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# Oregon Drinking Water Program Update

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October 2018



(Enter) DEPARTMENT (ALL CAPS)  
(Enter) Division or Office (Mixed Case)

# Outline

- Federal Landscape
- Salem Cyanotoxin Incident
- Program update
  - Rulemakings
  - 2019 LC/POP
  - Other priorities

# Federal Landscape

- Continuing Resolution funds EPA until Dec. 7
- EPA performance goal to reduce # of CWSs not meeting health-based standards by 25% by 2022
- New rules:
  - Proposed Perchlorate MCL by Oct 31, 2018; final by Dec 19, 2019
  - Proposed revisions to Lead and Copper Rule, early 2019



# Federal Landscape

## Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Grant Opportunities:

- Lead Testing in School And Child Care Program Drinking Water (\$20M in FY19) -§2107
  - Non-competitive; no match; testing only not mitigation
- Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (\$20M in FY19) -§2104
  - Non-competitive; 45% match; Tech assistance, training
- Reducing Lead in Drinking Water (\$10M in FY19) -§2105
  - Competitive; 20% match; PWS eligible; focus on disadvantaged communities, children

# Federal Landscape

## America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S 3021).

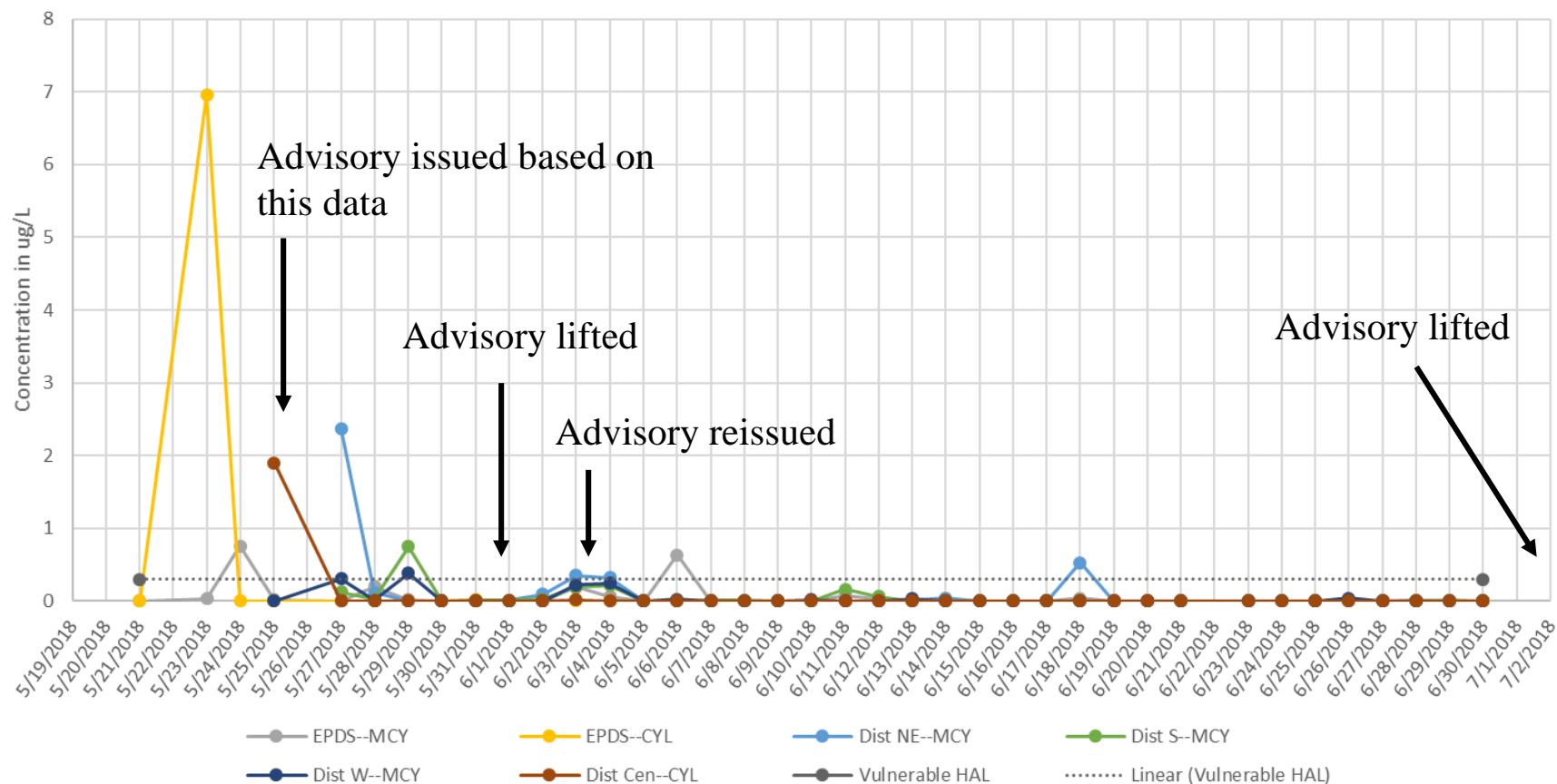
- **Funding.** Reauthorizes funding at higher levels for PWSS and DWSRF grants. Requires appropriation in budget process.
- **Small systems.**
  - Consolidation incentives. State required assessment. Loan eligibility for consolidation. Requires rules in 2yrs.
  - Contractual agreements for management or administrative functions to receive no-enforcement incentives. Requires rules.
  - EPA study of “Intractable Systems”
- **Reporting.** Electronic distribution of CCRs, twice a year for larger CWSs. Includes CCTx and lead exceedance corrective actions.
- **Resiliency.** Changes vulnerability assessment requirements for systems serving >3,300 to focus on malevolent acts, natural hazards, and resilience. Requires public water systems to certify to EPA that they have prepared a vulnerability assessment by 2020/2021.

# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident



# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident

Salem Cyanotoxin Data--Finished Water Results May-June 2018



# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident

## Quick Facts:

- 33 days of Do Not Drink Advisory for vulnerable population.
- 5 days with exceedances of HALs, no 10 day exceedance.
- Local emergency response with State support.
  - Marion County EOC
  - State EOC
  - PHD AOC
  - Joint Information Center
- Assistance from other water systems received through ORWARN.
- City, County and National Guard operated bulk water distribution sites, some operated 24/7.
- City Engineering consultants installed PAC pre-treatment within weeks.
- New OHA cyanotoxin rules adopted within 3 weeks.



# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident

Some primary impacts of the Advisory:

- Hospitals, health care, dialysis facilities advised not to use water for patient care, delay elective surgery.
  - Hospitals chose to treat all patients as “vulnerable” population.
- Dental offices advised not to use tap water in patient care.
- Schools, day care advised to provide alternate water.
- Restaurants advised to post notices to inform customers.
  - Starbucks stopped selling coffee drinks.
- Food and beverage manufacturers advised not to use tap water if water is a principal ingredient.
  - Some food processors initially shut down.
  - Breweries suspended production.

# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident



Dear Customers,

While the City of Salem drinking water advisory is in place, no beverages that use water or ice will be prepared or sold.

During the advisory the following can be sold: RTD beverages, and RT food.

We are closed today. due to the water contamination  
Thank You.  
Sorry



# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident

Some beneficial outcomes from the crisis:

- Interim treatment at Salem, long term options under review.
- Improved public awareness of the value of drinking water, water treatment, and need for emergency preparedness.
- New Cyanotoxin Rules help to restore public confidence and increase certainty for systems.



# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident

## Lessons Learned:

- Public notification early
- Information sharing more quickly and broadly
- Discipline with Incident Command Structure
- Importance of emergency preparedness
  - Need to dedicate resources
  - Keep SOPs and guidance updated
  - Network and maintain strong local partnerships

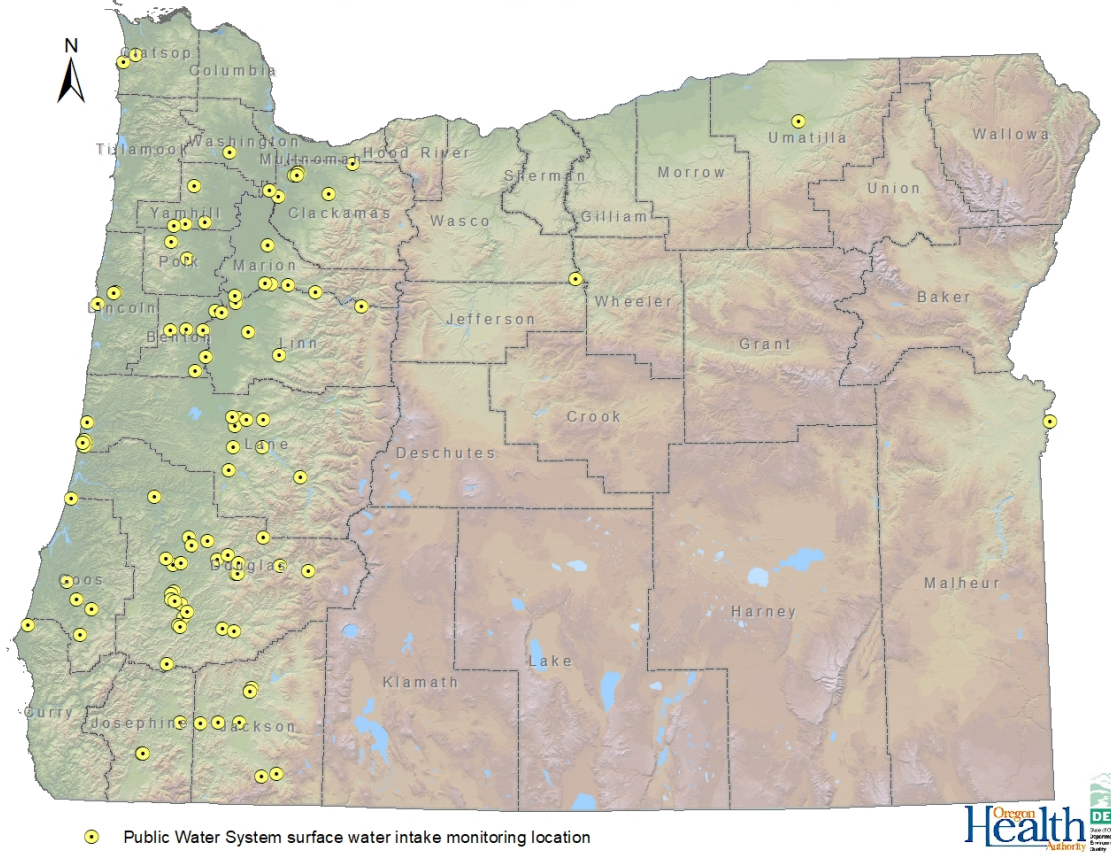
# Salem Cyanotoxin Incident--After Action

- Legislature's Emergency Board action:
  - New permanent NRS 4 Emerging Contaminants Coordinator
    - Cyanotoxins, Legionella, Manganese, PFOA/PFAS, etc
    - Engage in UCMR process
  - New limited duration NRS 3 Emergency Preparedness
  - Deferred request to pre-fund 5 FTEs proposed for 2019
- State Drinking Water Response protocol:
  - Working with OHA/PHD Health, Security, Preparedness and Response section staff



# Cyanotoxin Monitoring Results

Public Water Systems monitoring for cyanotoxins under temporary rules



Raw water detections only:

- Salem, Gates, Stayton, Jefferson; and
- South Coast Water District (Siltcoos Lake)



# Program Update

- Rulemakings:
  - Cyanotoxin monitoring (permanent)
    - Susceptible vs Potentially Susceptible systems
    - qPCR screening year round
    - Integration with DEQ ambient monitoring
  - Lead in Schools testing guidelines
  - Operator Certification reforms
    - Restore Operator in Training provision
    - Remove requirement for “Original” documents
    - Prorate application fees.

# Program Update

- 2019 Legislative Concept/Policy Option Package
  - Revise fee authority, increase fee revenue
  - 5 new FTEs and increase in County support
  - Under consideration by Gov's Office





# Program Update

## Other Priorities:

- Compliance and Enforcement
  - Working through a backlog, prioritizing based on public health impacts
- Data Management
  - Eliminating backlog
  - CMDP implementation
  - Preparing for transition to SDWIS Prime

Working together to keep drinking  
water safe for all Oregonians.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Drinking Water Services

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority