CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
BUREAU OF WATER WORKS

Erik Sten, Commissioner
Michael F. Rosenberger, Administrator
1120 S.W. 5th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204-1974
Information (503) 823-7404
Fax (503) 823-6133
TDD (503) 823-6868

February 26, 1998

Mr. David Gardiner
Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Room 1013 West Tower, Mail Code 2111
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Gardiner:

Thank you for agreeing to meet with me at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 1998. The materials we have included in this notebook are intended to bring EPA staff up-to-date on the current activities and progress the Portland Water Bureau is making on implementing its multi-media approach to complying with the Lead and Copper Rule. I believe you will find that the program has developed considerably since we briefed EPA staff in September, 1997 and has become much more concrete than was described in our XL for Communities (XLC) proposal nearly a year ago. Many of the issues raised in your November 26, 1997 letters have been anticipated and addressed in our program development efforts. Based on the discussion we will have at our meeting I expect to be able to make a decision on whether to accept your offer to negotiate a final project agreement.

Highlights of the status of the current program include:

- Corrosion treatment that is in place, performing consistently, meeting operating parameters, and achieving greater than anticipated reductions in corrosion byproducts.

- A Home Lead Hazard Reduction Program that has clear objectives, is community based, has established operating protocols, appropriately trained personnel at all levels, has identified candidate homes in which work is about to begin, and has a five year funding commitment.

- An evaluation program that has been designed in tandem with the development of both the Home Lead Hazard Reduction Program and the Community Education and Involvement Strategy that will produce measurable results for key performance indicators, and is intended to support creation of a model for the design and implementation of similar programs elsewhere.

- A community involvement and community education program that is active and ongoing has the Water Bureau playing an effective leadership role in bringing community groups together, and is creating opportunities for synergy, coordination, and cooperation among community groups interested in reducing lead exposure in at risk neighborhoods.

- A consciously linked network of programs utilizing grants from CLEARCorps and HUD as well as local resources and community investments to create an integrated, flexible, and multi-faceted approach to managing lead exposure in high risk neighborhoods; and

- A clearly defined process and time line for fleshing out the remaining element of the program, the Free Home Lead In Drinking Testing Program.

The people who have created these programs and initiatives come from the City of Portland, the Multnomah County Health Department, the Oregon Health Division, and many community based organizations. Their efforts and their commitments to this program have resulted in the creation of both the overall approach and strategy the Water Bureau has used in developing the program and to each of the programs elements. We owe much of our success in taking this creative, multi-media, and risk based approach to the efforts of these individuals and groups.

I know that staff from various parts of EPA will be reviewing this material in preparation for our meeting, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that may arise during their review.

I look forward to our discussion next month.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Menard

Rosemary Menard
Water Resources Director

cc: Cynthia Dougherty
Milton Robinson
Robert Elias
Kristina Heinemann
Chuck Findley
Phil Millam
Barbara McAllister
William Glasser