# Appendix B

WA State Department of Health letters dated January 31, 2000 and November 10, 2004 regarding City of Olympia, ID #634506, Thurston County,
Public Health Priority for Water Rights Processing



#### STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### SOUTHWEST DRINKING WATER OPERATIONS

2411 Pacific Ave. • P.O. Box 47823 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7823 (360) 664-0768 • FAX (360) 664-8058 TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

January 31, 2000

Mike Harris
Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

Subject: City of Olympia, ID #634506, Thurston County, Public Health Priority for Water Rights Processing

Dear Mike,

I would like to bring to your attention a drinking water situation which the Department of Health (Department) believes poses an imminent threat to public health and meets the "Emergency Rule" qualifying criteria defined by WAC 173-152-040(1)(a). Please consider this letter as the Department's certification that the situation described meets the qualifying criteria.

As you are well aware, the City of Olympia (City) has applied for groundwater rights at the new McAllister Wellfield. The use of this wellfield is designed to reduce reliance on McAllister Springs, an unfiltered surface water source that inherently poses a significant public health risk from microbial contamination. In addition, the location of the Burlington Northern rail line immediately upstream of McAllister Springs represents the risk of potentially devastating chemical contamination in the event of a major spill. In order to reduce this risk, the McAllister Wellfield has been located upgradient of the rail line.

The Department strongly supports the City's efforts to reduce reliance on the vulnerable McAllister Springs and obtain supply from a protected groundwater source. The Department is very interested in finding a solution that can resolve the existing public health risk at McAllister Springs. If it will aid in the process, Regional Engineer Rich Hoey will be available to attend any meetings you might wish to have with the City regarding this issue.

We very much appreciate your immediate attention to this situation so that the public health threat can be resolved as soon as possible. I would also appreciate receiving either a written or verbal response indicating if this situation qualifies for expediting decision making. Please do not hesitate to contact Rich Hoey (360) 586-2510 or me (360) 753-5953 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

BILL LIECHTY, P.E.

WSDOH Section Head

cc: Rich Hoey, P.E., WSDOH Regional Engineer
Emmett Dobey, City of Olympia Public Works
Doug Micheau, City of Olympia Public Works
Phil Brinker, Thurston County Environmental Health



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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### **SOUTHWEST DRINKING WATER OPERATIONS**

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November 10, 2004

Tom Loranger
Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Post Office Box 47775
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Tom,

Subject:

City of Olympia Water System, ID #634506, Thurston County; Public

Health Concern Regarding Application for Groundwater Rights

I am writing this letter to reaffirm the public health significance of a drinking water situation that involves the City of Olympia (City). Over the last 10 years, the City has explored options to develop a new source of supply that would reduce demands on McAllister Springs.

Enclosed is a copy of the January 31, 2000, letter from the Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water (ODW) defining the public health and drinking water concerns related to the use of McAllister Springs. The City has applied for groundwater rights for the McAllister Wellfield. ODW believes the City's water right application should be evaluated per the process defined by WAC 173-152. ODW continues to support a change in source in order to meet drinking water standards and avoid unreasonable treatment costs.

The City experienced two episodes of chlorinator failure this summer. This allowed unchlorinated water—that failed to meet state drinking water standards—to enter the City's distribution network. These incidents clearly point out the risks and public health concerns that are associated with the use of McAllister Springs. Public health protection would be well served if the City was able to reduce the use of surface water and make greater use of a protected ground water source of supply.

We appreciate your attention to this situation. We are available to meet with the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the City to discuss the current status of the water

Tom Loranger November 10, 2004 Page 2

right application and to help plan a course of action that will expedite Ecology's decision-making process. Please contact Jerrod Davis (586-2510) or me (586-8733) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DENISE LAHMANN, P.E.

Office of Drinking Water Regional Manager

Enclosure

cc: Emmet Dobey, City of Olympia Public Works

Michael Mucha, City of Olympia Public Works

Gary Duvall, Thurston County Environmental Health

Jerrod Davis, ODW Bill Liechty, ODW