
From: Kyle Feldscher <kfeldscher@washingtonexaminer.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: Re: Flint water background

Hey Dave, thanks for this - unfortunately didn't see it until morning. I'll be sure to use it in future stories.

Here's the story from today: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-wont-help-flint-during-water-crisis/article/2573554>

-Kyle

On Tue, Oct 6, 2015 at 11:25 PM, Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov> wrote:

Kyle,

Here's some additional information. I do expect some additional developments this week.

Gov. Snyder believes all state residents to have access to clean, safe water. 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.

Last week the state unveiled a comprehensive action plan that builds upon existing state efforts to work with Flint leaders on their infrastructure needs. That included spending \$1 million on faucet filters for every city resident, an effort that also includes assistance from non-profit and corporate donors. The state also 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. The DEQ last week started testing every public school in the city and offers testing to private and parochial schools as well.

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.

Decisions about changes to the water system were not 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 to 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.

Dave Murray

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