
From: Sarah Cwiek <scwiek@umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 3:28 PM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: Re: Follow-up questions re: Flint water

Thanks, Dave. This is really truly helpful. I'll leave the more technical stuff with my colleagues who are covering this more closely for now, I was just wondering what basic facts remain in dispute at this point.

In terms of the responsibility question, I guess what I meant was that if we all agree that everyone needs access to safe, fresh water, and if Flint as a city simply can't afford to provide it...does the state then have a responsibility to step in and make that happen, one way or another?

On Mon, Sep 28, 2015 at 12:44 PM, Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Touch base with Angela Minicuci at the Department of Health and Human Services – [517-373-0860](tel:517-373-0860) – and she has information about state blood test results that are very different than the ones that were discussed in Flint last week. Angela is outstanding. Brand Wurfel of the Department of Environmental Quality is the expert on the water itself, and how and when additives can be added that can address various issues – such as corrosion control measures. There are federal laws that might come into play here. Brad is at [517-230-6713](tel:517-230-6713).

I'm not sure I understand your responsibility question.

Gov. Snyder believes all state residents to have access to clean, safe water. We continue to work with Flint city leaders

It's important to remember that the emergency manager had the final say on making the change, but did so at the strong urging of Flint city leaders. This was not a decision that was forced upon the city. Emergency managers often try to work closely with mayors and city councils, getting recommendations from the local communities they are serving. The decision to make the switch during the construction of the Karegnondi pipeline came after an 8-1 vote by the City Council and strong endorsement by the mayor and Genesee County leaders. The move also came after a series of upgrades to Flint's water treatment plant.

It's also important to remember that switching back to Detroit water will not necessarily have the effect that some expect. Flint has long-term challenges with its water infrastructure that need to be addressed.

The state and city also are following laws regarding testing and corrective measures added to water. When the City changed water sources in May 2014, state and federal law required the city to sample for lead and copper for a full year to determine how the water may be interacting with residential lead plumbing to increase lead levels. Flint is moving quickly to optimize corrosion control measures in its water system. Brad is the expert here and can give you details.

The governor and the state agencies have played a highly visible role in working with Flint city leaders with their infrastructure challenges -- and will continue to do so. We understand why people are frustrated, and also want to make sure people have accurate information and know where they can go if they have questions about their health and the water connections in their home. The health and safety of Flint residents is always the first priority, and that includes ensuring there is clean, safe drinking water -- especially for children.

The state so far has provided \$4.2 million in grants and restructured financing to help the city locate and fix some of the problems with its water infrastructure and add the carbon filtration system. Several state agencies continue to work with Flint leaders on their water challenges including through Mayor Walling's technical advisory board. That board includes outside experts and members will study data and offer recommendations.

The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services also are testing water and working with Flint residents on issues related to what they can do if they have concerns about the pipes in their homes.

Dave

From: Sarah Cwiek [mailto:scwiek@umich.edu]

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 12:28 PM

To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV) <Wurfels@michigan.gov>; Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov>

Subject: Follow-up questions re: Flint water

Hi Sara and Dave,

I asked the Governor some questions about this in the Detroit scrum this morning. He told me everybody is still working on it, no specifics, waiting on "getting all the facts," but something should be announced this week.

I do understand that, but it does raise a couple of other questions in the meantime:

--What "facts" are you still trying to get? What, specifically, is the factual dispute here at this point?

--Even if we don't have specifics yet, how much responsibility do the Governor and state ultimately bear for fixing the whole problem? Especially since the city had an EM when the water switch was made?

Thanks so much,

Sarah

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