

From: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#)
Cc: [Cook, Pat \(DEQ\)](#); [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: RE: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint
Date: Thursday, July 09, 2015 9:40:43 AM

Not sure whether Steve responded, but he received a "nevermind" from Karen Tommasulo shortly after receiving the first e-mail. So no, he didn't call him back.

Liane J. Shekter Smith, P.E., Chief
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-284-6543

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 7:54 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Cc: Cook, Pat (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: Re: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint

Did you call him back?

We should ask Miguel if he told this individual or anyone else that Flint should be adding corrosion control by law.

I can't believe he would do so when he knows the city first has an opportunity to demonstrate they are already providing optimal corrosion control. If they then learn they are not doing so, they have several years to evaluate options, select one and install it.

They are not required by law to be adding corrosion control until they complete this systematic approach they are currently undertaking. Miguel knows this fact.

Sent using OWA for iPhone

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2015 2:53:57 PM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Monosmith, Carrie (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint

See the note below regarding the "report" from Miguel at Region 5.

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

From: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 2:48 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint

Hi Steve,

Fun one for you. This guy is asking some complicated questions about how we sample in Flint – see all the details below. Just be aware he writes a blog for the ACLU, so it's not traditional media. He's hoping to get a call back today still, if you're free.

From: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint

I got a weird call from a "reporter" with the ACLU asking about Flint drinking water. His name is Curt Guyette.

He said he heard from someone at EPA that we use a "flawed methodology" to collect our water samples. We apparently tell people to flush the water from their pipes, let it sit overnight, and then take the sample in the morning. He claims this doesn't measure what's in the main pipes, only in the pipes leading directly to their house. Consequently, he claims, we vastly underestimate lead. Apparently the EPA and Virginia Tech sampled a house using a different methodology and found 13,000 ppb lead.

Additionally, he claimed Flint is not adding corrosion control to their water, and said a city of their size should be doing so by law. But apparently we told Flint they didn't have to.

I didn't offer any comment, just took the message from him.

586-925-0493

Karen Tommasulo
Public Information Officer
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-284-6716 | 517-599-5733
tommasulok@michigan.gov