

Shaler, Karen (DEQ)

From: Shaler, Karen (DEQ) on behalf of Wyant, Dan (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 5:05 PM
To: Scott, Allison (GOV); Muchmore, Dennis (GOV); Agen, Jarrod (GOV); Dickinson, Sarah (GOV)
Subject: Flint Drinking Water Action Plan Update - FOIA EXEMPT AND ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED

The Flint Drinking Water Action Plan was announced on October 2, 2015. It included the following:

- Testing in Flint public schools immediately
- Offered free water testing to Flint residents
- Provided free water filters to residents with concerns or who are included in state assistance programs
- Expanding health exposure testing of individual homes
- Accelerating corrosion controls in the Flint drinking water system
- Accelerating water system improvements to address replacing lead service lines
- Expediting the completion of the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline
- Expanding a Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee
- Named Dr. Eden Wells as the Flint drinking water public health advisor
- Boosted a comprehensive lead education program

Testing in Flint Public Schools Immediately

Samples were taken on October 2 and were received at DEQ laboratory over the weekend. Test results to date indicate 37 samples tested, 4 of which exceeded a federal action level, and 1 of those 4 was a significant outlier. We will be compiling detailed information about which schools and area codes the test results came from and will be providing that information in our next update.

We have met with DHHS, and we are working on developing response protocols, a communications plan, and guidance for schools when this data is reported.

Offered Free Water Testing to Flint Residents

We have received 4 sets of samples from Flint that represent individual residents. We will be compiling the total number and the results of those samples and reporting in a future report.

Provided Free Water Filters to Residents with Concerns or Who are Included in State Assistance Programs

DHHS held organizational meetings in Flint on October 5, and filter distribution by DHHS started on October 6. Nick Lyon in DHHS is taking the lead in filter distribution.

Expanding Health Exposure Testing of Individual Homes

Dr. Wells and Dan Wyant have been in conversations about a protocol for exposure testing. Dr. Wells will take the lead on developing the protocol.

Accelerating Corrosion Controls in the Flint Drinking Water System

A conference call was held with U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Susan Hedman and national corrosion control experts. We asked two questions:

1. Which is a safer water source – DWSD or Flint River?
2. If you don't have an opinion on the safer source, what criteria should we use for an evaluation?

EPA staff would not commit to a preference, but their evaluation of the criteria clearly lead to the conclusion that DWSD was a safer water source. EPA committed to submitting technical assistance to the Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) meeting, which will be held on October 7 at 2:00 p.m. in Flint City Hall.

DEQ met with the Flint Mayor, the city manager, and their water staff. Flint agreed to expediting corrosion controls. We discussed the agenda for the Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee will be asked to evaluate two respective water sources at their Wednesday meeting.

We expect the Advisory Committee to recommend the water source that would address not only lead safety but also other water safety issues.

Accelerating Water System Improvements to Address Replacing Lead Service Lines

Conversations with Congressman Kildee and EPA have clarified the state would be allowed to use Drinking Water Revolving Loan funds to replace private drinking water service lines. Senator Ananich has been approached to introduce language clarifying the state's authority.

Expediting the Completion of the Karegnondi Water Authority Pipeline

Dan Wyant has talked to Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright. Mr. Wright has provided a list of issues that would help expedite the completion of the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline. They include truck weight and frost law exemptions, talent identification, and expediting permits.

Expanding a Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee

EPA has appointed their national technical expert to the Advisory Committee, and we have appointed Alfred Franzblau, M.D., Professor of Environmental Health Services, University of Michigan, to the Advisory Committee.

Named Dr. Eden Wells as the Flint Drinking Water Public Health Advisor

Boosted a Comprehensive Lead Education Program

Other Updates

- Dan Wyant was interviewed on October 6 by CBS Evening News during filter distribution in Flint. Questions asked were:
 - Was it a mistake to go to Flint River water?

Answer: We draw water from the surface waters; we treat it to safe drinking water standards. At issue is lead exposure. Lead exposure must be addressed. Actions are being taken to address the issue.

- o Did you put kids at risk?

Answer: Lead exposure is a serious issue, and steps need to be taken to limit lead exposure.

- o Why did it take so long?

Answer: DEQ has been there from the beginning addressing the issue of Flint water. Recent tests justify and require the actions taken. Action steps address short-term, intermediate, and long-term lead issues to ensure public safety and confidence of the drinking water.

- Dan Wyant also spoke to the Governor about Flint funding needs. A meeting is scheduled for October 7 at 8:00 a.m. to further discuss proposals.
- What we are telling Flint citizens is:
 - o Have your water tested
 - o Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing formula
 - o Run water before use if it has not been used for several hours
 - o Obtain a water filter approved for lead removal
 - o Purchase lead-free plumbing components
 - o Remove entire lead service lines