



Fall Color Showing Up in Drinking Water (and Bathtubs!)

Portland Water Bureau customers may be noticing a slight color change in the drinking water this time of year. The change in color is typical for the Bull Run drinking water system in the fall.

The pale tint results from the first flush of organic material from vegetation that has been washed from the forest floor and stream channels into the reservoirs in the Bull Run watershed. Each summer the reservoir levels diminish as the metropolitan area uses drinking water from this stored supply in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

This fall, light rains have begun – and customers are seeing a slight color in their water.

People Behind the Water

Dane Andersen, Intern, Engineering Services

I'm an intern in the Engineering Construction department. I've been here since April of this year and will be heading back to Oregon State University at the end of this week.

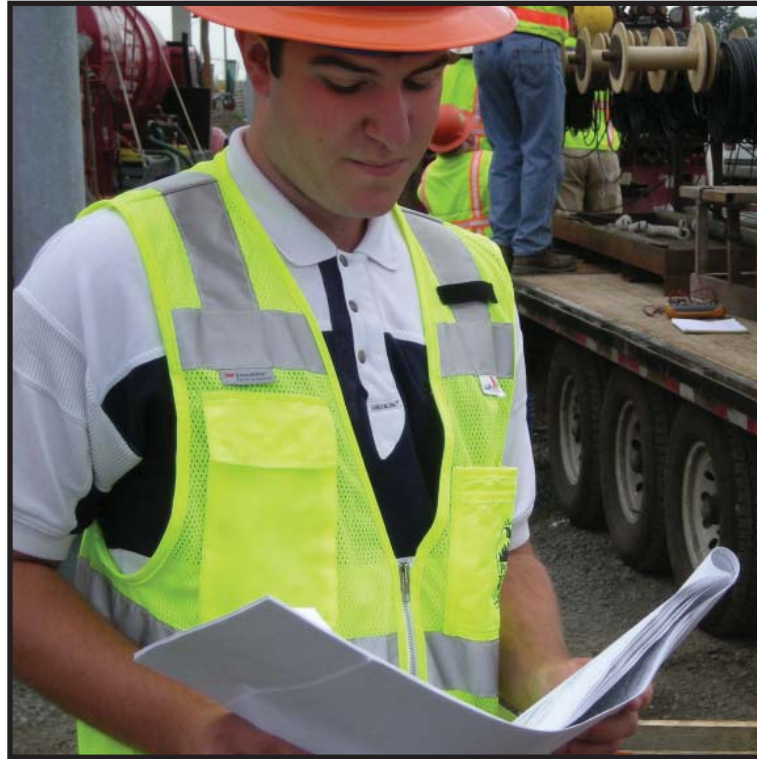
Throughout the last few months I've been involved in a number of different projects. The project I

worked the most on was a roof replacement project in the Watershed. That project was a good learning experience and a nice retreat from busy downtown Portland. The project technically won't finish until after I leave, but it's basically final inspection and project closing work that is left.

The other project that I worked on was the I-205 light rail transit (LRT) project. I've been out there a couple of times when there was waterline work.

I got the opportunity to work with PDOT for a couple of weeks on their survey crew. I was on quite a few project locations, but the main one was the Johnson Creek diversion project. The creek was actually made to zigzag more to prevent reoccurring winter floods. I've also been out to the groundwater facilities along the Colombia River, and checked groundwater levels using a water sensor attached to a measuring tape.

Finally, I've had a good amount of office work experience. I haven't exactly gone



through piles of paperwork, but I've had a good portion of reading material. Such reading material includes: emails, contract documents, plans, submittals, manuals and many other documents. Some of the knowledge gained from all the reading I've been doing over the last few months will surely come in handy when I

go back to school. I've enjoyed working with the Water Bureau over the last few months.

I am at the Water Bureau as part of the Civil Engineering Co-Operative Program (ME-COP/CECOP) internship program is a program that allows PSU, OSU and Oregon Institute of Technology engineering students the opportunity to have two six month internships before they graduate. First the students have to apply and be accepted into the program. They there is a class during fall term that interns give presentations to future CECOP interns about their experiences. Finally, during winter term, there is an interview process where each intern is interviewed by a group of employers. This was my first internship. The 2nd internship is during the summer and fall, whereas this one is spring and summer. I'll have to go through the same process again this school year.

-Dane Andersen