ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT

2024 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Rockwood Water
People's Utility District

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

2023 DATA REPORTING

RWPUD.ORG/CCR2024

Rockwood Water
People's Utility District

MESSAGE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

Safe, clean water is vital to our community. The Rockwood Water People's Utility District's highest priority is delivering clean and safe drinking water to you, our customers.

Our Board of Directors are keenly aware of how critical it is for Rockwood to be able to provide water to our community at an affordable price. The Board has directed us to transition away from the wholesale purchase agreement with the City of Portland to our own independent source of groundwater, ensuring better future rate control and stability. Rockwood has partnered with the City of Gresham to build state-of-the-art drinking water wells, treatment facilities, water reservoirs and transmission pipes. New water reservoirs and transmission pipes are being built using the highest earthquake-resistant standards. No matter what the District may face in the future, we aim to be ready to provide fresh, drinkable water. This partnership, titled the Cascade Groundwater Alliance, ensures that this system is built and operated in the safest and most efficient way possible. For updates on the Cascade Groundwater Alliance and its projects please visit: https:/rwpud.org/cascade-groundwater-alliance/

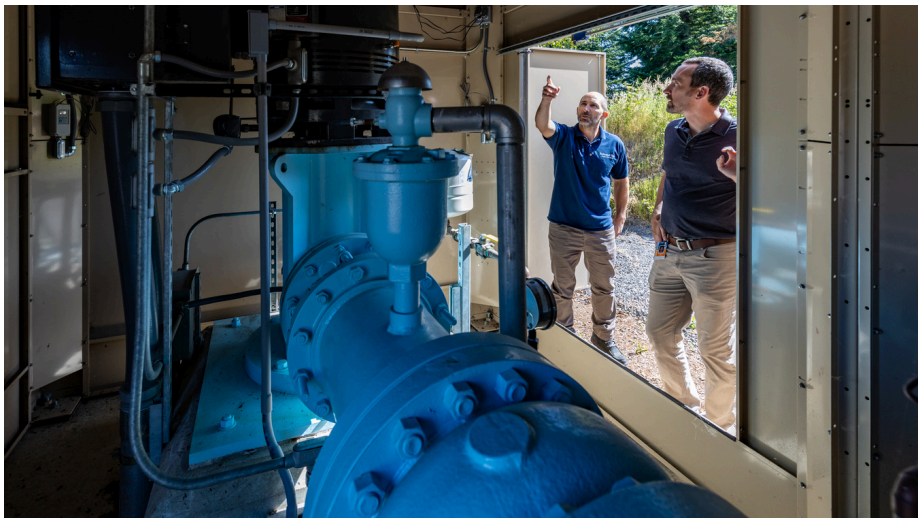
As a crucial step and regulatory measure to ensure the groundwater supply continues to be safe and clean long into the future, we have expanded our Groundwater Protection Program. This program now covers the entire geographic area of Gresham. Under this program, staff work with businesses that handle hazardous waste to ensure it is stored and managed properly and safely.

We are gifted with plentiful, healthy water stored safely deep below the surface. Along with Gresham, we serve as joint caretakers and managers of this important community resource. As we move into the future, we are confident that we will be able to provide the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost to you.

Kari Duncan
General Manager

Need Assistance?
Contact Customer Service:
Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - Noon
& 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

503-665-4179
Customerservice@rwpud.org



Rockwood and Gresham staff inspect Cascade Well #3 Pump and Piping

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This report contains important information and should be translated. Do you need this document translated into another language? Go to rwpud.org/ccr2024.pdf and use the Google Translator button to choose from more than 100 languages.

Este informe contiene información importante y debe traducirse. ¿Necesita este documento traducido a otro idioma? Ve a rwpud.org/ccr2024.pdf y usa el botón Google Translator para elegir entre más de 100 idiomas.

Этот доклад содержит важную информацию и должен быть переведен. Вам нужен этот документ, переведенный на другой язык? Перейдите на rwpud.org/ccr2024.pdf и используйте кнопку Google Translator, чтобы выбрать из более чем 100 языков.

Rockwood Water provides a variety of public information, public involvement & community outreach opportunities. Public Board meetings are hosted every third Wednesday of the month, members of the community are encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom.

If you have questions about our programs, public meetings, or capital projects, please contact us at 503-665-4179 or visit rwpud.org to learn more.

Rockwood Water is a member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium. The Consortium provides leadership in the planning, management, stewardship, and resiliency of drinking water in the greater Portland, OR metropolitan region. Learn more at regionalH2O.org.

Construction crews work on building Cascade Wellhouse for Cascade Well 9

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DRINKING WATER SOURCES AND PROTECTION

The Bull Run Watershed, Portland's protected surface water supply, is in the Mount Hood National Forest, 26 miles from Portland. The Portland Water Bureau and the US Forest Service carefully manage the watershed to sustain and supply clean drinking water for nearly one million people. In a typical year, the watershed receives an astounding 135 inches of precipitation (rain and snow), which flows into the Bull Run River and then into two reservoirs that store nearly 10 billion gallons of drinking water.
More information about the Bull Run: portland.gov/water/BullRun.

Bull Run photo Courtesy of Portland Water Bureau

Source water assessments are completed to identify contaminants of concern for drinking water. For the Bull Run, the only contaminants of concern are naturally occurring microorganisms, such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium, fecal coliform bacteria, and total coliform bacteria. The Portland Water Bureau regularly tests Bull Run water for these microorganisms that live in virtually all freshwater ecosystems. The Portland Water Bureau treats water to control organisms that could make people sick but does not currently treat for Cryptosporidium. Portland is installing filtration to remove Cryptosporidium and other contaminants from drinking water by September 2027.

Portland's source water assessment is available online at portland.gov/water/SWA or by calling 503-823-7525.

The Columbia South Shore Well Field, Portland's protected groundwater supply, provides drinking water from 25 active wells located in three different aquifers. The well field is between Portland International Airport and Blue Lake Park. Portland uses the well field for two purposes: to supplement the Bull Run supply in the summer, and to temporarily replace the Bull Run supply during turbidity events, maintenance activities, and emergencies.

The Columbia South Shore Well Field is beneath homes and businesses with a variety of potential contaminant sources. The deep aquifers that are the primary sources of water supply have natural geologic protection from pollutants present at the land surface. Portland, Gresham, and Fairview work together to protect the well field. The cities' Groundwater Protection Programs work with residents and businesses in the well field to ensure that pollutants from this urban area do not impact the groundwater source. More information about groundwater: portland.gov/water/groundwater.

The Cascade Well Field is jointly owned and operated by Rockwood Water People's Utility District and the City of Gresham. Rockwood Water began using water from the Cascade wells in 2004, primarily during the summer months, as a supplement to Bull Run water. Groundwater from the Cascade wells is from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer located approximately 600 feet below the surface. Rockwood Water works with the Cities of Gresham and Fairview businesses to protect this important investment. For information about water from the Cascade wells, or the Groundwater Protection Program, please contact Rockwood Water at 503-665-4179.

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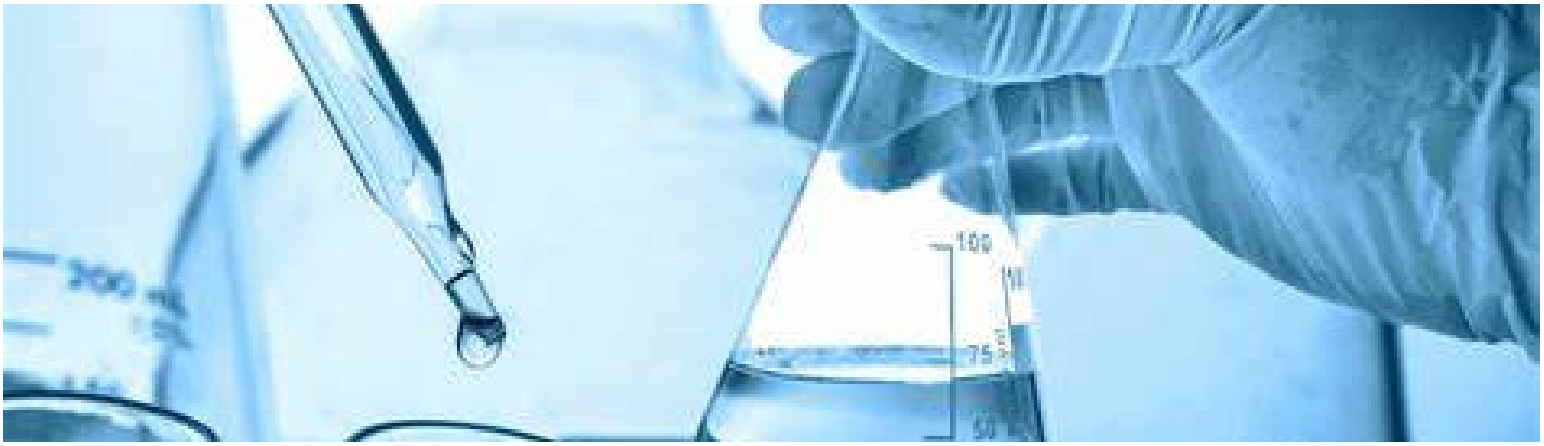
WHAT THE EPA SAYS CAN BE FOUND IN DRINKING WATER

Across the United States, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems and require monitoring for these contaminants. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants in drinking water sources may include: microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as naturally-occurring salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from farming, urban stormwater runoff, or home and business use; organic chemical contaminants, such as byproducts from industrial processes or the result of chlorine combining with naturally-occurring organic matter; and radioactive contaminants, such as naturally-occurring radon.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



Special Notice for Immunocompromised Persons

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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DEFINTIONS

Action Level
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

N/A - Not Applicable
Some contaminants do not have a health-based level or goal defined by the EPA.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units
The unit of measurement of turbidity, or cloudiness, of a water sample.

ppb - Part Per Billion
Water providers use ppb to describe a very small amount of a substance within the water. In time measurement, one part per billion is about 3 seconds out of 100 years.

ppm - Part Per Million
Water providers use ppm to describe a small amount of a substance within the water. In time measurement, one part per million is about 32 seconds out of one year.

piC/L - Picocuries Per Liter
Picocurie is a measurement of radioactivity.

TT - Treatment Technique
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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NOTES ON CONTAMINANTS

Arsenic, Barium, and Fluoride
These metals are elements found in the earth's crust. They can dissolve into water in contact with natural deposits. At the levels found in Rockwood's drinking water, they are unlikely to lead to negative health effects.

Fecal Coliform Bacteria
As part of Rockwood's compliance with the filtration avoidance criteria of the Surface Water Treatment Rule, water is tested for fecal coliform bacteria before disinfectant is added. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in source water indicates that water may be contaminated with animal wastes. This is measured in percent of samples with more than 20 colonies in 100 milliliters of water during any six-month period. Rockwood Water uses chlorine to control these bacteria.

Giardia
Wildlife in the watershed may be hosts to Giardia, a microorganism that can cause gastro-intestinal illness. The treatment technique (TT) is to remove 99.9 percent of Giardia cysts. Rockwood Water uses chlorine to control Giardia.

Haloacetic Acids and Total Trihalomethanes
Disinfection byproducts form when chlorine interacts with naturally-occurring organic material in the water. High levels of disinfection byproducts can cause health problems in people. Rockwood adds ammonia to form a more stable disinfectant, which helps minimize disinfection byproducts.

Nitrate/Nitrogen
Nitrate, measured as nitrogen, can lead to bacterial and algal growth in the water. At levels that exceed the standard, nitrate can contribute to health problems. At the levels found in Rockwood's drinking water, nitrate is unlikely to lead to negative health effects.

Radon
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled. Radon can be detected at very low levels in the Bull Run water supply and at varying levels in Rockwood's groundwater supply. Based on the limited levels of radon in groundwater after aeration, people are unlikely to have negative health effects from radon in water. Find more information about radon from the EPA at epa.gov/radon.

Total Chlorine Residual
Total chlorine residual is a measure of free chlorine and combined chlorine and ammonia in Rockwood's distribution system. Chlorine residual is a low level of chlorine remaining in the water and is meant to maintain disinfection through the entire distribution system.

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NOTES ON CONAMINANTS

Sodium
There is currently no drinking water standard for sodium. At the levels found in drinking water, it is unlikely to lead to negative health effects.

Total Chlorine Residual
Total chlorine residual is a measure of free chlorine and combined chlorine and ammonia in Rockwood's distribution system. Chlorine residual is a low level of chlorine remaining in the water and is meant to maintain disinfection through the entire distribution system.

Total Coliform Bacteria
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment. Coliform bacteria usually do not make people sick. They are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. If more than 5 percent of samples in a month are positive for total coliforms, an investigation must be conducted to identify and correct any possible causes. Rockwood Water uses chlorine to control these bacteria.

Turbidity
Turbidity is the cloudiness of a water sample. In Rockwood's system, increased turbidity usually comes from large storms, which suspend organic material in Bull Run water. Increased turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide an environment for microorganisms to grow. Since the Portland Water Bureau does not yet filter Bull Run water, the treatment technique (TT) is that turbidity cannot exceed 5 NTU more than 2 times in 12 months. When turbidity rises in the Bull Run source, Portland switches to its Columbia South Shore Well Field source.

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CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN 2023

Regulated contaminants detected in Portland's untreated source water				
Regulated Contaminant	**Levels detected in Portland's water**	**EPA Limit: MCL or TT**	**EPA Goal: MCLG**	**Sources of Contaminants**
Turbidity (NTU)	0.23 – 3.69	5	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Fecal coliform bacteria % samples more than 20 CFU/100 milliliters in 6 months	0%	No more than 10% of samples in 6 months can have more than 20 CFU/100 milliliters of water.	N/A	Animal wastes
Fecal coliform bacteria (CFU/100 milliliters) Range of single results	0 – 11	N/A	N/A	Animal wastes
Total coliform bacteria % samples more than 100 MPN/100 milliliters in 6 months	0.5%	No more than 10% of samples in 6 months can have more than 100 MPN/100 milliliters of water.	N/A	Found throughout the environment
Total coliform bacteria (MPN/100 milliliters) Range of single results	79.8 – 387.3	N/A	N/A	Found throughout the environment
Giardia (#/liter)	0 - 0.08	TT	N/A	Animal wastes

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CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN 2023

Data table of regulated metals and nutrients detected in Portland's treated water at the entry points including Cascade Well Field				
Regulated Contaminant	**Levels detected in Portland's water**	**EPA Limit: MCL**	**EPA Goal: MCLG**	**Sources of Contaminants**
Arsenic (ppb)	<0.50 – 0.90	10	0	Found in natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	0.00082 - 0.0188	2	2	Found in natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	<0.025 - 0.13	4	4	Found in natural deposits
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	0.01 – 0.11	10	10	Found in natural aquifer deposits, animal wastes

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CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN 2023

Data table of regulated microbial contaminants detected in Rockwood Water's treated water in the distribution system				
Regulated Contaminant	**Levels detected in Rockwood's water**	**EPA Limit: TT**	**EPA Goal: MCLG**	**Sources of Contaminants**
Total coliform bacteria (% positive per month)	0	TT	N/A	Found throughout the environment

Data table of regulated disinfection residuals and byproducts detected in Rockwood Water's treated water in the distribution system				
Regulated Contaminant	**Levels detected in Rockwood's water**	**EPA Limit: MCL**	**EPA Goal: MCLG**	**Sources of Contaminants**
Total chlorine (ppm) running annual average	1.9	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	Chlorine used to disinfect water
Total chlorine (ppm) range of single results at all sites	1.45-2.16	N/A	N/A	Chlorine used to disinfect water
Haloacetic acids (ppb) running annual average at any one site	24-28	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (ppb) range of single results at all sites	12-23	N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total trihalomethanes (ppb) running annual average at any one site	21-32	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total trihalomethanes (ppb) range of single results at all sites	14.8-34.2	N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

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CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN 2023

Data table of unregulated contaminants detected in Portland's treated water including Cascade Well Field			
Unregulated Contaminant	**Levels detected in Portland's water**	**Average Level Detected in Portland's Water**	**Sources of Contaminants**
Manganese (ppb)	1.9-33.7	15.8	Found in natural deposits
Radon (pCi/L)	<12-333	167	Found in natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	11-16.3	11.5	Found in natural deposits

LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL DATA, SUCH AS PH, HARDNESS, OR PFAS? FIND IT AT: PORTLAND.GOV/WATER/TESTRESULTS.

Staff inspecting Cascade Reservoir 2

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CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Monitoring for Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a potentially disease-causing microorganism that lives in virtually all freshwater ecosystems. Drinking water treatment for Cryptosporidium is required by state and federal regulations. For five years, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) did not require the Portland Water Bureau to treat for Cryptosporidium based on data showing that Cryptosporidium was rarely found in the Bull Run Watershed. Since 2017, test results have shown low-level detections of Cryptosporidium primarily during the rainy season. As a result, OHA determined that treatment is now necessary.

The Portland Water Bureau does not currently treat for Cryptosporidium, but is required to do so under drinking water regulations. Portland is working to install filtration by 2027 under a compliance schedule with OHA. In the meantime, the Portland Water Bureau is implementing interim measures such as watershed protection and additional monitoring to protect public health. Consultation with public health officials continues to conclude that the general public does not need to take any additional precautions.

Exposure to Cryptosporidium can cause cryptosporidiosis, a serious illness. Symptoms can include diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and stomach pain. People with healthy immune systems recover without medical treatment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people with severely weakened immune systems are at risk for more serious disease. Symptoms may be more severe and could lead to serious life-threatening illness. Examples of people with weakened immune systems include those with AIDS, those with inherited diseases that affect the immune system, and cancer and transplant patients who are taking certain immunosuppressive drugs.

The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that a small percentage of the population could experience gastrointestinal illness from Cryptosporidium and advises that customers who are immunocompromised and receive their drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed consult with their health care professional about the safety of drinking the tap water.

2023 Results of Cryptosporidium Monitoring at the Raw Water Intake

Total Tested	Positive samples for Cryptosporidium	Levels detected in Portland's water (oocysts/liter)
217	59	Not detected - 0.2

More information:
portlandoregon.gov/water/crypto

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LEAD & COPPER TESTING

Water Testing

Twice per year, Rockwood Water collects water samples from a group of over 60 homes that have lead solder and are more likely to have higher levels of lead in water. Testing results from 2023 were below the EPA action level.

Regulated Contaminant	Fall 2023 90th Percentile Results	Homes Exceeding Action Level	EPA Limit Action Level:	EPA Goal MCLG	Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	6.4	2 out of 60	15	0	Corrosion of household & commercial building plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	.056	0 out of 60	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household & commercial building plumbing systems

Lead Testing & Reduction

For free lead-in-water testing, contact the LeadLine at leadline.org or 503-988-4000. For other testing, you can pay a private, accredited laboratory to test your tap water. For information about accredited labs, contact the Oregon Health Authority at ORELAP.Info@state.or.us or 503-693-4100.

Reducing Exposure to Lead

If present, lead at elevated levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant people and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

Rockwood Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Lead is rarely found in Rockwood's source waters and there are no known lead service lines in the water system.

The most common sources of lead exposure in our region are lead-based paint, household dust, soil, and plumbing materials. Lead is also found in other household objects such as toys, cosmetics, pottery, and antique furniture.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, such as overnight or while you are away at work or school, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is availble from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at you can request a free lead-in-water test from the LeadLine (leadline.org or 503-988-4000).

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CASCADE
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Oregon Health Authority

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Drinking Water Program
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healthyenvironments/drinkingwater