

Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ)

From: Mike Wright <jmikewright@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Howard Croft; Brent Wright; Daugherty Johnson; Dayne Walling; donna.cole; gdn2@aol.com; James Henry; JoAnne Herman; John O'Brien; Kirk Smith; larry.koehler@mcc.edu; Laura Sullivan; Michael Glasgow; Mike Lane; Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Natasha Henderson; Norb Birchmeier; Pete Levine; Robert Nicholas; rosejo@msu.edu; Russell Hudson; Samir Matta; Warren Green; Elizabeth Murphy; Robert Bincsik; Robert Case; Jason Lorenz; Kelly Rossman-McKinney; Sharon Emery; Gerald Ambrose; Mike Wright
Subject: Re: HC Letter & FAQ's

Howard:

Thank you for sending these along, but I am just now seeing these documents (please add my work email to the list as well; wright.michael@epa.gov). I think they are largely fine, but do note some concerns below and additional suggestions.

Please also note that Susanne Cupal and colleagues were working on a TTHM Fact Sheet, that is much improved over the first iteration I saw.

Mike

FAQ Comments

Is it currently safe to drink City of Flint water?

I realize why this sentence was inserted ("The water today is comparable to Detroit's in safety and quality"), but am concerned that when THM levels exceed Detroit levels in the future, you'll be fielding questions as to why (even if THM levels are below the MCL.).

Where is the City of Flint in addressing the water situation?

Similarly for this sentence ["The amount of TTHM in the water has decreased consistently in the last year and is currently at a safe level".], if you have a future exceedance of the MCL, you'll be faced with questions as to why are you distributing unsafe water (if you are basing this "safe" descriptor on the MCL level).

Will trihalomethanes make people sick?

Still unclear why the immunocompromised language is in here re: THMs, unless there are "residual" microbial risk issues/concerns?

I'd reword this ("Trihalomethanes are more likely to cause effects when inhaled") to this: People are more likely exposed to trihalomethanes when they are inhaled, compared to ingestion.

Discolored Water

Apart from main breaks, I assume the discoloration is primarily related to preventative measures/routine maintenance (flushing, flow changes, etc). Can't you elaborate on this to show you are being responsive to other needs?

Seems like more messaging may be needed on what is being released in discolored water incidents. Presumably it's mainly iron for old cast iron pipes; so, seem like you could alleviate safety concerns by noting this.

Why isn't there a question somewhere on "What should I do if I have discolored water?" along with recommendations provided (running water for a few minutes, etc)...

Edits:

Add the date of this FAQ sheet, since repeatedly says "currently" or drop currently altogether.

Reword: may periodically experience harmless...

Mayoral Letter

As noted in previous emails, above, and during the meeting, the immunocompromised warning is specific to microbial contamination risks, and has nothing to do with THMs (to my knowledge). If it's mandatory language because of the coliform hit, then it should be clearly stated that, these groups should contact physicians *if concerned about microbes in the water*. They can correct me if I am wrong, but I think part of the issue that clinicians (and health Dep't folks) are having is that this mixed messaging is confusing for clinicians and citizens. These documents discuss different contaminant groups (DBPs vs Microbes) which have different susceptible populations and exposure reduction recommendations.

Calling out chloride seems out of context, unusual and unclear. This might raise additional concerns without more information.

Edits:

I'd say annual running average (based on quarterly testing) vs annual quarterly...

Please let me know if any of this is unclear.

Thank you,

Mike Wright

On Thursday, March 19, 2015 9:08 AM, Howard Croft wrote:

Technical Team Members,

Attached please find the final copy of a letter to the health community along with a Frequently Asked Question list.

These documents are ready for distribution among your peers and others. We anticipate mailing out the actual violation notice at the beginning of next week.

I will email everyone on this list when we determine a date for the next Technical Committee Meeting.

Thank you,

--

Howard Croft

Public Works Director

City of Flint

1101 S. Saginaw Street

Flint, MI 48502

PH# 810.766.7135 Ext.2043

hcroft@cityofflint.com