
From: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Supply System

Thank you Richard. Sounds like DEQ has performed its function admirably under difficult circumstances.

John C. Scherbarth

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 5:31 PM
To: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Cc: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Supply System

John

No, I don't see any reason why it should not be shared. It was an attachment to a notice provided by our district staff to DEQ management to inform them about a media contact. It is certainly available under FOIA, but even if it wasn't, I don't see any reason not to share it.

I attended a meeting late yesterday at the newly elected Representative Sheldon Neeley's office with Representative Phil Phelps also present. The purpose was to explain the problem to them. Mike Prysby from our Lansing district office recapped what the city of Flint and we have been doing since this problem became evident last summer.

We also explained why the public notification requirements did not start until the city obtained sufficient data to determine that they were going to be in violation of the drinking water standard for these disinfection byproducts (it's a running annual average of quarterly results). Apparently some have questioned why it was so long between initially seeing results that were high and the public being notified of this fact. A single set of high results do not require public notification. However, they did trigger the requirement for the city to initiate an investigation and evaluate options to reduce these concentrations, which Flint has done admirably. In fact, the results were remarkably lower in the latest round. But even if they continue at these lower levels, it will take a while for the running average to be reduced below the standard. Until then, the violation notice will need to be repeated until the running annual average at all compliance monitoring points once again meets the standard.

Richard

Richard Benzie, P.E., Chief
Field Operations Section
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, MDEQ
517-284-6512

From: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Flint Water Supply System

Richard

I shared the information that you provided to me with an attorney in my office impacted by the Flint water issue. She has asked me as you can see whether she can share the information that you provided to me with others. Since it is public knowledge, I see no reason why she cannot share it. Can you?

John C. Scherbarth

From: Miller, Jeanmarie (AG)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Supply System

Thanks John. Myself as well as most of my neighbors are particularly concerned about the situation as I am sure you can understand. Is this information I can share with others?

Jeanmarie

From: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:06 PM
To: Miller, Jeanmarie (AG)
Cc: Manning, Peter (AG)
Subject: FW: Flint Water Supply System

Jeanmarie

The attached email I elicited from DEQ should provide you sufficient information in response to your query.

John C. Scherbarth

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Cc: Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Supply System

John,

Michael Prysby is the district engineer that has been working with Flint for the past 25 years. Steve Busch is the District Supervisor who also has knowledge about this subject. Mike's telephone number is (517) 290-8817. Steve's number is (517) 643-2314.

I have also attached a summary of a recent media contact that Mike Prysby had earlier today that provides some background information and explains what is being done to address this issue.

In addition to the measures Mike describes in his media contact, you should know that the city of Flint is relying upon the Flint River temporarily until the pipeline from Lake Huron is completed, hopefully sometime in mid-2016. The lower organic content of Lake Huron water should significantly reduce the TTHM formation that occurs from disinfection of the Flint River, and TTHM levels should return to the levels experienced in Flint when they received Lake Huron water from the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department.

Richard Benzie, P.E., Chief

Field Operations Section
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, MDEQ
517-284-6512

From: Scherbarth, John (AG)
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: Flint Water Supply System

Richard

Who may I contact at DEQ to discuss the City of Flint water system which recently sent a notice to its citizens regarding an exceedance of TTHMs?

John C. Scherbarth
Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division
Michigan Department of Attorney General
P.O. Box 30755
Lansing, MI 48909

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