

From: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#); [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#); [Sygo, Jim \(DEQ\)](#)
Cc: [Devereaux, Tracy Jo \(DEQ\)](#); [Creal, William \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: FW: Water Emergency
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 8:40:00 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

FYI –

Thanks Bill. I hadn't seen this before.

From: Creal, William (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 6:56 AM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: Fwd: Water Emergency

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Caleb Laieski <caleb_m_laieski@yahoo.com>
Date: August 25, 2015 at 12:36:00 AM EDT
To: <mayor@cityofflint.com>
Cc: <McCarthy.Gina@epamail.epa.gov>, <r5hotline@epa.gov>, <hedman.susan@epa.gov>, <Hyde.Tinka@epa.gov>, <WyantD@michigan.gov>, <CREALW@michigan.gov>, <NRC@uscg.mil>
Subject: Water Emergency

Emergency Personnel and Honorable Officials:

I am extremely concerned after being sent the following photo and this issue needs to be investigated ASAP -



Flint tap water.

In 2014, Flint's emergency manager disconnected the city from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and started providing residents with water from the Flint River. Since that time, residents have been struggling to maintain access to a clean, safe drinking water supply.

Residents of Flint report having tap water with high levels of copper, lead, THMs (chemicals that result when chlorine mixes with organic matter), tin, lime and iron. The water is often brown or bluish-green in color and contains sediment. As a result, people are experiencing symptoms including hair loss, lead poisoning and diseases related to consuming high levels of copper (to name a few).

The Flint River clearly is not a safe, reliable source for the city's drinking water. It was as easy as pushing a button to disconnect from DWSD; it's time to push the button again, reconnecting Flint to DWSD and providing Flint residents with the clean, safe water they deserve.

Please reconnect Flint to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department immediately and make water safe and clean for all.

Begin forwarded message:

Date: August 4, 2015 at 4:08:13 PM EDT

From: "Lynna Kauchek, Food & Water Watch" <act@fwwatch.org>

Reply-To: "Lynna Kauchek, Food & Water Watch" <act@fwwatch.org>

To: Caleb Laieski <caleb_m_laieski@yahoo.com>

Subject: Dangerously toxic drinking water



Residents of Flint, Michigan Have Dangerously Toxic Drinking Water [Sign the Petition: Demand Clean, Safe Drinking Water for Flint!](#)

Dear Caleb,

It's hard to believe that in 2015, residents of an American town are being poisoned by their public water system.

About a year ago, Flint, Michigan residents were switched from getting water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to getting water from the Flint River, all in an attempt to cut costs. **But this change has cost the people of Flint greatly.**

[Sign the petition to tell the Flint City Council and Mayor to switch Flint back to Detroit's clean drinking water — it's as easy as pushing a button!](#)

Flint residents like Melissa Mays are trying to get their story out nationally to bring more attention to their fight.

In April 2014, a button was pushed that changed my life and thousands of others in Flint, Michigan. For over a year now, we have been drinking toxic water and suffering the severe health challenges that have come as a result.

Since Flint started providing us with water from the Flint River, my water has turned bluish-green from all the copper in the water, the levels of lead have quadrupled and we have been notified about high levels of TTHMs (chemicals that are formed when chlorine mixes with organic matter). And the pH of my water is 4, which means that it's as acidic as tomato juice!

Other neighbors have experienced brown water and have found traces of tin, lime and iron in their water. Members of my community have been reporting cases of lead poisoning, and many neighbors have reported that their hair is falling out because of our toxic water. Due to the high levels of copper in my water, I am suffering from osteoarthritis and bone spurs at the age of 36.

Access to safe drinking water is a human right. [Demand that Mayor Walling and Flint City Council give the people of Flint clean, safe water!](#)

Like other Michigan cities, Flint is struggling financially. In 2014, Flint's emergency manager decided that, as a cost-saving measure, the city would stop buying clean, safe water from Detroit and start providing residents with water from the Flint River.

But the Flint River experiment has not panned out. The city has failed to adequately treat the water from the Flint River to make it safe to drink. Almost immediately after the switch, residents noticed changes in smell, color and taste of the water coming out of their taps, and tests showed high levels of bacteria that forced the city to issue boil advisories.

To kill the bacteria, the city increased the amount of chlorine in the water, which resulted in the high levels

**Would you drink water
with dangerous levels of
lead and copper?**



Flint tap water.

**[No One Should Have to
Drink Toxic Water!](#)**

of toxic trihalomethanes (TTHMs that Melissa mentions). Samples show levels of lead contamination in the water that's off the charts (likely due to Flint's inability to prevent lead from the old pipes from leaching into the water). A well-known neurotoxin, lead poisoning can have severe long-term impacts on children's developing brains.¹

It is abundantly clear that the Flint River is not a safe, reliable source for the city's drinking water. [Sign the petition to tell Flint Mayor Walling and the Flint City Council to switch back to Detroit Water to ensure clean, safe drinking water for Flint.](#)

It was as easy as pushing a button to disconnect from Detroit's water service, it's time to push the button again to reconnect Flint to Detroit Water and provide Flint residents with the clean, safe water they deserve.

I am collecting petitions from people all over the country to deliver in person to the Flint City Council and Mayor at the end of August. [I hope you'll help bring national attention to this issue by signing the petition to the Flint Mayor and City Council to give residents access to safe drinking water.](#)

Thank you for taking action,

Lynna Kauchek
Senior Organizer
Food & Water Watch
[act\(at\)fwwatch\(dot\)org](mailto:act(at)fwwatch(dot)org)

1. [Aging Pipes Are Poisoning America's Tap Water](#), *The Atlantic*, July 29, 2015.

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