

Meeting Summary

Meeting 13: Site Advisory Group—Facility Operations

Location: Teleconference **Date:** November 12, 2020
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Bonita Oswald, Facilitator Kimberly Gupta, Operations
David Peters, Program Director Dan Speicher, Facilitator

Agenda

Meeting Purpose: Invited input on the draft Good Neighbor Agreement language for communication and design and shared information about planned operation of the future filtration facility.

1. Welcome

- a. Project Communications Lead Bonita Oswald welcomed meeting participants and introduced the meeting topic and speakers.
- b. Program Director David Peters provided an update on project progress, noting the team will achieve the first significant compliance milestone with submittal of the *Project Definition Report* and the *Pilot Study* to the Oregon Health Authority. David also noted the selection of preferred pipeline routes and ongoing communication and outreach to neighbors along the identified routes.

2. Good Neighbor Agreement

- a. Dan Speicher provided an overview of draft language being considered for the Good Neighbor Agreement for communications and design-related topics. Site Advisors were asked to note whether the draft language reflected their interests or whether they would like to see something changed.
 - i. Dan summarized feedback received on six topics: communication, architecture, lighting, sound, landscaping, and stormwater management. Dan noted the communications topic received four requests for a modification, while the other topics received one request each. Dan highlighted the next steps to consider community feedback with the design team, then refine and share updated language with the Site Advisors in January and February.
 - ii. Site Advisors were invited to clarify feedback shared through the online survey or provide additional input on the draft language. Input included a request to not include a communications tower or visitor's center at the facility site. David noted the facility plan does not include a visitor's center.



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3. Facility Operations

- a. Bull Run Supply Treatment Manager Kimberly Gupta described current plans for filtration facility operations with the goal of making the facility as unobtrusive as possible to site neighbors while reliably delivering clean, safe water to customers.
 - i. Kimberly described safety considerations in the treatment process and planned operations of the future filtration facility. She responded to common community questions, including designing the facility to reduce off-site light and sound, implementing strict safety protocols for delivery and storage of treatment chemicals, and planning for emergency response. She also spoke to questions about solids management through beneficial reuse, preliminary plans for staffing 24/7 operations and designating a primary access route, typical restrictions on delivery times, and what to expect from educational facility tours for school kids and community members.
 - ii. Site Advisor questions included:

What treatment chemicals will be used in the treatment process? *We're identifying specific chemicals best-suited to Bull Run water and will only use treatment chemicals certified as safe for use in drinking water. The planned treatment includes ozone to break down organics in our water and provide a barrier against algal toxins and other contaminants. We'll also use coagulants and polymers (long-chain organic molecules) to help remove suspended sediment, disease-causing pathogens, and other contaminants. These chemicals are almost completely removed during the sedimentation and filtration steps of the treatment process. We'll continue to add chlorine and ammonia for disinfection and will use corrosion control treatment to make our water less corrosive to lead found in some home plumbing.*

Will operators stay on site? How long are shifts? *The facility will operate 24/7. The number of staff working on site will vary depending on the time of day, with fewer staff on site at night. Typical shifts are 8 to 10 hours.*

When was the Bull Run last shut down? *The Bull Run was shut down in 2011 and 2012 due to high-turbidity events. In 2017, there was a shutdown based on an abundance of caution following low-level Cryptosporidium detections, and a second partial shutdown due to a chemical delivery delay.*

What are the names of the experts involved in the Technical Advisory Committee? *We have engaged water treatment and public health experts to provide advice at various points in planning and design. These independent advisors have included Issam Najm, PhD, PE; Eva Neiminski, PhD; Mark LeChevallier, PhD; Helene Baribeau, PhD, PE; Chris McMeen, PE; and Kari Duncan.*

What would the radius for a chemical evacuation be and would an emergency action plan include notifying neighbors? *The treatment chemicals currently planned for use at the facility can be contained on site in the unlikely event of a spill and would not require an evacuation radius. Safety is our priority, and we'll take steps to keep the community informed about emergency situations, including coordinating with other responders during an event like the recent fires.*

Where will solids be stored and will they be visible? *The treatment process generates silts and clays that may be stored in or near the 'dewatering' building for limited periods of time. This building will*



be part of the facility area near the center of the site and will be buffered from site neighbors by landscaping at the site edges.

4. Site Advisor Discussion

- a. Bonita opened up the floor to additional feedback, comments, and discussion from Site Advisors and other guests attending the teleconference.

- i. Site Advisor questions included:

Will there be a visitor's center or walking paths for visitors to use around the site? The facility plan does not include a visitor's center. There is a lobby planned for the Administration Building to receive deliveries and visitors. As the facility design evolves, we're continuing to look at potential uses for the remaining area around the site edges. The landscape design and the possibility of other uses, such as agriculture or walking paths, are topics that we welcome community input on and will continue to discuss with the Site Advisory Group.

What is the Water Bureau doing to minimize lead to the extent possible (per EPA)? We currently adjust pH to reduce corrosivity of water to lead-containing materials found in some home and building plumbing. We're also building improved corrosion control treatment at our Lusted Hill facility to further reduce potential levels of lead at the tap. Improved corrosion control will be in operation in April 2022.

Who will pay for the project? How will Water Bureau customers' rates be affected? The project will be funded through wholesale and retail customer rates. To help manage increases in rates, we're currently negotiating a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan with the Environmental Protection Agency, which would provide long-term, low-cost project financing. The current estimated rate increase to fund the project, which does not yet incorporate WIFIA financing, is 3.8 percent to 3.9 percent each year through FY 2027-28. The estimated monthly water bill impact is described on the project fact sheet: portland.gov/water/bullruntreatment/brt-overview-fact-sheet. The current rate for both residential and commercial customers is \$5.593 per 100 cubic feet.

How will the City of Gresham's decision impact Water Bureau customers? Gresham city officials concluded that their community's long-term interests are best served by developing their own water supply. As Gresham develops its system, the Water Bureau will continue to serve the Gresham community. With Tualatin Valley Water District's long-planned transition, wholesaler revenue will make up only 6 to 7 percent of the Water Bureau's water sale revenue. The financial impact when Gresham transitions to its new supply, expected in 2026, is manageable; however, rate impacts have not been calculated yet.

5. Adjourn

- a. Bonita noted the Site Advisory Group will take a break for the month of December and then re-convene in January for an update on pipelines, facility, and site design.
- b. David thanked participants, wished everyone a happy holidays with family and friends, and adjourned the meeting.



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