

Update on Bullseye Glass Public Health Assessment

The purpose of this brief is to provide a progress update for community members who have been following the Bullseye Glass Public Health Assessment (PHA) process. For those who have not been following the process, additional background and a description of PHAs is at the end of this document.

Data Not Adequate to Evaluate Past Long-term Health Risks

Community members have communicated to Oregon Health Authority's Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) that it is very important for them to know whether their health is at risk from breathing air near Bullseye Glass in the past. To be responsive to this concern, EHAP initially included "past health risks associated with breathing the air around Bullseye Glass" in the scope of the PHA. In 2016, EHAP consulted with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to review and certify the PHA.

In late 2017, information came to light regarding problems with the quality of October 2015 chromium data collected in the vicinity of Bullseye. This caused ATSDR to suspend its review of the draft PHA and carry out a review of the unprocessed data in consultation with several experts. During this review, ATSDR also reconsidered the appropriateness of using the October 2015 data to estimate risks from long-term past exposures. ATSDR sent EHAP a memo on December 19, 2019, with recommendations for how EHAP can use the data.

ATSDR concluded, in agreement with DEQ, that the chromium data from 2015 is not valid and should not be used. The rest of the data is of high enough quality for use in a PHA. However, given the small sample size and short duration of the 2015 data collection, ATSDR has cautioned that EHAP should not use the data to evaluate health risks from long-term exposures that occurred before February 2016.

The final PHA will summarize health risks from short-term exposures to air as measured in October 2015 and current risks based on environmental sampling data collected since emissions were reduced in February 2016. It will also summarize risks from soil and garden produce. Finally, ATSDR approves the use of October 2015 monitoring data (excluding chromium) to calculate what long-term health risks might have existed in the future had Bullseye not reduced its emissions.

We are reconvening the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to consult on our plan to finalize the PHA.

Bullseye Glass History

In late January 2016, the Oregon Health Authority's Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) discovered elevated levels of cadmium and arsenic in the air around Bullseye Glass, a colored art glass manufacturing facility in Southeast Portland. Many community members had questions about

whether their health was at risk from breathing the air near Bullseye Glass. Under the guidance of DEQ, Bullseye Glass immediately reduced its emissions of heavy metals in February 2016. DEQ conducted follow-up sampling and confirmed that heavy metal emissions were reduced to allowable levels that are considered typical in urban settings.

Background Information on EHAP and this PHA

EHAP is a program within the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority that evaluates health risks posed to communities by the presence of chemical contaminants in their environments. EHAP is funded by ATSDR, and EHAP follows ATSDR guidance and methods to do its work. One way that EHAP communicates the findings of its evaluations is

through reports called [Public Health Assessments \(PHAs\)](#). In some cases, ATSDR reviews and certifies the PHAs that EHAP produces. In the case of Bullseye Glass, EHAP also engaged with a community advisory committee to guide the questions the PHA would answer. PHAs also rely on environmental sampling data collected by partner agencies like DEQ.

Oregon has Acted to Prevent Future Occurrences of Similar Problems

The discovery of elevated levels of cadmium and arsenic in the air around Bullseye Glass in January 2016 triggered concerns in the community and state agencies. In addition to implementing new colored glass manufacturing rules for Bullseye Glass, this incident sparked state-wide conversations on industrial air emissions throughout Oregon.

In response, Governor Brown initiated the [Cleaner Air Oregon](#) program to improve the

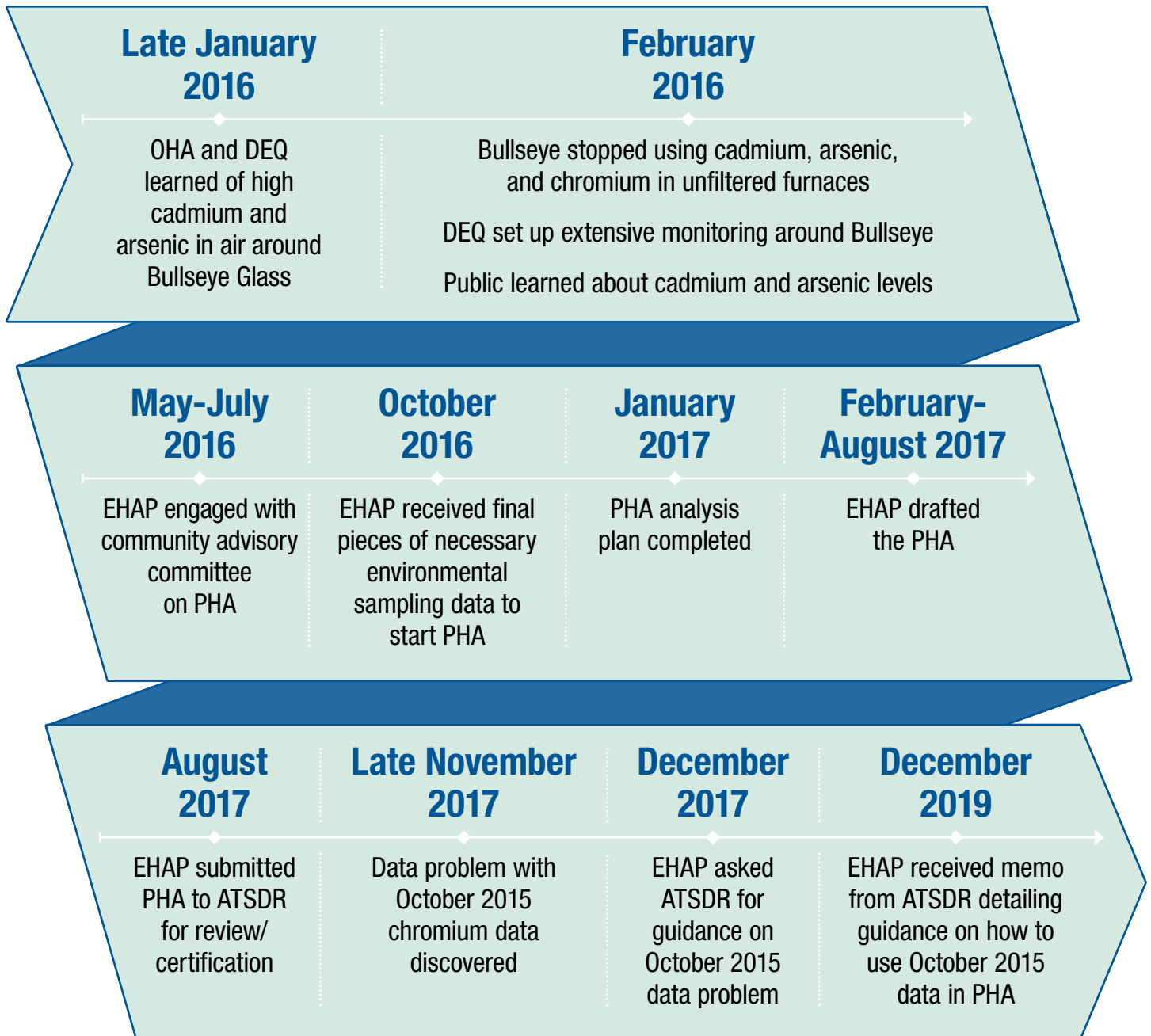
health of all Oregonians by overhauling the state's air toxics regulatory standards for industrial facilities statewide. By enforcing more stringent regulations on industry air emissions, DEQ aims to prevent instances like Bullseye Glass from ever happening again in Oregon. As of September 2019, DEQ has "called in" the first nine facilities to begin the process of examining current emissions. Facilities will be required to mitigate health risks to neighbors if risk is above regulatory standards.

Helpful Resources for More Information:

To learn more about Cleaner Air Oregon: www.cleanerair.oregon.gov

For more information about the PHA, please contact OHA's EHAP at ehap.info@dhsoha.state.or.us or call toll-free: 1-877-290-6767.

Timeline



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
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