

From: [Crooks, Jennifer](#)
 To: [Benzie, Richard \(DEQ\)](#)
 Cc: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
 Subject: RE: question on haz waste
 Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 4:47:37 PM

Thank you, Richard. I now realize that I jumped the gun on looking into hazardous discharges—the author of this controlled correspondence didn't specifically ask about that, so I'm not responding to it. Sorry I didn't realize it sooner, before I asked the question.

Jen

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ) [mailto:BENZIER@michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Crooks, Jennifer
Cc: shekterl@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: question on haz waste

I'm not the right person to answer. There is a Hazardous Waste Program in the Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection, and there is a Spills Prevention Program in the Water Resources Division, and there is a Pollution Emergency Alert System (PEAS) that is jointly operated by DNR and DEQ, but I am not sure which of these programs would be involved in the response and notification. It probably depends upon how it was discovered and who reports it. If it is through PEAS, they will notify the appropriate district contact for drinking water and keep trying until they get someone to answer the phone.

Liane may know better having worked in a number of programs.

From: Crooks, Jennifer [mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov]
 Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 3:17 PM
 To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
 Subject: RE: question on haz waste

Richard—If there is a hazardous waste spill, the responsible party notifies MDEQ's Emergency Response, or is it Region 5's Emergency Response, as with the oil spill in Marshall? You all in drinking water would also be notified, right? You're not aware of any hazardous waste spills in the Flint area?

Jen

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ) [mailto:BENZIER@michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 12:57 PM
To: Crooks, Jennifer; Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: question on flushing/water rates in MI

There currently is no regulatory oversight of rates in Michigan.

But be careful about saying residents aren't paying for water used for flushing – as the overall costs of operating the water system have to be reflected in the revenue stream somewhere. The rates

probably reflect the cost of producing “lost” water, just not in an accountable manner. If you say they are paying for it (even directly), it may still generate a negative reaction if they realize the costs are “hidden” and being borne by all customers.

From: Crooks, Jennifer [<mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 12:12 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: question on flushing/water rates in MI

Richard—I have a couple of questions for you regarding the citizen complaint on Flint, that I’m responding to.

Regarding the water rates part of this email, “Flint river. runs right through the city of flint. they have been opening the hydrants and letting water pour out of them to “purge” the system, then charging consumers double for their mistake”

I was going to remind the citizen that they are only charged based upon what the water meter reads at individual connection (home). The citizens aren’t directly paying for what is being flushed. I was going to say that the flushing program removes stagnant water in the system, which can increase levels of trihalomethanes and increase bacteria growth, among other activities.

Also, who regulates water rates in Michigan? I don’t think MI has a rate commission, right? Any oversight on individual water supply rates?

Jennifer

From: Crooks, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 8:22 AM
To: Richard Benzie; Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FYI: (CWA - FY15-124819-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Michigan

Forgot to cc you all. Jen

From: Crooks, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 8:09 AM
To: Dee, Rhiannon
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: (CWA - FY15-124819-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Michigan

Rhiannon—Let me tell you, this Flint situation is a nasty issue—I’ve had people call me 4 letter words over the phone, yell at me, and call me a crook—yes, the last one was a play on my last name—I didn’t think it was funny, though I’m developing a thick skin 😊.

I can respond to the Flint drinking water issue, and the water rate issue, and refer them back to the State if they have further questions. But I cannot respond to the sewerage dump (who receives the report when there is a sewer overflow?) or the chemical—though Richard is probably right—the ‘toxic chemical’ is probably chlorine—and that’s what I’ll say in my response. One citizen was