

2013 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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For the Record – Agenda Item 122, February 13, 2013

Mayor Hales and Commissioners
1221 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales and Commissioners,

First and foremost, the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association applauds your most recent letter to OHA regarding the open reservoirs. This is the right move to make right now on behalf of our reservoirs, our ratepayer dollars, and our public health efforts. We know this letter will not be the last word in the discussion you will have with OHA, and we are happy to offer our support and our labor as you build the case and further advocate for the reservoirs.

For many years now, the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association has urged Portland's Commissioners, Portland's Mayors, and the region's federal delegation to vigorously pursue common-sense reforms at the federal level to the *Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule* (a.k.a. LT2), such that would protect public health and ensure logical spending of local ratepayer dollars.

To that end, we have worked among the most well informed citizen groups involved in this issue. Together we've forwarded the cause of protecting public health *while* protecting public funds because this is what citizens have overwhelmingly demonstrated time and time again that they want.

There have been opportunities for positive progress along the way that Portland's Water Bureau has simply let pass by. On most occasions, groups like my own attempt to shine a light on opportunities as they emerge, and even as they are sometimes squandered. So let me be clear today: the 2013 Federal Legislative Agenda policy statement you are considering today represents an opportunity about to be squandered.

The Office of Government Relations has inexplicably left out of this policy statement any mention of the open reservoirs, relief for them from onerous LT2 requirements, or any efforts the city will put towards them at the federal level -- efforts that likely would save Portlanders millions in wasted public health dollars. In fact, language regarding the reservoirs appears to have been removed from the 2013 Federal Legislative Agenda between the draft policy statement (dated Nov 30) and the final report before you today.

Today's Portland City Council is in a position unlike any we've seen for a while and there is real opportunity for practical relief for Portland's open reservoirs. Your 2013 Federal Legislative Agenda, and your energies should include pursuing relief for the reservoirs because citizens expect you to judiciously guard their limited public resources.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart
Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association Land Use Chair
stewartstclair@gmail.com

For the Record – Agenda Item 122, 2013 Federal Legislative Agenda, Council Hearing February 13, 2013

Submitted by:
Floy Jones
Friends of the Reservoirs

Kent Craford
Portland Water Users Coalition

The following is submitted as proposed change to the 2013 LT2 Federal priority language. LT2 reservoir relief has been a stated City priority for several years. Last year it was the City's stated top federal priority. Reservoir relief received the most participant votes at the single community forum held in August. Reservoir relief was included in the 2013 draft document and is supported by a broad-based group of environmental, business, neighborhood, and social justice organizations as well as many others.

Energy, Environment, & Water Improve the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) and secure permanent relief from onerous LT2 requirements.

The City seeks assistance from the delegation to push the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete the LT2 review and revise the rule in three ways. First, the scientific basis of the rule should be improved to focus only on Cryptosporidium species that pose the highest known risk to human health. Second, any changes to laboratory methods to detect Cryptosporidium should ensure adequate flexibility to account for Portland's unique, seasonal source water characteristics. Third, secure alternative compliance options for Portland's open reservoirs such as a reasonable, site specific risk mitigation option, an option which was included in the 2003 draft LT2 rule but inexplicably removed from final rule.

The City of Portland will work closely with New York City to assure a LT2 rule revision includes alternative compliance options for open reservoirs. The City will take full advantage of any EPA comment opportunity to comprehensively argue support of alternative reservoir compliance options.

The City will actively work with the Congressional delegation to pursue legislative relief from raw water treatment and storage requirements of the federal Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) for Portland's Drinking Water System. The City has demonstrated, in part through extensive sampling over 10,000 liters of source water and 7,000 liters from the outlets of Portland's open reservoirs, that infectious Cryptosporidium is not a threat to Portland's drinking water.