

From: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: FW: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint
Date: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 3:01:36 PM
Importance: High

See Karen's note below.

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

From: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 2:58 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint
Importance: High

Nope, take it back . Don't do this one. We're going to let this guy go – don't call him.

From: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 2:48 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint

Hi Steve,

Fun one for you. This guy is asking some complicated questions about how we sample in Flint – see all the details below. Just be aware he writes a blog for the ACLU, so it's not traditional media. He's hoping to get a call back today still, if you're free.

From: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Call from ACLU reporter about Flint

I got a weird call from a "reporter" with the ACLU asking about Flint drinking water. His name is Curt Guyette.

He said he heard from someone at EPA that we use a "flawed methodology" to collect our water samples. We apparently tell people to flush the water from their pipes, let it sit overnight, and then take the sample in the morning. He claims this doesn't measure what's in the main pipes, only in the pipes leading directly to their house. Consequently, he claims, we vastly underestimate lead. Apparently the EPA and Virginia Tech sampled a house using a different methodology and found 13,000 ppb lead.

Additionally, he claimed Flint is not adding corrosion control to their water, and said a city of their size should be doing so by law. But apparently we told Flint they didn't have to.

I didn't offer any comment, just took the message from him.

586-925-0493

Karen Tommasulo
Public Information Officer
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-284-6716 | 517-599-5733
tommasulok@michigan.gov