

From: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Crooks, Jennifer](#)
Cc: [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#); [Poy, Thomas](#); [Prysby, Mike \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Re: question on Flint
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 12:23:33 PM

Mike got a copy of the rate schedule last week. We figured around 7500 gallon per month usage on a 5/8 th inch meter was around \$100 per month.

We can get you the full info tomorrow

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

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 13, 2015, at 11:50 AM, Crooks, Jennifer <crooks.jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

I just talked with Tom Poy, and he heard on one of the news lines up there that the Emergency Manager is planning to hire a consultant for the drinking water supply.

Yes, I think some people would definitely take their Internet and cellphone service over water anytime, but then complain to us—like what we saw happening in Detroit!

Jen

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ) [<mailto:BENZIER@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 9:44 AM
To: Crooks, Jennifer
Cc: Poy, Thomas; Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: RE: question on Flint

Those bills seem high even if it includes sewerage. Do you know if it does include wastewater? If it does, be sure to point that out – that it is a combined bill that reflects both utilities, not just the cost of drinking water. But those bills sound almost as high as what most of those customers are probably paying for their internet and cellphone service or even their cable bills! I wonder which one they think is more essential.

I believe there have been some significant wastewater treatment plant projects in the Genesee County system in recent years, so maybe a significant component of any increase is also on the wastewater side.

Richard

From: Crooks, Jennifer [<mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 10:33 AM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: question

Thanks for the update, Richard. The numerous people I talk to from Flint say their water bills are between \$175-\$200/month. Would DWSD have raised their rates that high? (Don't answer that; just pure conjecture ☺) I talked with a woman yesterday, whose pediatrician swears there has been an increase in kidney stones in his patients since April. I told her to have the pediatrician contact CDC in Atlanta. (I prepared a briefing this summer for ATSDR/CDC about the physical ailments people were complaining about to me, but without any expert or documentation, they didn't pick it up.) Talked to another man yesterday that's mounting a campaign to stop paying their water bills, and wants to organize against the City. And on it goes...

Jen

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ) [<mailto:BENZIER@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Crooks, Jennifer
Subject: RE: question

Still going on – even some council members talking about going back to Detroit at least until the KWA pipeline is available sometime in 2016. I don't know that the newspapers or media are advocating for one side or the other in this issue, but covering those individuals who are keeps the flames flickering.

I can't say the city wouldn't be better off to not have switched to the River, but I believe Flint was sure that DWSD was going to raise water rates significantly after the contract expired (by decree of DWSD) in order to recoup lost bonding costs or something similar. Flint did not want to be subjected to rates without any contractual controls.

From: Crooks, Jennifer [<mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 4:57 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: question

Richard—Last week when we were on the call with Jason, Wendy, and Tom Poleck, you made a passing comment about the newspaper getting into the stories about Flint drinking water, maybe elevating the issue in the public to fire them up? Perhaps talk of going back to Detroit water?

Jen