
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV)
Cc: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: RE: PIO report

Flint: They're technically still in violation of the total trihalomethane rule this quarter. All tested water in February was well below the standard, but the standard is calculated based on an average that includes the previous three quarters, and the fall 2014 results were mighty high. That'll be in the rearview with the next round of testing late spring.

In terms of next steps, not sure if you mean next steps for the city or Team RS. The city has spent tens of thousands hiring water specialists to advise them formally of what they already know and already were told by the DEQ. If you do no maintenance on your drinking water system for 40 years, it eventually begins to fail in ways big and small. However, they've gotten some positive press for hiring shiny, fancy out of state people who purport to specialize in river-based water supply challenges, so there's that.

We've encouraged them to develop a triage list of maintenance areas -- which pieces of this 500-mile system are in greatest need right now, this year and next year? Once they've got that, the next step will be figuring out how to pay for it without causing another rate increase. Honestly, the big squall in Flint (and I heard Jerry Ambrose say it early this week) comes down to the fact that folks are paying approximately double what they should for water. There's no way to adjust that in the near term, but if team RS wants to truly help, treasury could look for some funding to assist with emergency maintenance projects this spring

Team RS continues looking at some immediate term gestures, including dropping off bottled water or filters to homes that say they've got discolored or stinky water. If someone asked me what I think is the best possible 'thing' we could do to be seen helping Flint, it's this: Treasury gave them \$2 million a couple months ago. \$900,000 of that was to do system-wide assessment. That project is underway. When they get results, it'll include the list of hotspots in their system that are most in need of immediate address.

They need to do some maintenance work, like scrubbing the mung out of their pipes in some areas THAT will reduce the discolored / odorific water. If there's a way to have the state support that work, it'd be huge help.

Not Responsive

From: Wurfel, Sara (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 5:19 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: RE: PIO report

Very helpful summary. Thanks much.

Few quick Qs:

Where do we stand on Flint water and next steps?

Not Responsive

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 12:06 PM

To: Murray, David (GOV); Agen, Jarrod (GOV); Wurfel, Sara (GOV)

Cc: Holton, Jennifer (MDA); Golder, Edward (DNR); Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ); Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)

Subject: PIO report

Sorry I missed the meeting. Had a couple conflicts. Here's what I want to share with you:

1.

2.

Not Responsive

3. **Flint Water:** had a meeting yesterday with a company Baird put in the room to discuss their ozone technology. It was a good conversation but a non-starter for several reasons (Flint already has an Ozone system to modify its water, this company hasn't had its system certified for use on public drinking water supplies, and the problem they propose to address is not at the water plant but throughout various sections of the distribution system). More broadly, Harvey is looking for a 'thing' the state can be doing for Flint that will position SOM / RS positively. Suggestions range from handing out home water filters (think Britta faucet mount) to passing out jugs of water. After consulting with our experts in the Drinking water program, what we've really come to at DEQ is that if there's funding from treasury (or some charitable donor foundation), the best short-term use of dollars would probably be to hire a company to 'pig' the lines in the distribution system. This is a routine maintenance activity in municipal systems that involves an in-line device under pressure that clears funk out of the lines. **The good news on Flint:** Flint EM Jerry Ambrose noted yesterday that the city has some work to do on its system in the weeks ahead; the TTHM issue is quickly going away; the 'brown water' folks are loud but really few in number; the consultants are doing their work to make suggestions to help the city prioritize its needs; and, broadly, nobody seems to be targeting the administration recently.

4.

Not Responsive

5.

Not Responsive

6.

WYANT THIS WEEK:

Not Responsive

Brad Wurfel
Communications Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-284-6713
517-230-8006 cell