



Memorandum

To: US EPA Region 10

From: Oregon Health Authority, Center for
Health Protection, Environmental Public Health

Date: January 31, 2023

Subject: Status of OHA LUBGWMA Domestic Well Response

This is a brief status report on key elements of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) response to provide safe drinking water to households that rely on domestic well water in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) of Morrow and Umatilla Counties.

Contracting:

- Two accredited lab contracts (Kuo laboratory and Umpqua Research Company-Table Rock) **(complete)**
- Treatment contract with Pure and Soft Water **(complete)**
- Morrow County and Umatilla County local public health authority (LPHA) intergovernmental funding agreement **(signing imminent, backdated to October 1)**
- CBO (Oregon Rural Action) outreach and education contract currently with OCP **(in progress)**

Testing and Treatment:

- Online Testing Voucher Application in English **(complete)**
- Testing and Treatment Voucher Letters in English and Spanish **(complete)**
- Receive Umatilla County testing data spreadsheet and lab reports **(complete)**
- Receive Morrow County lab reports **(complete)**
- Receive Morrow County testing spreadsheet from Kuo Labs **(in progress)**
- Printable Voucher application (English) to be completed this week **(in progress)**
- Translate testing voucher application materials into Spanish **(in progress)**
- Drafting website content and communications materials (newsletter, flyers, etc.) **(in progress)**
- Compiling a list of water treatment system candidates **(in progress)**

LUBGMWA Work plan:

- Collaborating with LPHA and ORA partners to develop a LUBGMWA Work Plan Draft (in progress)

Testing and Treatment Voucher Distribution

OHA proposes the following distribution of testing and treatment resources available to use through June 2023, reflecting the advanced status of Morrow County testing that has already identified eligible impacted households:

- OHA has funding for 800 well tests and 84 treatment systems.
- 80% of the testing resources to Umatilla County (20% to Morrow County)
 - 640 tests to Umatilla County and 160 tests to Morrow County and
- 80% of the treatment resources to Morrow County (20% to Umatilla County)

- 67 treatment systems to Morrow County and 17 treatment systems to Umatilla County

Testing Voucher Application Process

Application and program details will become available at the OHA Domestic Well Safety website (launch date TBA, early February).

1. Well users will submit an electronic well testing voucher enrollment application on OHA Domestic Well Safety website or submit a printable application and mail/email/fax to OHA which will include well information and optional REALD questions.
2. OHA will process applications and issue vouchers to well users living in the LUBGWMA. Well users can exchange the voucher for testing services at an OHA-contracted lab (Kuo Laboratory or Umpqua Research Company-table Rock).
3. Contracted labs will return results to both well users and OHA. OHA will share lab reports with high nitrate (10 to 25 mg/L) with the Treatment Contractor.
4. OHA will provide guidance on protective action to property owners if results indicate nitrates are present in levels greater than the EPA Maximum Contaminant Level. OHA will also notify households with nitrates testing at safe levels (below 10 mg/L), with information on routine testing recommendations.
5. OHA will issue a well treatment voucher to households with nitrate between 10 and 25 mg/L, beginning with LUBGMWA households already tested by the county.
6. OHA will direct households with nitrate above 25 mg/L to DHS/county for water provisions (bottled water).

OHA will collaborate with the LPHAs and CBO to coordinate well sample/testing events, and community outreach and education assistance with the well testing process.

Morrow County Data Detail

OHA will confirm data with official lab reports once received
Latest County update on December 15, 2022

- 119 Households testing 26mg/L or more
 - 26 have a RO installed and tested below 10mg/L
- 91 households with Nitrate levels between 10 and 25mg/L
 - 22 of those have a RO system getting levels below 10
- 69 households with nitrate levels between 10 and 25 mg/L

November County update

- Approximately 508 wells tested
- 254 households with nitrate below 7 mg/L
- 51 households with nitrate between 7 and 10 mg/L
- 76 households with nitrate between 10 and 20 mg/L
- 127 households with nitrate above 20 mg/L

Umatilla County Data Detail

Umatilla County shared their testing data spreadsheet and official lab reports for 119 wells tested in late summer and fall 2022:

- 92 households with below 10 mg/L nitrate (10 of the households are between 7 and 10 mg/L)
- 15 households with between 10 and 25 mg/L nitrate
- 12 households with nitrate above 25 mg/L