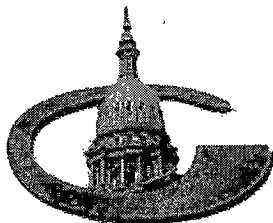


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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service
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Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:46 PM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--State To Contribute \$1M As Part Of Flint Water Fix



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State To Contribute \$1M As Part Of Flint Water Fix

In the short term, Flint residents will have access to water filters, some purchased with state funds, and in the longer term the city will be improving its corrosion controls to keep lead out of water supplies, state and city officials said today in unveiling a plan to address recent water safety concerns in the city.

Moving Flint back to getting water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage System is also still on the table for both state and local officials, but will require negotiations, both sides said.

Both sides said the water itself is not the source of lead and the city will be working in the coming years to replace the lead service lines that are the source.

Environmental Quality Direct Dan Wyant acknowledged that testing shows increased lead levels in the water since the city moved from the Detroit system in 2014, but he argued the problem was the switch and not the water source. He said one of the state's efforts is to ensure the city has sufficient corrosion controls in place so when it switches sources again away from the Flint River, the problem does not recur.

Mr. Wyant said the state has continued quarterly testing of the city's water source and those tests have continued to show no lead.

Eden Wells, chief medical officer for the state, said blood tests for children in the city did not change after the water change, but she said tests of children in two high-risk ZIP codes did, as tests by Hurley Medical Center had shown earlier, show increased blood lead levels in those areas after the water change.

But she and others said it was still not confirmed that the water was the source of the additional lead exposure.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said the city was still considering switching back to Detroit water while efforts to finish an agreement with Karegnondi Water Authority are completed. But he said the switch would cost the city up to \$2 million a month it does not have.

Mr. Wyant, asked if the state would cover those costs, said only that the state had committed \$1 million already toward the problem but that Governor Rick Snyder had said he would be willing to mediate discussions between the city and the Detroit system.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in the full Michigan Report.

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