

January 2023 Filtration Neighbor Information Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: Jan. 12, 2023

Time: 6–7 p.m.

Speakers: Bonita Oswald, Communications Lead

Lyda Hakes, Facility Design Lead

Michelle Cheek, Deputy Program Director

Dan Hogan, Pipelines Design Lead

Meeting Summary

Meeting Purpose: Share a brief update on Bull Run Filtration design progress and upcoming project milestones.

1. Welcome

- a. Project communications lead Bonita Oswald thanked participants for joining the meeting and introduced the agenda and speakers.

2. Program Milestones

- a. Deputy program director Michelle Cheek highlighted project progress in 2022 and previewed upcoming milestones in 2023.
 - i. Michelle noted the project team is working to finalize detailed design and ramping up planning for the start of facility construction in September 2023 and pipeline construction in early 2024.
 - ii. Michelle also described the status of project permitting activities, including upcoming steps in Multnomah County’s land use application process and planned submittal of a land use application to Clackamas County later in January.

3. Construction Traffic Considerations

- a. Pipeline design lead Dan Hogan provided an overview of draft pipeline construction traffic considerations and noted ways the work is being sequenced to maintain safety and traffic flow.
 - i. Dan walked through draft locations and durations for traffic management in public rights-of-way, noting ways the project team is using information from farm operators and local schools to help plan when pipeline construction work happens in certain areas.
 - ii. Dan shared a conceptual traffic management approach to maintain safety around work areas and noted typical traffic control practices include signage, flagging, and other notification steps.

4. Proposed Roadway Improvements

- a. Facility design lead Lyda Hakes shared information about proposed Carpenter Lane improvements within the Multnomah County public right-of-way.



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- i. Lyda noted the improvements are being designed to applicable county standards and the project team is continuing to coordinate with Multnomah County and Clackamas County transportation.
- ii. Lyda also walked through conceptual views of the proposed improvements, including widening the roadway to about 24-feet and adding gravel shoulders within the County's current right-of-way.

5. Communications and Outreach

- a. Bonita highlighted ways project information is planned to be shared with neighbors and community members during construction and invited input on what is working well or other potential tools.
 - i. Bonita highlighted ongoing outreach that will be continued during construction, including e-news updates, information sessions, area signage, mailings, and other direct property owner outreach.
 - ii. Bonita also described potential new construction outreach tools include a construction hotline, text notification subscription, and monthly meeting with the contractor option during construction start.

6. Questions and Comments

- a. Bonita invited participants to share comments or ask questions. Responses are summarized below. (Also see: portland.gov/bullrunprojectfaq)
 - i. *Are there plans to improve the emergency access roadway from Bluff Road to the facility site?* Yes, there are proposed improvements to meet applicable codes. For example, designing the surface and width of the emergency access roadway to accommodate a standard service vehicle in the event of an emergency.
 - ii. *How will the site access from the south be used?* Once the water filtration facility is operating, the proposed access from Bluff Road would provide site access in the event of an emergency. We also anticipate using this access during construction of the water filtration facility and pipelines to help manage traffic and reduce disruption.
 - iii. *Will the base of Carpenter Lane be improved?* Yes, our proposed roadway design includes improvements to the base and road surface to meet applicable county standards.
 - iv. *Will the power lines along Carpenter Lane be moved?* We are working with utility providers to identify what may be needed. We will continue coordinating with individual property owners as more information is available.
 - v. *When would repairs to Carpenter Lane likely happen?* We are continuing to coordinate with Multnomah County on roadway standards. Once we obtain County approval of the proposed improvements, we will work with our contractor to schedule those improvements and will reach out to property owners to share information.
 - vi. *How will traffic safety be addressed for alternate routes during construction?* We will work with Multnomah County and Clackamas County to make sure traffic control plans meet county requirements. Typical traffic controls include notifying travelers of temporary lane closures and providing flaggers and roadside reader boards where work is occurring in the right-of-way. Our planned outreach during construction includes ongoing property owner engagement, website and e-news updates, and mailings or doorhanger notifications where appropriate.
 - vii. *What will be the main access during construction?* The facility site access from Carpenter Lane will be the main access. We anticipate using both site access routes during construction to help manage traffic depending on the projects needs and the types of work activities. We will continue to update the community when additional information is available.

- viii. *Will there be local subcontractors?* Yes, the contractors for both the water filtration facility and the pipelines will be putting parts of the work out for bid in the local contracting community. More information about subcontracting is available on our [Filtration Project Construction Workforce Opportunities webpage](#).
- ix. *What permitting process are you using in Clackamas County?* We are planning to submit our land use application for the emergency access roadway in Clackamas County later this month.
- x. *Where is the project in Multnomah County's land use process?* We submitted our land use application in September 2022. We are currently preparing additional information requested by the County. Once the application is deemed complete, the County's 150-day review process will begin. The County provides avenues for public comment throughout their land use process.
- xi. *Will the property north of the water filtration facility site be used for pipelines?* We expect to use trenchless construction to install filtered pipelines under that property moving generally northwest from the facility site to Dodge Park Boulevard. More information and a map of the planned pipe routes is available at portland.gov/bullrunprojects.
- xii. *How is safety addressed for treatment chemicals?* Safety of both the public and our staff is paramount. The water filtration facility will meet rigorous federal and state safety standards for chemical storage and transportation. We are also designing the facility with inherently safer treatment technologies to help reduce potential risk. For example, we anticipate using liquid sodium hypochlorite, similar to household bleach, for disinfection.
- xiii. *Who will serve the new facilities for emergencies?* We are working with a variety of local service providers, including Gresham Fire, Multnomah Rural Fire Protection District 10, Multnomah County Sheriff, and Clackamas County Sheriff.
- xiv. *Has the hazards management plan been shared with District 10?* Yes, we shared our Hazardous Materials Management Plan with Multnomah Rural Fire Protection District 10.
- xv. *Has the Department of Homeland Security been contacted about the project?* Although we have not reached out to Homeland Security, safety is a key focus of the planned water filtration facility design and the way we operate our facilities. Our design includes a variety of features to control access to our site and maintain the security of the facility in accordance with applicable standards.
- xvi. *Was an archaeology study done for the facility site? Is that required for land use permitting?* We have completed archaeological studies of the project area; however, these are not required for our land use application. Preliminary assessments for the filtration facility site are summarized in the [Project Definition Report](#) (March 2020).
- xvii. *Have local mayors been contacted about construction traffic?* Not specifically, however, we share project information with the local community through a variety of means, including emailed newsletters, quarterly project information meetings, neighbor mailings and notifications, stakeholder briefings, and other methods. The project has also been featured in a number of news articles by various publications around the region.
- xviii. *Is the project required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act?* In 2017, the Portland City Council selected filtration treatment to meet federal drinking water requirements to remove *Cryptosporidium* from drinking water. Shortly thereafter, the City entered into a compliance agreement with the Oregon Health Authority to provide filtered Bull Run water by September 2027.
- xix. *How many Cryptosporidium tests have been positive in the last year and a half?* There have been *Cryptosporidium* detections in the Bull Run supply as recently as January 2023. The Water Bureau

notifies the public of detections through local media and reports on testing results through the City's website: portland.gov/water/water-quality/cryptosporidium.

- xx. *What is the project cost?* The total Bull Run Treatment Program WIFIA funding is for \$1.48 billion and includes the water filtration facility, related pipelines, and improved corrosion control projects. This amount is the basis for the current projections of water bill impacts from the projects. Additional detail is available at: [Project Financing and Rate Affordability](#).
- xxi. *How is the project being funded?* These investments in the future of Bull Run water are being funded through customer rates. To help maintain water rate affordability, we secured a low-interest federal loan that allows us to smooth water bill impacts from the Bull Run Treatment Projects over time.
- xxii. *Has the rise in interest rates affected the loan?* No, one of the benefits of securing project financing through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program is that we were able to lock in a very low interest rate of 1.89 percent.

7. Closing

- a. Bonita thanked participants for their time, noted the next neighbor information session is scheduled for April 13, and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Chat

Speakers addressed written comments and questions from the chat during the meeting. Along with information in this summary, the meeting recording is also available to hear detailed responses.

From Patricia Fiedler : Will you improve the road from the facility to Bluff Rd. It is now a "path"

From Pat Meyer : When do you propose repair of Carpenter?

From Patricia Fiedler : Will any construction trucks be using the road from facility to Bluff Rd. or will it just be for emergency vehicles,

From Natalie VORUZ : If this project moves forward, what efforts will be made to improve the safety and road conditions of alternate routes through our community during road closures. Altman is currently one of the safest routes for passenger vehicles to travel to I-84. If we are forced to take less safe routes for a 9 month closure, what are you doing to address the safety on those alternate routes which lead through residential areas?

From paul willis : For Dan What road will be the main construction road, carpenter ln or the bluff access road? What will the bluff access road be used for? What process are you using with Clackamas Cty relative to the bluff access rd? I heard it was going to be used for fire...

From Carol Kost : Are you going to rebuild the base on Carpenter Lane?

From Carol Kost : Are you taking the pipelines through Dan's property onto Dodge Park Blvd?

From Jennifer Hart : Who is going to you serve you for emergencies?

From Carol Kost : Where are you at in the Multnomah County land use process



From Natalie VORUZ : Quoting Lyda "we don't intend to ever use the emergency access". It is a similar statement we heard a few weeks ago that there is not a terrorism concern because threats have never been made to a Portland water facility before. I think our power stations may have claimed the same thing a few months ago. The lack of planning for the communities safety is deeply concerning.

From Pat Meyer : With over 170 electric plant attacks to date, the fact that we have not had ONE communications that addresses SAFETY for both terrorism and chemical accidents is VERY disconcerting.

From Natalie VORUZ : Has the Department of Homeland Security been contacted and given a chance to weigh in on building critical infrastructure in a residential area.

From Pat Meyer : So the local community is left blind

From Jennifer Hart : Dave Peters was asked to give District 10- PWB hazmat training records! Has that been giving to District 10?

From Patricia Fiedler : Was there ever an archeological study done on the property? Is this required for the land use permit

From Jennifer Hart : What is the cost estimate for the project?

From Bonita Oswald : <https://www.portland.gov/water/bullruntreatment/bullrunaffordability>

From paul willis : is that with or without escalation

From Carol Kost : Has the rise in interest rates effected the loan

From Patricia Fiedler : Does this amount keep you within the budget parameters?

From Natalie VORUZ : During the recent ice storm we had a tanker fuel truck slide off the road into our front yard. He was attempting to deliver fuel to the PWB location on Lusted. The ruck was facing the wrong way on Dodge Park for over 5 hours causing a huge traffic hazard. How will you prevent this from continuing to happen

From Patricia Fiedler : Originally you were given \$850M

From Carol Kost : Are you planning on using local sub contractors

From Patricia Fiedler : From Portland City Council

From Jennifer Hart : I noticed the OPB article on January 4, 2023 stated the cost is \$1 Billion. Where is the disconnect between the writer and PWB? Is that not misleading ratepayers?

From Patricia Fiedler : Do you only receive 50% of the project costs

From Natalie VORUZ : Have you notified the Mayor and City Council's of Fairview, Gresham, Wood Village and Troutdale of the construction traffic and continuous transportation of hazardous chemicals through their communités and on their major roadways?

From Patricia Fiedler : The Loan

From Jennifer Hart : Natiley question I would add City of Sandy, city of Estacada and Boring about the road ways

From Pat Meyer : Why do you continue to push that the project is “required” by the federal Safe Drinking Water ACT, when in fact this filtration plant is a choice of the PWB and Portland city as the solution method, even though other, less expensive methods have been approved as well.

From Pat Meyer : This method is not required by the ACT

From Pat Meyer : This is misleading

From gabi : today a chemical accident happened near Chicago . Chemicals used for water treatment were released.

From Natalie VORUZ : These decisions were made by Portland City Council who bears no adverse affects to their community other than the astronomical water rate increase heading their way. Wouldn't it be fair and transparent to notify local governments on transportation plans. We can all looks at maps and figure out East County roadways will be detrimentally impacted.

From Carol Kost : How many cryptosporidium (sp) tests have tested positive in the last year and a half.

From Michelle Cheek : <https://www.portland.gov/water/water-quality/cryptosporidium>

From Jennifer Hart : This belongs in Portland where it serves! City Council has ruined Portland! It is easy to spend other peoples money when you have no skin in the game!