

September 28, 2014

Town Hall Talking Points for comments to elected officials-

The following open reservoirs talking points have been researched referenced and are scientifically supported. During the recent town hall we corrected Portland Water Bureau misleading and inaccurate information. Misinformation from Portland Water Bureau may be used in comments or letter responses from elected officials. We stand by these talking points as accurate. It is not too late to retain our open reservoirs protecting the public health of Portland's children and citizens.

- Portland's open reservoirs have never had a microbial or chemical health illness since they were built over 100 years ago.
- Portland's open air reservoirs efficiently remove toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. Covered reservoirs cannot.
- In a covered reservoir system toxic and carcinogenic chemicals will end up in our schools, homes and workplaces.
- Covering Portland's reservoirs will carry risk from enabling toxic and carcinogenic contaminants such as radon, chloroform and other disinfection chemical byproducts to accrue in the water supply in addition to nitrification, lack of oxygenation, and absence of sunlight.
- EPA – "there is NO SAFE level of radon"
- EPA- "cancer risk from radon in water is higher than the cancer risk from any other drinking water contaminant."
- Ratepayers cannot afford any more rate increases
- Or tolerate degraded water quality from a covered reservoir water system

- ~\$80 million left for open reservoir decommissioning projects can be changed to distribution system deferred maintenance.
 - Open reservoirs are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, an honor recognizing their importance to public health and the community.
 - EPA is still reviewing the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule through 2015.
 - State of New York is asking for EPA open reservoir waiver
 - Why can't Portland ask for waiver, we have the science to support an EPA LT2 waiver?
 - State of New York and New York City continue to move forward working with EPA in their open reservoir EPA waiver process for last 3 years.
 - Following pressure from other open-reservoir cities, in 2011 the EPA softened its stance on the LT2 rule and allowed the country's remaining open reservoirs to halt burial plans, but despite public outcry Mt. Tabor's open reservoirs remain slated for decommissioning.
 - Safe Drinking Water Act Waiver agreement can be made between; Congress, EPA, Oregon Health Authority. (Portland Water Bureau is incorrect in saying ; "no such thing as a waiver" and "only President can sign off on waiver")
 - Scientific principles of sunlight, open air and oxygenation provide the safe and healthy natural ecosystem that covered reservoirs cannot.
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- **EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson 2011 - "science will determine ultimate outcome"**

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy 2014 – “we’re just trying to get at the public health impacts and if there is a better way to do that we’ll be wide open to it”

- **We have shown both comments above are supported by open reservoir health benefits.**
- Securing relief from EPA LT2 and retaining the functionality of Portland's open reservoirs has been consistently supported by a long list of organizations including, Physicians for Social Responsibility, The Portland Water Users Coalition, the Portland Business Alliance (served on 2004 Reservoir Panel), The Southeast Uplift Coalition of 20 neighborhood associations, the Alliance for Democracy, Food and Water Watch, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, the Portland Audubon Society, the Arlington Heights N.A., the Mt. Tabor N.A., the South Tabor N.A., the Eastside Democratic Club. The list goes on and on.

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