



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013 – The City of Portland has been turned down several times over the years in its request to avoid or delay complying with public health requirements regarding open drinking water reservoirs. In May 2013, the Oregon Health Authority refused our latest request for a delay.

Faced with no other legal options and with deadlines looming, the city will move forward to meet the compliance timeline.

In approving the 2013-14 budget, we will continue moving forward on a multi-year plan for Portland's drinking water reservoirs.

The Environmental Protection Agency rule – known as the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, or LT2 – is an unfunded federal mandate to not use uncovered reservoirs to store finished drinking water in order to reduce the risk of exposure to contaminants.

The city has been fighting LT2 since its inception.

- In 2006, the city appealed the EPA rule in federal court and lost.
- In 2009, the city sought EPA guidance on how to obtain a variance, and was told no variance was possible.
- When the EPA later moved regulatory oversight to the Oregon Health Authority, the city again asked for a variance and was turned down.
- In 2011, the city asked the state if a variance was possible and was told it was not.
- Later in 2011, the city asked the state to suspend enforcement of the provision until federal regulatory review was completed, and was turned down.
- In 2012 and again in 2013, the city asked the state for a delay. The city was turned down each time.

The reservoirs at Mount Tabor will be disconnected when new reservoirs, being constructed at Powell Butte and Kelly Butte, are completed. This is projected to take effect by December 31, 2015.

At Washington Park, one reservoir will be decommissioned and the other renovated and covered, gaining a reflecting pool similar to the current appearance atop the buried tank.

We are looking to the community to help us preserve these historic structures, and will conduct an inclusive public process to plan the future of our world-class parks. Recognizing the impact that compliance will have on rates, we will heighten scrutiny of all capital projects and contracts to keep rate increases as low as possible.

Portland is blessed with one of the best drinking water sources in the world. Therefore, the city will continue its strong advocacy in support of the Bull Run sourcewater treatment variance under a separate LT2 provision.



Charlie Hales
Mayor



Nick Fish
Commissioner



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Commissioner



Steve Novick
Commissioner