

From: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Wurfel, Brad \(DEQ\)](#); [Feuerstein, Heather \(DEQ\)](#); [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#); [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#); [Willard, Veronica \(DEQ\)](#)
Cc: [Prysby, Mike \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Media Contact FW: questions about Flint River
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:16:06 PM

I received the email below from Mr. Dominic Adams with Mlive and the Flint Journal.

I called Mr. Adams back and we discussed the following:

Process for switching from DWSD to Flint River

Water provided by DWSD is treated. The City's of Flint's existing WTP was designed for emergency use of the Flint River in the event of a failure in the DWSD system. So the WTP is already capable of the switchover, they would just close the line from DWSD and start pumps from the intake. The DEQ would need to be notified prior to the switchover in source water as there are regulatory requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Failure to meet regulatory requirements would result in violations, and both the City and DEQ, would prefer to prevent that from occurring if possible.

(He asked about fines and I provided a link to the administrative fines information on our website)

Is time needed for the Detroit line

Other water systems utilize the pipeline from Detroit and will continue to do so without interruption.

Why is the City upgrading the WTP and what is being done

The City WTP is designed for short term emergency operation, these improvements would give them the ability to better operate the plant on a continuous basis. You should be able to obtain the full project scope from the City, but it includes additional chemical storage, modification to the disinfection system, electrical modifications, and pump modifications.

How is the DEQ involved in the project

The City is required to obtain construction permits from the DEQ Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance prior to making modifications to its water system. The City has provided preliminary design information regarding the WTP improvements which we have commented on, but we have not received a formal permit application at this time.

(FYI they already held a groundbreaking which was reported)

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/03/flint_residents_should_be_drin.html

How long will a permit take?

For a permit of this complexity, we are normally able to respond to an applicant 30-45 days after receiving a permit application.

Does the DEQ have to inspect the system.

The DEQ conducts routine inspection visits of public water systems, we conduct at least 4 inspection visits with the City of Flint (its treatment and distribution systems) each year and a full

inspection of the system is required once every 3 years. The last full inspection report was completed in 2013.

When the City operates its water treatment plant, they need to conduct daily monitoring and report those results to the DEQ. So we are constantly reviewing their treatment operations.

The City has set a date of April 17 to switchover, is that achievable?

I believe this is a tentative date based on a one year deadline set when the contract between Flint and DWSD was terminated. You would need to contact the City regarding their timeline for completing construction work upon obtaining a permit.

I indicated it would be good to contact the City about what residents should expect regarding water service when the change is made.

I tried to get a better idea from Mr. Adams about his article. He indicated he didn't feel the City was fully disclosing everything that is involved in completing this changeover.

PS, Mr. Adams claimed to have my info wrong or dialed a wrong number, my voicemail is not full and has been working fine. I provided him with my current info.

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

From: Adams, Dominic [mailto:DADAMS5@mlive.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:20 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: questions about Flint River

Steve:

My name is Dominic Adams and I am a reporter with The Flint Journal. We spoke in July about the city using the Flint River as a primary drinking water source until the Karegnondi Water Authority is complete. Here is a link to that story:

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/07/flint_to_spend_171000_for_engi.html

The city says it is going to start using the Flint River and cut off from Detroit by April 17. I'd like to speak to you about the technical aspect about what that means. I tried leaving you a voicemail, but it says your voicemail is full.

Please give me a call at 810-241-8803 as soon as possible so we can discuss this.

If you are not the person I need to speak to about this, please give the name and contact information for the person I should talk to.

Thanks a lot and have a great day.

Dominic Adams | metro reporter | [The Flint Journal](#) | 810-241-8803 |
dadams5@mlive.com | [On Twitter](#) | [On Facebook](#) |