

Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ)

From: Crooks, Jennifer <crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Cc: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: Controlled Correspondence from citizen in Flint
Attachments: Flint Michigan Control 2 Feb 2015.docx

Importance: High

Hi, Steve. As we discussed, I've drafted our response and included information you gave us on Monday. Tom Poy has reviewed, so this is our final draft. If you could get back to me this afternoon with any changes, I'd appreciate it. These things are like ticking time bombs around here.

Thank you!

Jennifer

Mrs. Stephanie Pumfrey
4071 Mitchell Drive
Flint, Michigan 48506

Dear Mrs. Pumfrey:

Thank you for your January 9, 2015 email to President Obama concerning the quality of the drinking water in the City of Flint, Michigan. Your email was forwarded to me for a response, since the City of Flint's municipal water supply is located within the geographical boundaries of the Region 5 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

To summarize the background of your concerns with the City of Flint's drinking water, the source of drinking water for the City of Flint was changed from Detroit (which comes from Lake Huron) to the Flint River at the end of April 2014. The quality of the water in the Flint River is different than that from Lake Huron; and requires additional treatment to ensure an acceptable quality drinking water. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has been working closely with the Operator-in-Charge at the City of Flint's Water Treatment plant to ensure that the citizens of Flint are provided drinking water that meets health standards. As you stated in your letter, the use of Flint River water as a source for your drinking water is an interim source; the City of Flint plans to connect to the Karegnondi pipeline, which will draw water from Lake Huron, in 2016.

My staff contacted the MDEQ Supervising District Engineer, Steve Busch, to discuss the City of Flint's drinking water issues. Mr. Busch is aware of the multiple complaints from citizens; he and his staff are working closely with the City of Flint's Water Department to ensure the distribution system and the water treatment processes work more efficiently and more effectively. The most recent laboratory analyses obtained from MDEQ of the City of Flint's drinking water indicate that almost all regulated contaminants meet State and Federal health standards, as required under the Federal and Michigan Safe Drinking Water Acts. It is true that the City of Flint exceeded the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for *E. coli* in August 2014, for total coliform bacteria in September 2014, and total trihalomethanes (TTHM) in the fourth quarter of 2014. The City of Flint conducted the proper follow-up to these violations as required by Federal and State regulations. The City of Flint has returned to compliance the two bacteria MCL violations that occurred in August and September 2014.

The TTHM violation is based upon the average of data from four quarters for each sampling location. The initial monitoring in early summer reported significantly elevated levels of TTHM compounds throughout the City's distribution system. The MDEQ's Lansing District office advised the City that it needed to immediately implement operational techniques at the drinking water treatment plant and in the distribution system to reduce the formation of TTHM compounds. The City of Flint's actions have reduced TTHM concentrations to the point where the most recent results at seven of the eight sample locations are below the drinking water health standard. Even though the current results for TTHMs meet standards, the TTHM health standard is based on the average of four quarters of data. Because of the earlier high values, it is likely to be another three to six months before the average at each sample location will meet the TTHM health standard. Until then, the City must continue to provide quarterly public notification, as it