

Citizen Comments for official record Re: Petition to EPA for Clark County Groundwater Protection

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Sensitive Populations and Public Water

'Individuals with a compromised immune system, or those who react adversely to disinfectants or specific minerals in water should consult their health care provider on their drinking water source. The decision to use bottled water or tap water is often one of choice. Allowable maximum levels for potentially harmful contaminants are enforced for public water supplies. Individual states may or may not enforce allowable maximum levels for bottled water.'

I find these listed warnings and disclaimers regarding public drinking water sources alarming and I ask, why should we in Vancouver have to rely on filtered or pay for bottled water to find palatable drinking water and find the need to use an additive to my bath water to reduce burning effects of chlorine added to our water.

I believe water is a primary life sustaining resource and we must require the highest possible standards on all levels to safeguard our supply, now and for subsequent generations. Every effort to reduce the need for chemical treatment and contaminant reduction should be done at its source. We cannot afford to be cavalier about what each of us may be contributing to the problem which may affect the current source of water we rely on.

Water resources, even in our region of substantial natural yearly rain fall, are fragile and endangered by definable and increasingly prevalent pollution sources. It is now and will remain our legacy to do all that is possible to remedy contaminating sources as well as remain vigilant in protecting our primary supply of clean untainted water.

We each have a personal obligation along with local businesses, developers, officials and government representatives to help obtain and maintain our regional source of water to such a high quality that requires less "disinfectant", agents and additives to the water that now flows from our tap to insure that it is indeed desirable to drink, cook and bathe in without a second thought.

I endorse and support this effort by individuals and groups who have submitted the petition to the EPA. I encourage them to grant the designation of Troutdale and Unconsolidated Alluvium Aquifer System as our Sole Source Aquifer for Vancouver and Clark County. EPA standards should be set at the highest possible levels with compliance by any and all potential contamination sources to protect public human health interests on this vitally important and basic quality of life issue in our region.

Sincerely,
Linda Nielsen