
From: Wyant, Dan (DEQ)
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2015 4:00 PM
To: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
Cc: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ);Krisztian, George (DEQ)
Subject: Re: Flint Water Situation

Looks spot on. I would only add two things.

One: of the \$12 million, state portion is half, local portion half. \$4 million picked up by the Mott Foundation.

Two: lime softing used to control Ph. Was not working.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 11, 2015, at 11:43 AM, Pallone, Maggie (DEQ) <PalloneM@michigan.gov> wrote:

Do I have the answers below correct?

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Matt Sowash [<mailto:mattsowash@house.mi.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ) <PalloneM@michigan.gov>; Howes, Sarah (DEQ) <HowesS1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Flint Water Situation

Hi Sarah and Maggie:

My boss had some questions about the Flint water situation and I'm hoping you can get me some information or point me in the right direction.

1. Is it the water source or the infrastructure that is causing the issue of lead in the water? If it is the infrastructure, why does hooking back to the Detroit water system fix the problem?

It is both. When Flint made the decision to switch from DWSD water to the Flint River, the same treatments that were occurring to the DWSD water (phosphate to control corrosion) were not added to the Flint river water. Phosphate helps to create a lining on old lead pipes that keeps them from leaching lead into the water. Flint, and many other older communities in the State, still have lead services lines that lead from the water main to the home.

Some studies have indicated that Flint river water has a higher pH level and since it a river (as opposed to Lake Huron, the source of Detroit's water) will always be harder to treat. Rivers, in general, have more seasonal fluctuation and respond quicker to large weather events.

Switching back to Detroit's water system allows for less variables in the water treatment and will allow for a smoother transition when Flint switches to KWA water next summer. Both of those water sources will be Lake Huron water. In addition, we know the water coming from DWSD reacted well with the aging infrastructure in Flint. It will also allow for less variation and risk of contamination due to seasonal fluctuations in the river.

2. What assurances are there that hooking up to the Detroit water system will solve this problem?

Obviously nothing is 100% guaranteed. But we do know that when Detroit water was the drinking water source for Flint, our testing showed that lead leaching was not an issue. The only real solution is replacement of the lead service lines that lead from the water main into the home. We are working with our federal agencies to ensure that Flint, and other communities, can access Drinking Water Revolving Loan funds to replace private service lines.

3. What is the \$12 million dollars needed for – how are those expenses broken down?

The \$12 million is the additional cost for Flint to use DSWD water over 9 months. It covers the access charge and the per gallon charge that has been negotiated between Flint and DSWD, on top of the infrastructure costs that are already built into Flint water rates.

4. Is this a statewide problem in cities with older infrastructure and older homes?

Any community that has older homes and infrastructure may have lead issues. But most communities have optimized corrosion control in place that helps to prevent the lead services from leaching lead.

Thank you for the help. Have a good weekend.

Matt Sowash

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Matt Sowash

Legislative Director

State Representative Joseph Graves

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