

Water Quality Program

Last Review Date: 11/1/2019

I. OUR WATER SOURCE

Like the rest of Portland, Reed College gets its water from two reservoirs in the protected Bull Run watershed 35 miles east of Portland and from 27 wells located near the south shore of the Columbia River.

II. WHY WE CONDUCT WATER SAMPLING

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Human Services-Drinking Water Program set water quality standards. The primary standards, designed to protect public health, are called maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Secondary standards identify levels of substances that may affect the taste, odor, or color of water, may stain sinks and bathtubs, or may interfere with treatment processes. At Reed, we typically check for two primary contaminants – lead and copper – and one secondary contaminant – iron.

EPA Standard

(in parts per million, ppm or bacterial counts in colony forming units, CFU)

Copper (Cu)	<1.3 ppm
Lead (Pb)	<0.015 ppm
Iron (Fe)	<0.3 ppm
Bacterial count (SPC)	<500 CFUs

III. PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

A. REED COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

The President and other Officers of Reed College have ultimate responsibility for adherence to EPA standards and to provide support for take action measures to reduce contaminants in Reed's drinking water.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS):

- Determine appropriate locations for yearly water testing.
- Designate faucets for testing.
- Arrange for samples to be collected.
- Deliver samples to laboratory for analysis.
- Communicate results to Reed Community.

- Advise in remedial steps for excessive levels above EPA standards.
- Arrange for retesting once remedial steps have been achieved.
- Recordkeeping.

C. FACILITIES SERVICES

- Provide support for sample collection.
- Advise in remedial steps for excessive levels above EPA standards.
- Make necessary repairs to reduce contaminants.

IV. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Portland is fortunate to have two high-quality drinking water sources, the Bull Run Watershed and Columbia South Shore Well Field. The Portland Water Bureau works diligently to protect this essential resource and deliver drinking water to your tap that meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water standards.

The Portland Water Bureau tests for more than 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants in our drinking water. They collect samples across the entire system, from source water at the Bull Run Watershed and Columbia South Shore Well Field, to in-town reservoirs and main water lines, to customer taps. Water quality testing allows them to monitor the effectiveness of disinfection and treatment to meet regulations to protect public health.

The Portland Water Bureau is required to meet both federal and state water quality regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for establishing federal standards through the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is responsible for setting the state standards through the Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act. The Portland Water Bureau is required to comply with these regulations and must routinely report water quality test results to the EPA, OHA, and the public.

Each year EHS staff take water samples of different taps around campus used by the Reed Community. Locations include multi-use, administrative, and educational buildings, as well as faculty and student housing. During testing the first liter of water is collected from the tap and sent to a laboratory in Portland to test for the presence of metals. EHS keeps a log of both sample locations and their results. If results show Reed has unusually sources of contamination above the EPA standards, we determine remedial steps to take and follow-up with an additional round of testing that includes all locations that could potentially be affected (i.e. all sinks within faculty housing). Corrective action reports are filed and kept for documentation.