
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 2:53 PM
To: Azure Gilman
Subject: RE: Comment for Al Jazeera America about MDEQ admitting

From: Azure Gilman [<mailto:Azure.Gilman@aljazeera.net>]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Re: Comment for Al Jazeera America about MDEQ admitting

Hi Brad,

One more question: where has Liane Shekter Smith been reassigned to?

Ms. Shekter Smith has been assigned to other duties within the department until the Governor's third-party, after action review team completes its work.

Best,
Azure

From: Azure Gilman <azure.gilman@aljazeera.net>
Date: Monday, October 19, 2015 at 1:13 PM
To: "Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)" <WurfelB@michigan.gov>
Subject: Comment for Al Jazeera America about MDEQ admitting

Hi Brad,

Some follow up questions to the [DEQ news release about Flint drinking water earlier today](#):

1. How would the protocol have been different if the MDEQ followed the correct federal regulations of a city for 100,000 people?

There's a provision in the federal rule based on population: When a water provider serving a population of more than 50,000 people adopts a new water source, the operator must continue full corrosion control even as the water system is put through two rounds of 6-month lead and copper surveillance testing. On systems that serve populations less than 50k, this is not a requirement. Water systems in the state are fairly well established. None of our staff had ever worked on a source change for a system serving more than 50,000 people.

2. Many citizens in Flint have said that 100 water kits should have been tested instead of 69. Does this fall under the category of correct federal regulations?

This was done correctly. Census data indicated incorporated at the end of 2014 indicated Flint's population had dropped below 100,000 people, and the lead testing is based on population size. The city was required to provide 60 samples in the January / July 2015 sampling round. They produced 69 samples.

3. When did the MDEQ become aware that the proper federal regulations were not followed?

We've been conducting an internal review over the past several weeks, even as we're mobilizing a large, multi-agency effort to implement the governor's plan to distribute filters, test and inspect the schools, encourage parents to get kids tested and encourage concerned residents to have their water tested for free. The internal review has included reviewing communications with city and federal partners, and discussing the situation with program staff. With respect to the corrosion protocol, the picture became increasingly clear for department leadership over the past week.

Best,

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