

Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ)

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 1:42 PM
To: prysbym@michigan.gov
Subject: FW: Flint Mayor request to Governor regarding Flint Water
Attachments: Flint Mayor Letter to Governor.pdf

See attached letter.

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

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (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

Copy attached.

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

From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:41 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (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

First I heard about the letter was on NPR this morning.

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:39 AM
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

Ooops. Thanks.

Need a copy of the letter if we have it. Want to make sure the Governor's office knows to send calls about this to us, and give them a quick briefing on the situation.

Thanks.

b

From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:37 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Cc: Datema, Maggie (DEQ); Howes, Sarah (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
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That is the first option listed.

Changes made to date have reduced the formation of DBPs; but because of the way the standard is calculated the violation is anticipated to remain until at least late summer. However, it is difficult to predict whether the operational changes will be effective enough to address seasonal water quality changes that occur during the summer. It is possible to have a spike in August that could cause the city additional problems. But for now, all indications are that DBP levels in the distribution system are within an acceptable range.

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 10:31 AM
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

Would a third option be to make adjustments to the plant that address the current water supply effectively?

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