

From: [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Poy, Thomas](#); Crooks.Jennifer@epa.gov
Subject: RE:
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 3:48:39 PM

My 1 year stint as Acting Chief of Field Operations ended on September 27th, so it's just Chief of the Community Drinking Water Unit again. Liane is planning to fill the FOS Chief position on a permanent basis and has not appointed another person as Acting Chief because she was hoping to have it filled sometime in October.

As for Flint, Steve Busch, Mike Prysby and I met with Dan Wyant and staff last week and then drafted a briefing paper for the Governor to inform him about the issues the city is facing since they began relying on the Flint River. I believe the briefing was sent to the Governor yesterday or the day before, and today I see that another meeting with the Director is scheduled for Monday afternoon. Steve tells me this meeting is to answer questions from the Governor's staff. I'll be on my way to Chicago, but Steve and Mike are more than capable of handling this meeting.

In our briefing, we basically explained that the bacteriological problem Flint is experiencing is unlikely the result of the change in sources, given the efficacy of the treatment plant demonstrated by their plant tap monitoring, the presence of a significant chlorine residual in the plant tap, and the fact that the problem has not been system wide but confined to a specific segment of the service area. We also explained other possible sources, such as the fact that the positive results have been from an area of the city's pipe network that consists primarily of deteriorated, 75+ year old, unlined, cast iron pipe with tuberculation in an area where demands have decreased significantly, leading to stagnation and diminished chlorine residuals, all conditions favorable for biofilms. This area has also seen some reversal in flows due to changing demand patterns and the activity of some contractors performing "blight removal" work in Flint, causing long-settled sediment and debris to be re-suspended. And of course, there is always the potential for backflow from cross connections and/or infiltration through leaks and breaks, which last winter probably accelerated significantly. We also pointed out that these BWAs are not that unusual or that unique.

We also mentioned the next issue that is going to arise in Flint - the DBPs.

From: Poy, Thomas [poy.thomas@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2014 2:45 PM
To: joleen.wagner-felkey@va.gov
Cc: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Crooks, Jennifer; Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject:

Dear Ms. Wagner-Felkey:

I am responding to your inquiry about getting a contact for Flint drinking water quality. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality implements the Drinking Water Program in the State of Michigan and works directly with Flint. You can contact Richard Benzie, Acting Chief of MDEQ's Field Operations Section at 517-284-6512 or Steve Busch, MDEQ District Supervisor at 517-643-23-14.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
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