

Phone conversation with Comm. Mapps April 5, 2021. (EXCERPT & [Red for updated](#))

Did you know about Portland Water's quiet lead crisis and why lead is so high here? I can send you data and news pieces and congressional testimonies etc. on Portland if you'd like. And you don't have to take my word on it. But it will take awhile to read and understand Portland's history on water lead; the inextricable link between corrosive water and lead release.

There is a more pressing issue; PWB's failure to protect public health since 2016, when Flint gave cities like us - with concerning lead systemwide - important lessons.

Instead however, PWB created a distraction for the public, PUB, and city council by "[sounding alarm bells](#)" on [potential crypto](#) in mid-2017 ... vs their water lead exceedances - a potent irreversible neurotoxin at even low levels, esp. for pregnant women and young children under 7. Yet it's 100% preventable in water and achievable right now.

Since July 2017, we've tried to advocate on behalf of community concerns regarding lead in drinking water after PWB elevated plans to treat "potential low-level cryptosporidium" in August 2017. As we witnessed on [March 4th](#) of this year, a \$350-\$500M project morphed into something quite different and more than 3X costlier. For both rural and urban residents, it's been one closed door after another despite PWB claims of "community engagement".

The \$1.5 Billion filtration plant isn't slated to fix this problem. ***Until the PWB shows water lead levels significantly lower - just like Seattle just like San Francisco and all the western U.S cities on the barchart we sent you, and just like City commissioners in Flint, Newark, Pittsburgh, etc. did, first and foremost, Portland needs :***

1) Water Filters certified to reduce lead. The most immediate public health protection for lead is primary prevention, not the "step-by-step" approach that Dir. Solmer suggested in 2017.

That's our ask for [the fall BMP funds](#). It will take tremendous moral courage and political will to acknowledge to the public PWB's past mistakes. We think the public deserves that and protection from further health-harm risks. Filters are the right thing to do.

~ Portland Advocates for Lead-free Drinking Water