

From: [Prysby, Mike \(DEQ\)](#)
To: rfelton@metrotimes.com
Cc: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#); [Wurfel, Brad \(DEQ\)](#); [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Flint Water Discoloration
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 4:44:37 PM

Ryan,

I was forwarded your inquiry concerning the potential cause(s) of the water discoloration in the College Cultural and downtown areas of Flint. Upon further discussion with water treatment plant staff, the discoloration appears to have been caused by un-authorized drafting of water from fire hydrants in these areas for street sweeping activities. This issue was discussed with the city and the department of public works and this method of obtaining water for street sweeping will be discontinued. Any future activities that involve drafting of water are to be coordinated with the Water Service Center and the drafting will occur at specified locations. Also, the presence of cast-iron water mains in or near these areas can also cause discoloration, especially under high flow conditions (main breaks, flushing, and un-authorized hydrant use) as this stirs up accumulated sediment and rust (typically associated with old cast-iron mains). If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number provided below.

Michael Prysby, P.E.
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Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
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