

From: [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Crooks, Jennifer](#); [Prysby, Mike \(DEQ\)](#); [Cook, Pat \(DEQ\)](#)
Cc: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#); [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: RE: Call from MI citizen in Flint
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014 2:01:40 PM

I suspect there may have been excessive runoff and storm water discharges with the weather we have been experiencing, but you will have to ask the Water Resources Division for details. If a release or overflow is unusual or not expected, both we and the systems should get contacted through the PEAS contact lists.

We expect surface water treatment plants to be capable of treating their source adequately from a microbial standpoint regardless of deteriorating source water quality.

One answer to his question is that any time a system is unable to meet drinking water standards or suspects there may be a water quality problem as a result of an unexpected event (spill, pressure loss, etc.), they are required to notify the consumers and provide appropriate precautionary advice. So no news should be considered good news.

We can talk more next week.

From: Crooks, Jennifer [mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 11:16 AM
To: Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Call from MI citizen in Flint

The citizen, Mr. Lathan Jefferson, contacted Mindy Eisenberg at Headquarters. I will follow up with you all next week at her request. Mike, if I could get copies of the lab analyses for regulated contaminants and their MOR for the new Flint water, I'd appreciate it. Richard and Mike, Mindy is wondering if there were any contaminant releases recently into the Flint River? See my response below.

Jennifer

From: Crooks, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:57 AM
To: Eisenberg, Mindy
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: Call from MI citizen in Flint to you

I will talk with Mike, Pat and Richard next Monday and get the analyses from Mike, and send to you next week.

Thank you again, Mindy.

Jennifer

From: Eisenberg, Mindy
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:55 AM

To: Crooks, Jennifer
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: Call from MI citizen in Flint to you

Thanks Jennifer,
I told him that I would make some calls to find out what is going on and then would get back to him.
He mentioned that he was on his way to talk with the Flint treatment plant, so we'll see how that goes.

Mindy

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From: Crooks, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Eisenberg, Mindy
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: Call from MI citizen in Flint to you

Hi, Mindy. Thank you for listening to him. Mike Prysby, the DEQ district engineer who oversees Flint water treatment and distribution, doesn't have Flint's Monthly Operating Report yet, but he has results from Phase 2/5 and other required contaminant analyses (required to meet so the plant could be put on-line), and health standards are being met, he said. I will ask Mike to send me copies of their Phase 2/5 results and the MOR, and his analysis. I didn't specifically ask about any contaminant releases, but DEQ has historically been consistently reliable in reporting to us any contaminant releases—but I will ask Mike that also. Richard Benzie is out of the office til Friday or Monday, but I will be in Lansing auditing set-asides next Monday, so I will touch base with him also.

Pat Cook is the DEQ drinking water treatment expert, who Lathan Jefferson talked to at MI DEQ this week. Pat Cook was out of the office at training so I was unable to find out what he told Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson refused to take Mike Prysby's phone number, which is why he didn't mention Mike's name to you.

Jennifer

From: Eisenberg, Mindy

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:36 AM
To: Crooks, Jennifer
Cc: Poy, Thomas; Hyde, Tinka
Subject: RE: Call from MI citizen in Flint to you

Hi Jennifer,

Yes, I just spoke with him and he explained the situation. He didn't mention Mike Prysby but did mention a Pat Cook from DEQ who he has spoken with about the health issues. What analyses is Flint doing? Do they have any analyses for the Phase 2/5 rules? He expressed concern about closed GM plants along the river. Could there be releases? Have you spoken with Richard Benzie?

Thanks

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From: Crooks, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:57 AM
To: Eisenberg, Mindy
Cc: Poy, Thomas; Hyde, Tinka
Subject: Call from MI citizen in Flint to you

Mindy—A Mr. Lathan Jefferson has talked with Tinka, and also with me just now about his drinking water quality. Flint has just switched from Detroit water (from Lake Huron) to Flint River water within the past couple of weeks. Flint River quality is not great, but there is a surface water treatment plant producing water that is currently meeting SDWA standards, according to the MI DEQ district engineer, Mike Prysby. The water has more hardness, and pH and alkalinity may be different from Detroit water. Mike will have more information on the difference in water quality when he receives Flint's first monthly operation report this week. Mr. Jefferson said he and many people have rashes from the new water. He said his doctor says the rash is from the new drinking water, and I told him to have his doctor document this and he can bring to the attention of the MI DEQ, since lab analyses to date show that the drinking water is meeting all health-based standards. He has no interest in speaking with Mike Prysby; he doesn't trust anyone in MI government. He asked me for free drinking water lab analyses, which I was unable to provide. He only wants to speak with someone from EPA Headquarters.

Jennifer

Jennifer Kurtz Crooks

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