

Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ)

From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:36 AM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: Flint resident letter
Attachments: Resp Ltr to resident.doc

Steve,

Attached is the letter to Ms. Warner that summarizes my call...routed to us from DCH ...since Ms. Warner contacted them first. I tried to attach the boiler plate opening and closing paragraphs that Joanne provided me; however, my link to the scanned documents won't connect. If you need to look at the boiler plate paragraphs, I can have Joanne email it to you. I will also forward you (in a separate e-mail) the original assignment from Veronica that shows the e-mail thread beginning with DHC...to verify that all the appropriate staff are being copied.

Michael Prysby, P.E.
District Engineer
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
517 290-8817



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING DISTRICT OFFICE



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

January 14, 2015

Ms. Patty Warner
2721 Coventry Court
Flint, Michigan 48503

Dear Ms. Warner:

SUBJECT: City of Flint – Water System, Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Violation

Thank you for your e-mail of January 6, 2015, to Ms. Nancy Grijalva in the Director's Office of the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH). Your e-mail was referred from DCH to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance (ODWMA) for response.

District staff from the ODWMA contacted you on January 9, 2015 to address your concerns regarding the TTHM MCL violation of Flint's drinking water. The main concerns discussed included unacceptable quality of the drinking water at a high cost to Flint residents and the perceived delay in notifying residents of the TTHM MCL violation. Some of the factors contributing to the formation of TTHMs in the water distribution system were also discussed.

District Staff explained the need to complete capital improvements at the water treatment plant in order to treat water from the Flint River and to be ready for operation when water from Lake Huron via the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) becomes available. Also, the cost of committing to KWA and the infrastructure being installed are the main factors likely contributing to increased water rates. Staff stressed; however, that the city is responsible to inform their residents, in more detail, as to how the most recent water rates were established as a result of the expenditures made to proceed with the work described above.

District Staff also explained how the city's water distribution system storage reservoirs were kept full, with minimal cycling, while purchasing water from Detroit. This method of operation provided the city with several days of emergency storage in the event of an interruption of water service from Detroit (source via single pipeline). Although excess storage benefited the city while purchasing water from Detroit without causing additional TTHM formation, stagnant conditions within the reservoirs contributed to additional TTHMs after the city switched to the Flint River. The city has since changed their operating methodology of these reservoirs which has alleviated the stagnation.