

From: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Wurfel, Brad \(DEQ\)](#); [Copen, Leigh \(DEQ\)](#); [Shekter-Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#); [Bloemker, Jon \(DEQ\)](#); [Willard, Veronica \(DEQ\)](#)
Cc: [Prysby, Mike \(DEQ\)](#); [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Media Inquiry - Flint WTP Engineering
Date: Monday, July 08, 2013 11:20:03 AM

I received a call this morning (July 8) from Dominic Adams, Flint Journal/MLive. I called him back with Mike Prysby, District Engineer sitting in on the call.

Mr. Adams had obtained information that the City of Flint was contracting some engineering work for the Flint WTP, and the work was in part to potentially use the Flint River as a primary drinking water source.

I informed Mr. Adams that the City of Flint receives treated water from DWSD and has been since the 1960's, but has had the WTP available for reliability should the single transmission line system from DWSD fail. In an emergency the Flint WTP is already approved to use the Flint River for source water and is designed to meet all drinking water standards and public health requirements.

I also informed Mr. Adams that the engineering work in question would be to primarily enhance treatment capabilities beyond minimum requirements for the purpose of softening to provide customers with water quality consistent with what they already receive from DWSD. Some equipment for softening is already in place, but under emergency operation would not normally be used due to the time required for startup and fine tuning.

Mr. Adams asked whether the DEQ has approved or signed off on the proposed engineering work and on allowing the City of Flint to use the River as its source water. I explained that the ODWMA has not received a construction permit application for such work at this time, and that one would be required. I also indicated to Mr. Adams, that regardless of the source water, the City of Flint would be required to meet all applicable Drinking Water Standards and public health requirements and again that the WTP is already approved as a redundant supply to use the Flint River as a source water meeting all drinking water standards and that the WTP undergoes test runs on a quarterly basis to maintain the WTP.

Mr. Adams asked for more specifics regarding the treatment process and I explained that the removal of hardness for aesthetic water quality at this WTP is called lime softening.

Mr. Adams also inquired about the City being able to use the Flint River after the contract with DWSD terminates, and I indicated that may be one option, but they could also continue to purchase treated water from DWSD.

In Mr. Adams voicemail he mentioned a variance to use the Flint River, and I reiterated that there is no "Variance", but that the WTP has been constructed and approved to treat water from the Flint River to appropriate standards as needed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Stephen Busch, P.E.
Lansing and Jackson District Supervisor
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
MDEQ
517-643-2314