
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 3:19 PM
To: Eggert, David (DEggert@ap.org)
Subject: Flint's lead history
Attachments: Flint lead history.pdf

I believe this is what the governor was referencing.

Pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule, the state has been testing municipal supplies since 1992. Flint was part of Detroit's sampling pool, which is why historically they only had to produce 33 samples.

The enclosed lead history essentially shows that the only surefire way to make sure there is no lead exposure is to remove lead service connections, as well as lead pipes and fixtures in homes. Recognize that our testing offers surveillance-level view. Each home could have plumbing and water use factors that make its lead exposure levels different.

Note on the rule:

When they moved to the river as their primary source of water, DEQ handled it as a "new source." Under new source rules, they had to take more samples and two rounds of testing to examine lead and copper in the system. Because the system serves 50,000 or more people, the federal rule states that if the 90th percentile value in the water is above 5 parts per billion, they must commence full optimization of the corrosion control system. If the 90th percentile was above 15 ppb, the operator would need to provide formal notice of that fact to the community and commence full optimization.

DEQ sent notice to the operator Aug. 15, instructing them to commence optimization.

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