
From: Holton, Jennifer (MDARD)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Andorfer, Bob (MDARD)
Subject: Fwd: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

Hey -

If you want some type of podcast style interview with Dan. Let me know.

J

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Date: October 19, 2015 at 10:35:19 AM EDT
To: <holtonj@michigan.gov>
Subject: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.



MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2112

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Dan **WYANT** today admitted staffers in his department mishandled the city of Flint's water situation, pointing to departmental issues with experience and protocol in corrosion control efforts.

Wyant said in a statement that staff used a federal protocol they believed was appropriate. Those testing steps "would have been correct for a city less than 50,000 people, but not for a city of nearly 100,000," he said.

In response to that finding, DEQ Chief Deputy Jim **SYGO** was named the interim chief of the department's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance.

Wyant said he was convinced the staff involved in the program believed they were doing their job right, and that the state took appropriate steps once it became clear there could be a health threat to Flint residents.

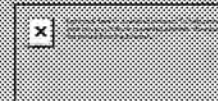
"We are now embarked on an unprecedented effort to safeguard Flint residents and families with near-term, intermediate and long-term actions to protect and educate city residents," he said. "We will learn from this. We will make necessary changes to see to it that our program becomes a national leader in public health protection."

In addition to the staffing change, Gov. Rick **SNYDER** has reportedly called for an independent, third party after-action review. The department is also working with the federal government and is "committed to being part of the U.S. EPA's effort to strengthen its Lead and Copper Rule," Wyant said.

"All who brought this issue to the department deserve credit for bringing it forward," he added. "Lead is a serious issue, particularly for young people, and we take it seriously."

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