

From: [Wurfel, Brad \(DEQ\)](#)  
To: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#); [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#); [Prysby, Mike \(DEQ\)](#); [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#)  
Cc: [Datema, Maggie \(DEQ\)](#); [Howes, Sarah \(DEQ\)](#); [Sygo, Jim \(DEQ\)](#)  
Subject: RE: Flint Mayor request to Governor regarding Flint Water  
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:30:27 AM

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PERFECT message, Liane. Has anyone got a copy of the letter?

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From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:26 AM  
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)  
Cc: Datema, Maggie (DEQ); Howes, Sarah (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ)  
Subject: RE: Flint Mayor request to Governor regarding Flint Water

In light of the Mayor's letter, this could be quite uncomfortable for us tonight.

Our position has always been that we do not dictate which acceptable option(s) a water supply may choose. Our responsibility is to see that operations are managed properly, regulations are met, and safe water is delivered. For example, when Flint decided to leave Detroit and operate using the River, our role wasn't to tell them our opinion; only what steps would be necessary to make the switch.

Now that there is a violation of a drinking water standard, we have been treating Flint as we would any other supply. It is up to them to propose a solution/corrective action. Our role is to determine the reasonableness of that proposal. One option available to them is to continue to use the river until the KWA source is available as long as they implement operational changes to mitigate the formation of DBPs. Another acceptable option is to return to Detroit (GLWA) until the KWA source is available. And third option could certainly be returning to GLWA permanently.

The Mayor is saying that since there is an EM, the state (Governor) has responsibility for decisions being made (not our position). It will be very important for DEQ staff to limit our discussion to our role under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Hopefully, the EM will be prepared to respond if and when the conversation veers off into this other arena.

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

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From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 8:41 AM  
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)

**Cc:** Datema, Maggie (DEQ); Howes, Sarah (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Flint Mayor request to Governor regarding Flint Water

FYI. Please see the link below. The mayor of Flint has requested the state provide assistance through a number of specific initiatives.

[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/01/flint\\_mayor\\_asks\\_governor\\_for.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/01/flint_mayor_asks_governor_for.html)

As we are scheduled to participate in the meeting in Flint this evening please let me know if we need to further discuss these requests.

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