
From: Butler, Sonya (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Cc: Fitzner, Wendy (DEQ); Green, Kelly (DEQ)
Subject: FW: flint article

FYI

From: Marquardt, Steve [<mailto:marquardt.steve@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Butler, Sonya (DEQ)
Cc: Cossa, Laura; Baltazar, Debbie
Subject: flint article

FLINT, MI — Mayor Dayne Walling is asking Gov. Rick Snyder for \$30 million to upgrade Flint's water system, including \$10 million to remove lead service pipes and plumbing susceptible to leaching lead.

Walling, speaking to the City Council on Monday, Sept. 14, announced the request, made in a letter to the governor the same day.

"We need every available expert and resource to address Flint's water problems," Walling's letter says.

"Flint's safety is my top priority. Just as the city and state have worked together on public safety, we need additional support for fixing the water problems. We need \$30 million in new funds to repair and update the city-wide infrastructure and to assist households in becoming lead-free."

Walling's letter comes the day before a professor from Virginia Tech University is scheduled to speak at a town hall meeting in Flint about the results of a study of lead in the city's drinking water.

The meeting is from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, in Saints of God Church, 2200 Forest Hill Ave.

Researchers from Virginia Tech last week advised Flint residents not to drink or cook with tap water here without flushing lines before each use or using a filter to remove lead.

Virginia Tech students and faculty have posted the results of 252 water tests from Flint online, concluding the city has "a very serious lead-in-water problem."

Testing so far has shown 10 percent of the water samples from across the city have 25 parts per billion of lead or more — far more than the allowable level, 15 ppb, set in federal guidelines.

City and state officials have said they have not seen such high lead levels in their own tests of more than 150 homes in the city since April 2014.

Walling spoke about his letter to Snyder as part of a water presentation that included City Administrator Natasha Henderson and Department of Public Works Director Howard Croft.

Croft said the city has made important upgrades to its water treatment and transmission systems in the short time since it began using the Flint River as its water source in April 2014.

The DPW director said the city has a draft copy of a plan for making Flint water less corrosive and less likely to result in high amounts of lead in the water supply.

Walling has been successful in securing state money for Flint's water system previously.

In February, Snyder awarded Flint \$2 million to find leaks in city water lines and to replace a wastewater incinerator — moves officials said would free up money for improving the quality of city water.

Walling's request and remarks did not impress Flint Councilman Eric Mays, who left the council table and did not vote to endorse the mayor's letter to the governor.

The council voted 8-0, with Mays absent, to endorse the letter.

Mays called Walling's comments and letter "nothing more than a media show ... a horse and pony show."

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