
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 2:51 PM
To: Minicuci, Angela (DHHS)
Cc: Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Flint water

I don't think even the Governor's office has been keeping tabs on the review group. It's really independent. I'd suggest putting Kolb / Sikkema on the wire for that answer.

Your answers on the other two questions look fine. Thanks!

b

Brad Wurfel
 Communications Director,
 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
wurfelb@michigan.gov

PPI (cell)

From: Minicuci, Angela (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 2:12 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Flint water

Hi Brad - for your review:

Hi Paul,

On the first question, I'd recommend reaching out to the Governor's office. We know that the report is ongoing but as it's independent of MDHHS or DEQ, we wouldn't be able to give you an update on its status.

In terms of your other two questions, as you know we're working already with the federal government at the Environmental Protection Agency on their investigation as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for their support. If the U.S. Justice Department or FBI were interested in investigating this issue, we would cooperate and assist as we can. Already the State has been providing elevated blood lead level investigations in Flint and doing case management for families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. We've also been working closely with our community partners at the local health department and health plans to conduct testing. The instance you referenced below and the current issues in Flint involve two very different sets of circumstances. As there can be exposure to lead in a variety of ways, not just water, we believe that the current effort through follow up with nurses is the best approach for identifying and reducing exposures to lead in the community as a whole.

Thank you,

Angela

From: Egan, Paul [<mailto:pegan@freepress.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 12:44 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov>

Cc: Minicuci, Angela (DHHS) <MinicuciA@michigan.gov>

Subject: RE: Flint water

It's only three basic questions, Brad. I just gave you some extra background and context. 5 p.m.?

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) [mailto:WurfelB@michigan.gov]

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 12:43 PM

To: Egan, Paul <pegan@freepress.com>

Cc: Minicuci, Angela (DHHS) <MinicuciA@michigan.gov>

Subject: RE: Flint water

That's not much lead time, Paul. We'll do what we can with this. What's your deadline for response?

Brad Wurfel

Communications Director,

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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PPI

(cell)

From: Egan, Paul [mailto:pegan@freepress.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 11:56 AM

To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)

Cc: Minicuci, Angela (DHHS)

Subject: Flint water

Hi Brad/Angela: I am writing a story for Friday's paper about former Flint Mayor James Sharp, Jr. calling for federal investigations and more comprehensive outreach efforts to contact and test those who may have drank Flint water containing unsafe levels of lead.

Sharp, who was Flint mayor from 1983 to 1987, also has another somewhat unique perspective on the issue of contaminated drinking water. He was a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune in the 1950s, where it was later determined drinking water was contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals such as the dry cleaning fluid perchloroethylene.

Sharp told the Free Press in an interview Wednesday that his daughter born on the base, who died at the age of two months, may have been a victim of the toxins.

Sharp said after learning of the contamination in the 1980s, officials created a database and contacted him and thousands of others who may have drank the water.

In 2012, President Obama signed federal legislation providing medical care to those who drank the Camp Lejeune water.

Similar actions, along with investigations by the U.S. Justice Department and FBI, need to be taken in response to the situation in Flint, Sharp said.

Just a couple of questions:

What is the status of the "after action" report requested by the governor?

Does the state believe investigations by the U.S. Justice Department or FBI would be helpful?

What is the state's response to Sharp's suggestion of creating a database of everyone who might have been exposed to the water and attempting to contact and test them?

Thanks, Paul Egan
Detroit Free Press
517-372-8660