RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

September 16, 2015

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Daniel Kildee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your September 9, 2015, letter regarding your concerns for the drinking water in the city of Flint (Flint). The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is working closely with Flint's water department as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to ensure Flint residents have ample water that meets state and federal drinking water standards.

The MDEQ's role is to administer its nearly 40-year-old state drinking water protection program based on federal guidelines. The MDEQ works with approximately 11,500 public water systems in the state to monitor for more than 90 primary drinking water contaminants and ensure that every supply consistently provides safe drinking water.

In Flint, the city made a decision 18 months ago to switch drinking water sources. This change required them to take specific measures under the federal Lead and Copper Rule, which was enacted in 1991 to monitor water as it interacts with lead service connections and home plumbing. Flint's test results were conducted according to the same testing protocols every Michigan community uses and the same protocols Flint has used to test its water every three years for the past 25 years.

While the results from Flint's testing show compliance with the federal action level for lead and copper, on August 17, 2015, the MDEQ instructed the city to move forward expeditiously with developing additional corrosion control treatment to minimize the corrosive effects between drinking water and lead service connections and home plumbing in the Flint service area.

We appreciate and share your concern for the situation, and the MDEQ looks forward to providing you a detailed briefing next week. If you have any additional questions in the meantime, please contact Ms. Maggie Pallone, Deputy Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs, at 517-284-6704 or pallonem@michigan.gov; or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan Wyant

Dan Wyant
Director
517-284-6700

cc: Senator Jim Ananich
Representative Sheldon Neeley
Representative Phil Phelps
Mayor Dayne Walling, City of Flint
Mr. Howard Croft, City of Flint
Dr. Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator, USEPA, Region 5
Mr. Thomas Poy, USEPA, Region 5
Ms. Denise Fortin, USEPA, Region 5
Mr. Michael Schock, USEPA
Mr. Darren Lytle, USEPA
Mr. Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech
Mr. Harvey Hollins, Governor's Southeast Michigan Office
Mr. Bill McBride, Governor's Washington Office
Mr. Eric Brown, Governor's Washington Office
Mr. Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Madhu R. Anderson, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Maggie Pallone, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Sarah M. Howes, Legislative Liaison, MDEQ
Mr. Brad Wurfel, Communications Director, MDEQ
Ms. Liane Shekter Smith, MDEQ
Mr. Stephen Busch, MDEQ
Mr. Pat Cook, MDEQ

Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ)

From: DEQ-Legislative-Contact
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:06 PM
To: Jordan.Dickinson@mail.house.gov
Cc: Ananich, Senator Jim ; Neeley, Rep Sheldon; Phelps, Rep Phil; dwalling@cityofflint.com; hcroft@cityofflint.com; hedman.susan@epa.gov; poy.thomas@epa.gov; Schock.michael@epa.gov; Lytle.darren@epa.gov; fortin.denise@epa.gov; Edwardsm@vt.edu; Hollins, Harvey (GOV); Mcbride, Bill (GOV); Brown, Eric (GOV); Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Shaler, Karen (DEQ); Anderson, Madhu (DEQ); Copen, Leigh (DEQ); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Howes, Sarah (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ)
Subject: MDEQ Response to Congressman Kildee Letter re: Flint Drinking Water
Attachments: Congressman Kildee Response re Flint Water.pdf

Attached please find the MDEQ's response to your September 9, 2015 letter regarding Flint drinking water.

Thank you,
Heather Feuerstein
Management Assistant to
Maggie Pallone, Deputy Director and
Brad Wurfel, Communications Director
Department of Environmental Quality
517.284.6715

Letter Buckslip

10-Sep-15

ID:	LEG00186
Date of letter:	9/9/2015
Date received:	9/9/2015
Date due:	9/21/2015
Reply date:	
Last name:	Kildee
First name:	Dan
Organization:	United States Representative
Subject:	Water quality issues in the city of Flint
Reply to:	
Author:	
Owner:	SHALERK

Deputy Director
Deputy's Mgmt. Asst.
Director's Office Staff
Division/Office Chief
Division/Office Chief's Mgmt. Asst.
Prepared by:
Division/Office
Exec. Div. File No.
☐ Delogged

Action	Action Date	Due Date	Entity	Signature	Owner	CCs
Assigned 1	9/10/2015	9/21/2015	ODWMA	DIR	SHALERK	Thelen Sygo/Shaler Maggie Pallone Brad Wurfel DEQ-Legis-Contact Liane Shekter Smith Richard Benzie Steve Busch

Comments: Assigned to ODWMA

Note: Maggie Pallone will run the Director's response by Eric Brown, Governor's Washington office, for his approval before the Director signs.

Original to Shaler (T.F.)

LEG00186

Shaler, Karen (DEQ)

From: "Dickinson, Jordan" <Jordan.Dickinson@mail.house.gov>
Date: September 9, 2015 at 6:54:47 PM EDT
To: "Wurfelb@michigan.gov" <Wurfelb@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: Congressman Kildee Letter on Lead in Flint Water

Hi Brad,

Can you please make sure the attached letter is passed along to Director Wyant? I will forward along a physical copy in the mail.

Thank you,

Jordan Dickinson
Legislative Assistant
Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05)
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3611
www.dankildee.house.gov

DANIEL T. KILDEE
5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

SENIOR WHIP

DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2015

WASHINGTON OFFICE

227 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3611
(202) 225-6393 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICE

111 EAST COURT STREET #3B
FLINT, MI 48502
(810) 238-8627
(810) 235-6858 (FAX)

WWW.DANKILDEE.HOUSE.GOV
/REPDANKILDEE
@REPDANKILDEE

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mr. Dan Wyant
Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Administrator McCarthy and Director Wyant:

The attached June 24, 2015, memorandum between two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employees, Miguel A. Del Toral and Thomas Poy, published recently by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, suggests that there are high lead levels in the city of Flint, Mich., water transmission lines. Furthermore, this document reflects that children consuming this water had levels of lead in their blood in excess of three times what they were prior to the city of Flint switching its source water from the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD) to the Flint River.

In addition, this memorandum makes recommendations to Mr. Poy, Chief of the Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch of EPA Region 5, to do three things. First, for the EPA to work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to provide technical assistance to the city of Flint to deal with water quality issues. Second, it suggests the EPA review the compliance status of the city of Flint in respect to its compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Third, the memorandum recommends that the EPA conduct a review of the city of Flint testing procedures to ensure they are compliant with the LCR.

Regarding this memorandum and the surrounding water quality issues in the city of Flint, I have the following questions:

- Was this memorandum actually sent to Mr. Poy?

- Are the findings in the memorandum regarding the lead levels in the city of Flint water accurate?
- If there were in fact high levels of lead in the water in the city of Flint, when did the EPA and/or MDEQ plan to alert the public?
- What, if any, of the recommendations has the EPA followed from the memorandum?
- Given the demonstrated level of lead in the water in Flint, MI, is the water safe?

Regardless, I am very troubled by recent tests suggesting high levels of lead in the city of Flint's water system. As you know, on the EPA's website it says that lead above the "action level" in drinking water can cause a variety of adverse health effects, including delays in physical and mental development in babies and children.

According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA has the responsibility of enforcing water quality standards. EPA, however, has given the primary responsibility of enforcing water quality standards to the state of Michigan via MDEQ. As such, it is the responsibility of these agencies to ensure that the people of the city of Flint have safe drinking water.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc:

State Senator Jim Ananich
State Representative Sheldon Neeley
State Representative Phil Phelps
Mayor Dayne Walling, City of Flint
Howard Croft, City of Flint
Susan Hedman, EPA
Thomas Poy, EPA
Michael Schock, EPA-ORD
Darren Lytle, EPA-ORD
Denise Fortin, EPA
Liane Shekter-Smith, MDEQ
Pat Cook, MDEQ
Stephen Busch, MDEQ
Brad Wurfel, MDEQ
Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

WG-15J

June 24, 2015

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: High Lead Levels in Flint, Michigan – Interim Report

FROM: Miguel A. Del Toral
Regulations Manager, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

TO: Thomas Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

The purpose of this interim report is to summarize the available information regarding activities conducted to date in response to high lead levels in drinking water reported by a resident in the City of Flint, Michigan. The final report will be submitted once additional analyses have been completed on pipe and water samples.

Following a change in the water source, the City of Flint has experienced a number of water quality issues resulting in violations of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) including acute and non-acute Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL violations as follows:

Acute Coliform MCL violation in August 2014
Monthly Coliform MCL violation in August 2014
Monthly Coliform MCL violation in September 2014
Average TTHM MCL violation in December 2014
Average TTHM MCL violation in June 2015

In addition, as of April 30, 2014, when the City of Flint switched from purchasing finished water from the City of Detroit to using the Flint River as their new water source, the City of Flint is no longer providing corrosion control treatment for lead and copper.

A major concern from a public health standpoint is the absence of corrosion control treatment in the City of Flint for mitigating lead and copper levels in the drinking water. Recent drinking water sample results indicate the presence of high lead results

in the drinking water, which is to be expected in a public water system that is not providing corrosion control treatment. The lack of any mitigating treatment for lead is of serious concern for residents that live in homes with lead service lines or partial lead service lines, which are common throughout the City of Flint.

In addition, following the switch to using the Flint River, the City of Flint began adding ferric chloride, a coagulant used to improve the removal of organic matter, as part of the strategy to reduce the TTHM levels. Studies have shown that an increase in the chloride-to-sulfate mass ratio in the water can adversely affect lead levels by increasing the galvanic corrosion of lead in the plumbing network.

Prior to April 30, 2014, the City of Flint purchased finished water from the City of Detroit which contained orthophosphate, a treatment chemical used to control lead and copper levels in the drinking water. When the City of Flint switched to the Flint River as their water source on April 30, 2014, the orthophosphate treatment for lead and copper control was not continued. In effect, the City of Flint stopped providing treatment used to mitigate lead and copper levels in the water. In accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), all large systems (serving greater than 50,000 persons) are required to install and maintain corrosion control treatment for lead and copper. In the absence of any corrosion control treatment, lead levels in drinking water can be expected to increase.

The lack of mitigating treatment is especially concerning as the high lead levels will likely not be reflected in the City of Flint's compliance samples due to the sampling procedures used by the City of Flint for collecting compliance samples. The instructions from the City of Flint to residents direct the residents to 'pre-flush' the taps prior to collecting the compliance samples. A copy of the instructions provided by the City of Flint to residents will be included in the final report.

The practice of pre-flushing before collecting compliance samples has been shown to result in the minimization of lead capture and significant underestimation of lead levels in the drinking water. Although this practice is not specifically prohibited by the LCR, it negates the intent of the rule to collect compliance samples under 'worst-case' conditions, which is necessary for statistical validity given the small number of samples collected for lead and copper under the LCR. This is a serious concern as the compliance sampling results which are reported by the City of Flint to residents could provide a false sense of security to the residents of Flint regarding lead levels in the water and may result in residents not taking necessary precautions to protect their families from lead in the drinking water. Our concern regarding the inclusion of 'pre-flushing' in sampling instructions used by public water systems in Michigan has been raised with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The MDEQ has indicated that this practice is not prohibited by the LCR and continues to retain the 'pre-flushing' recommendation in their lead compliance sampling guidance to public water systems in Michigan. A copy of the MDEQ guidance will be included in the final report.

In the case of the Flint resident that contacted U.S. EPA (Ms. Lee-Anne Walters), the initial results from drinking water samples collected by the City of Flint in her home

for lead were 104 ug/L and 397 ug/L. The level of iron in the water also exceeded the capability of the measurement (>3.3 mg/L). The lead results were especially alarming given that the samples were collected using the sampling procedures described above, which minimize the capture of lead. When contacted by U.S. EPA Region 5, the MDEQ indicated that the lead was coming from the Walters' plumbing. Ms. Walters had previously indicated that all of the plumbing in the home was plastic.

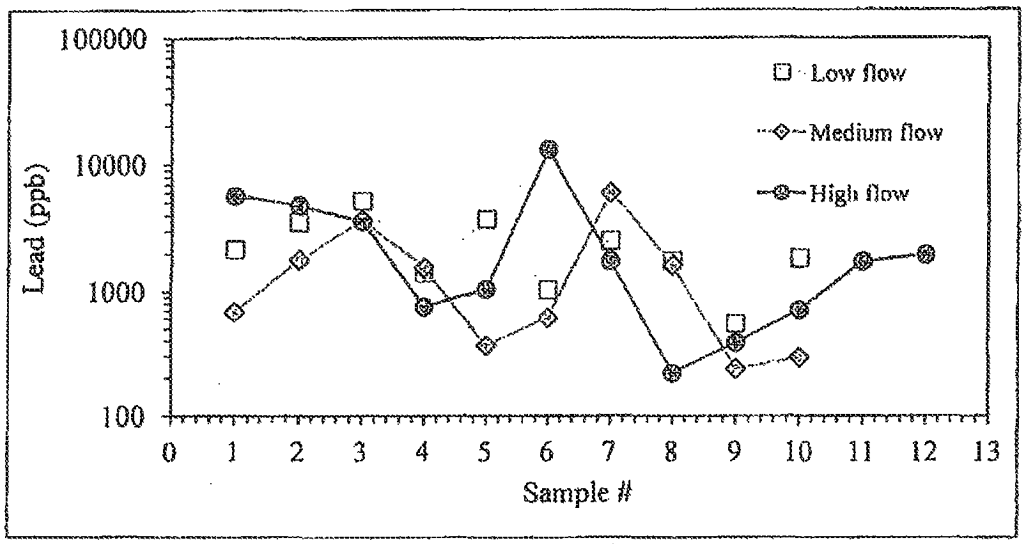
Following the confirmation of the initial high lead results, U.S. EPA Region 5 conducted two visits to the Walters' home on April 27, 2015 and May 6, 2015. Based on an inspection of the plumbing and subsequent sampling conducted at the Walters' residence, it was determined that except for a few minor metallic connectors, all interior plumbing, including the pipes, valves and connectors are made of plastic certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) for use in drinking water applications. Subsequent sampling showed that the faucets in the home appear to be compliant with the new lead-free requirements and are also not the source for the high lead levels. Our inspection of the interior plumbing and analysis of follow-up sampling results demonstrate that the home plumbing network is not the source of the high lead levels found at the Walters' residence. The photographs and all sampling results will be included in the final report.

Based on the U.S. EPA inspection and documentation of the plastic plumbing at the Walters' residence, it was suspected that the high lead was being introduced into the Walters' home plumbing from outside the home, likely from a lead service line. Three portions of the service line were extracted during a subsequent trip on May 6, 2015 and sent for analysis, when the Walters' service line was replaced. Analyses performed to date indicate that a portion of the service line is made of galvanized iron pipe. Inspection of the remaining portion from the water main to the external shut-off valve confirmed that the portion from the water main to the external shut-off valve is a lead service line.

Ms. Walters has also provided U.S. EPA with medical reports on her child's blood lead testing indicating that the child had a low blood lead level (2 ug/dL) prior to the source water switch and an elevated blood lead level following the switch (6.5 ug/dL). Redacted copies of these reports will also be included in the final report.

Subsequent to the discovery of high lead levels in the Walters' drinking water, the water to the Walters' home was shut off on April 3, 2015. The water was briefly turned back on to collect additional samples on April 28, 2015. Since the water had stagnated for an extended period of time, the kitchen tap was flushed for 25 minutes the night before collecting the samples. Three sets of samples were collected at different flow rates (10 at low flow, 10 at medium flow and 10 at high flow).

The drinking water samples collected from the Walters' residence on April 28, 2015 contained extremely high lead levels, ranging in value from 200 ug/L to 13,200 ug/L (see below).



Sample results and graph are provided courtesy of Virginia Tech

Additional sample results from resident-requested samples have also shown lead levels in excess of the lead action level. As with the samples collected by the City of Flint for compliance, the resident-requested samples are also being collected using the 'pre-flushing', so the lead levels captured in these samples likely do not represent the worst-case lead levels in the water and the actual lead levels at these homes may be much higher.

Pending completion of the final report, my interim recommendations are as follows:

1. The U.S. EPA should follow up with the MDEQ and the City of Flint on the recommendation made by U.S. EPA to MDEQ on June 10, 2015 to offer the City of Flint technical assistance on managing the different water quality issues in Flint, including lead in the drinking water. Although there have been two written assessments regarding water quality and operational issues in Flint at the time of this report, they do not address lead in drinking water. The first is an Operational Evaluation Report (OER) produced in November 2014 by Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam, Inc. to assess the factors contributing to high Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) levels in Flint following the source change. The focus of this report is to identify potential causes and remedial actions for lowering TTHM levels. The second report (Water Quality Report) produced by Veolia for the City of Flint on March 12, 2015, is an assessment of Flint's water quality and operations which provides advice to the City of Flint primarily focused on TTHM control and other operational issues. Both reports were written prior to the recent discovery of high lead results in Flint drinking water. As such, the reports do not take into account the potential effects on lead levels in drinking water.

As previously mentioned, the City of Flint currently has no mitigating treatment for lead and is also planning another source water change in the near future. U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development in Cincinnati has extensive experience in corrosion and corrosion control treatment and distribution system issues and would be a valuable addition to the drinking water advisory group for the City of Flint. Copies of the qualifications and experience for Michael Schock and Darren Lytle have been forwarded to MDEQ.

2. U.S. EPA should review the compliance status of the City of Flint with respect to whether the system is in violation of the LCR requirement to install and maintain optimal corrosion control and whether the MDEQ is properly implementing the LCR provisions regarding optimal corrosion control treatment requirements for large systems. Pursuant to 40 CFR Section 141.82(i), the EPA Regional Administrator may review treatment determinations made by a State and issue federal treatment determinations consistent with the requirements of the LCR where the Regional Administrator finds: (1) A state has failed to issue a treatment determination by the applicable deadlines; (2) A State has abused its discretion in a substantial number of cases or in cases affecting a substantial population; or (3) The technical aspects of a State's determination would be indefensible in an expected Federal enforcement action taken against a system.

3. The U.S. EPA should review whether relevant resident-requested samples are being included by the City of Flint in calculating the 90th percentile compliance value for lead. Recent drinking water tests conducted at homes in Flint for lead that are not part of the compliance sampling pool have revealed high lead levels in the drinking water. The U.S. EPA memorandum signed on December 23, 2004 provides clarification on compliance determinations and states that customer-requested samples are to be included in the 90th percentile lead compliance calculation where the sampling is conducted during the monitoring period from sites and sampling procedures meeting the LCR criteria. Given the prevalence of lead service lines in the City of Flint, should these sample results be from homes with lead service lines, the sample results would be considered compliance samples under the LCR.

Also attached is a timeline of events for Flint, Michigan. Should you have any questions regarding the information or recommendations provided, please let me know.

cc: Liane Shekter-Smith (MDEQ)
Pat Cook (MDEQ)
Stephen Busch (MDEQ)
Michael Prysby (MDEQ)
Marc Edwards (Virginia Tech)
Michael Schock, EPA-ORD
Darren Lytle, EPA-ORD