
From: Lynch, James <JLynch@detroitnews.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:56 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Re: Does this accurately reflect what you wanted to say?

Are you not seeing the part that says

Water tested at intake or upon release from the treatment plant can be exposed to lead once it reaches those old connections on private property.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2015, at 5:51 PM, Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov> wrote:

Not particularly.

The piece I need to stress is that this isn't a system issue or a water source issue. It's a home plumbing issue. It's why there's so much debate about whose numbers are right or what the real levels are. My house and your house could have totally different plumbing but be right next to each other. Folks expect we know everything. We don't know everything. We know there's no lead in the source water, we know there's none in the water leaving the plant, and we know the system is built of cast iron pipes, so when people ask if the water's safe, the best we can get toward an answer is "it's meeting standards in the system, but some homes have lead plumbing or service lines, so . . ." And that's not been a great message.

From: Lynch, James [mailto:JLynch@detroitnews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:47 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Re: Does this accurately reflect what you wanted to say?

Can't change that drastically at this point. Was last version accurate?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2015, at 5:41 PM, Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov> wrote:

State officials admit that monitoring lead in water supplies can be challenging, because the source of the lead is not the water supply, the treatment plant or the distribution system, but the home plumbing and service lines in older homes. Testing requires homeowners to participate in the testing by filling supplied bottles with water samples from specific

taps at specific times of day, individual homes often have very different results for lead tests.

From: Lynch, James [<mailto:JLynch@detroitnews.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:38 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Does this accurately reflect what you wanted to say?

Correct?

State officials admit that consistent lead testing when dealing with water being pumped through old lead plumbing and service connection lines is difficult. Water tested at intake or upon release from the treatment plant can be exposed to lead once it reaches those old connections on private property.

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) [<mailto:WurfelB@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:32 PM
To: Lynch, James
Subject: Re: Does this accurately reflect what you wanted to say?

You're awesome.
 'Attempts to' not 'tends to'.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2015, at 5:31 PM, Lynch, James <JLynch@detroitnews.com> wrote:

This is why I ask.

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) [<mailto:WurfelB@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:27 PM
To: Lynch, James
Subject: Re: Does this accurately reflect what you wanted to say?

No! The system is cast iron pipes. The service lines to the homes is the part that is sometimes lead, in pre-1970s construction. This is strictly about home plumbing and lead service connections to the city system. Which is private property.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2015, at 5:10 PM, Lynch, James <JLynch@detroitnews.com> wrote:

State officials admit that consistent lead testing when dealing with water being pumped through old lead lines is difficult. Water tested at intake or upon release from the treatment plant can have miles and miles of travel in old underground pipes to pick up lead.
 "The testing protocol that we have tends to offer a system-wide assessment of how water interacts with that line and home plumbing," said Brad Wurfel, DEQ's

spokesman. "There's a lot we unfortunately don't know about those (home lead) levels."