
From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 9:18 AM
To: Crooks, Jennifer; Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Another Flint complaint

Jennifer,

Here is some info on the chloride issue GM has indicated regarding water in Flint and Mike's discussion with the reporter below. As we discussed we do not follow the secondary MCL's in Michigan, but even if we did these levels are well below the secondary level for chloride.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/10/gms_decision_to_stop_using_fl.html

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/10/general_motors_wont_use_flint.html

Stephen Busch, P.E.
Lansing and Jackson District Supervisor
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
MDEQ
517-643-2314

From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 3:48 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ); Willard, Veronica (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: Media Inquiry

Ron Fonger from the Flint Journal called me today concerning the GM Engine manufacturing plant in Flint and their intent to temporarily terminate water service from Flint and purchase water from Genesee County (via Flint Twp) until Flint is either treating water from KWA or reducing their chloride concentration from their treated water that meets GM's limit for manufacturing. Ron asked if elevated chlorides are a health concern in Flint. I looked up Flint's MOR and noted that the treated water chloride concentration leaving the WTP ranges between 55 and 65 mg/l which, although not optimal (optimal being <20 mg/l), is satisfactory. Concentrations > 250 mg/l become objectionable due to taste & corrosion issues; however, based on the concentration leaving the WTP, we did not have any health-effect concerns. Ron was not able to recall the maximum chloride level acceptable to GM; however, I stressed the importance of not branding Flint's water as "corrosive" from a public health standpoint simply because it does not meet a manufacturing facility's limit for production. Ron also asked if the treatment process adds chloride. I explained that their primary coagulant is ferric chloride and this does add some chloride to the finished water; however, raw water chloride concentration is generally in the mid 40s mg/l; thus, the contribution from ferric chloride is not significant.

Michael Prysby, P.E.
District Engineer
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
517 290-8817

From: Crooks, Jennifer [mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 8:45 AM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: Another Flint complaint

This complaint came thru the SDWA Hotline. Interesting---this citizen reported that General Motors shut off their line to Flint water due to over-chlorination. See the link below.

Jennifer

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 12:07 PM
To: Crooks, Jennifer
Subject: FW: (SDWA - FY15-122649-3715-CV) Referred to Region - Michigan

Jen: Can you use the same reply for the control to reply to this similar complaint about Flint water?

Thanks.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: howard.donna@epa.gov [mailto:howard.donna@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 11:46 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: FWD: (SDWA - FY15-122649-3715-CV) Referred to Region - Michigan

10/15/2014

SUBJECT: FWD: (SDWA - FY15-122649-3715-CV) Referred to Region - Michigan
FROM: howard.donna@epa.gov
TO: poy.thomas@epa.gov
CC:

-----Original Message-----

10/14/2014 9:07 AM

HQ LEAD NUMBER: FY15-122649-3715-CV

SUBJECT: Referred to Region - Michigan

FROM: janburgess52@comcast.net

TO:

Name: Jan Burgess

Address: 720 Commonwealth Ave

City: Flint

State: Michigan

Zip: 48503

Phone: 810-235-6530

Alleged Violator's Name: City of Flint

Alleged Violator's Address: 1101 S. Saginaw St.

Alleged Violator's City: Flint

Alleged Violator's State: Michigan

Alleged Violator's Zip: 48502

Tip or Complaint: Earlier this year, the City of Flint, MI changed its water supply from the City of Detroit [Lake Huron] to the Flint River. This river has a very long history of pollution. Since this change, our drinking water has tripled in cost and the quality varies daily. Some days it smells like an over-chlorinated swimming pool; other days, like pond scum. It often is brown in color and frequently has visible particles floating in it. We've been under several boil water advisories due to e-coli contamination. Just this morning our local paper reports that General Motors Engine plant has shut off Flint River water to the plant due to the over-chlorination and the fears that the water will cause corrosion.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/10/general_motors_wont_use_flint.html#cid=nsltr_storyheadline.

People in Flint have had to resort to buying bottled water or having purification systems installed in their homes. Some residents have even had private wells dug. The water is not safe to drink, cook or wash dishes with, or even give to pets. We worry every time we shower. The City of Flint is still very economically depressed and most citizens cannot afford to do anything other than use the river water. Many of them have NO water at all due to the extremely high water bills. There is reasonable suspicion that reports have been falsified. Some residents have had water tested privately and the results are not even close to those reported by the City. Calls to the City and State have resulted in no action whatsoever.

Violation Still Occurring? Yes

State DEP/DEQ/DEM Notified? No