
Protecting Public Health from Nitrate Exposure in the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area

Presentation to the Interim House Committee on
Agriculture, Land Use and Water

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Drinking water roles and responsibilities

OHA

- Regulatory for public water systems
- Non-regulatory for domestic wells

EPA

- Regulatory for public water systems
- Broad emergency powers for public water systems & domestic wells



Domestic well owners

- Serve no more than 3 households or 10 people
- Responsible for well/water testing, treatment, maintenance & repair

Lower Umatilla Basin Nitrates

- Safe Drinking Water Act petition due to elevated nitrates in drinking water
- Est. 12,000 household members served by domestic well water.
- Array of potential health effects
- Diverse, lower income population
- Public water systems treat for nitrates
- EPA considering issuing an order depending on state response
- OHA response is workplan to test and treat w/local partners, Emergency Board request

