgot to mention the pipes" and ravage ratepayers (not Stuhr) with a \$1.25 billion bill for little to no benefit.

The middle class want to know when rates will be lowered. The first PUB chair (reconfigured PURB) recommended to Council as she was leaving the state at the end of her year of service that rates go down.

When dealing with the PWB what is most important often is not what they tell you, but what they don't tell you. An omission of \$500 million in costs for pipes is but one in a long list of significant omissions by the PWB. Friends of the Reservoirs, the Bull Run Interest Group active in the 70's, 80's, and 90's, Citizen's Interested in Bull Run Inc., and the Portland Water Users Coalition all have experienced this over the entirety of the decades of interaction with the Portland Water Bureau.

From: [Lawrence Hudetz](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: #291 \$750 Million water revenue bond
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:48:08 AM

To Portland City Council

In my opinion, Geniuses designed this great water system and only fools would destroy it.

I imagine it will be easier for you not to have to face the public, what you may not know, is that it is also easier not to have to look at you since it appears you have decided to do this without a public vote and during this Corona virus crisis when people are hurting financially. We don't know the outcome of our country's financial situation and that you would even consider putting this huge debt onto those in Portland, is really quite outrageous.

This shows that you have no respect for the citizens of this city nor any attempt at a process with integrity. If you approve this, history will show the timeline of when we had healthy water to drink and who was responsible for ruining it.

The public and businesses deserve to know details about this and to be able to vote on this \$750 million water revenue bond.

By the way, have the microbreweries which are a huge industry in our area been informed about the chemicals you will be adding to the water?

What are we also to tell the children about the water they drink?

As adults in a community, we are to be responsible, unfortunately, that is not possible when five people decide without properly informing the public what will happen to their drinking water and what the cost will be, financially and to the health of this community.

Vote NO on the \$750 Million water revenue bond. #291

RoseMarie Opp

From: [Lorie McFarlane](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Eudaly](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Fritz](#)
Subject: 4/15/20 PWB ~\$1 billion ordinances 291 & 296 take advantage of the COVID 19 crisis
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:02:05 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Water Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Eudaly, Commissioner Hardesty,

Today, you are focusing on a gargantuan Water Filtration bond and related eminent domain property takeovers.

The City is timing this at exactly the wrong time.

I urge you to put important priorities forward today;

- EPA 3/26/20 *suspensions* enforcing key environmental regulations;
- Drinking Water affordability;
- Emergency water access to communities of color and low-income with - and without - running water;
- Collecting data - robust, detailed data. Data!
- Mitigation steps to restore safe running water for all in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic "stay-at-home-stay-healthy" orders by Governor Brown.

The PWB has not yet issued their *response to COVID19* (if they have one) and will not share any "shutoff status" info that water customers endure today. So I also urge you to prioritize

- Transparency.

Finally, I urge you to focus on pernicious misleading, mixed, subtle, and/or inaccurate messages the public regularly gets from the PWB. e.g. - We do not "need to build a Filtration plant"; the EPA and OHA have told PWB they *need to treat* for cryptosporidium, a low-level micro-organism, a potential intestinal illness here.

Sincerely,
Lorie McFarlane

Filtration plant on Council agenda 4/15/20:
\$750,000,000 ask (second reading)

[291](#) Authorize water revenue bonds to finance water system capital improvements and refund water revenue bonds (Second Reading Agenda 271)

\$20,000,000 ask "improved" corrosion control building rationale for Eminent Domain property acquisitions (first reading)

[296](#) Authorize Portland Water Bureau to acquire necessary easements for construction of the Corrosion Control Improvements Project through negotiation or the exercise of the City's eminent domain authority (Ordinance) 15 minutes requested

Please note, City Hall is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Under Portland City Code and state law, the City Council is holding this meeting electronically.

All members of council are attending remotely by phone and the City has made several avenues available for the public to listen to the audio broadcast of this meeting. The meeting is available to the public on the City's YouTube Channel, eGov PDX, www.portlandoregon.gov/video and Channel 30. The public can also provide written testimony to Council by emailing the Council Clerk at cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov.

The Council is taking these steps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to limit in-person contact and promote social distancing. The pandemic is an emergency that threatens the public health, safety and welfare which requires us to meet remotely by electronic communications. Thank you all for your patience, flexibility and understanding as we manage through this difficult situation to do the City's business.