

From: [Shekter Smith, Liane \(DEQ\)](#)  
 To: [Dykema, Linda D. \(DCH\)](#)  
 Cc: [Busch, Stephen \(DEQ\)](#)  
 Subject: RE: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap  
 Date: Thursday, July 23, 2015 11:46:00 AM

---

Thanks Linda.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dykema, Linda D. (DCH)  
 Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 11:00 AM  
 To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)  
 Subject: FW: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

FYI - Mark Johnson is the ATSDR senior regional rep in the Chicago office. I've told him that my staff are not planning a public health assessment, but I thought you should know about this interest at the national level.

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Mark [<mailto:johnson.mark@epa.gov>]  
 Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:48 AM  
 To: Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Groetsch, Kory J. (DCH); Gray, Jennifer (DCH); Quiggle, Lisa (DCH); Manente, Susan (DCH)  
 Subject: RE: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

Linda

Thanks for the additional information. As a follow-up to my earlier message, the National Science Foundation is apparently arranging funding to several investigators to evaluate the engineering aspects of the Flint water system to find a solution. Although Flint has initiated plans to construct a water line that will tap into Lake Huron as their water source, they may still have issues with their aging water distribution system.

NIEHS wanted to know if ATSDR, MDHHS, or Flint Health Dept is planning to evaluate the public health implications of the problems in the water system. As you know, NCEH has both a Safe Water Program and a Lead Program that could possibly be involved, but only at the request of the state. If the elevated lead exposure is limited to just this one residence that has since been remediated, then federal involvement would not seem to be appropriate. Let me know if there is something more to evaluate.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Dykema, Linda D. (DCH) [<mailto:DykemaL@michigan.gov>]  
 Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 9:10 AM  
 To: Johnson, Mark; Groetsch, Kory J. (DCH); Gray, Jennifer (DCH); Quiggle, Lisa (DCH); Manente, Susan (DCH)  
 Subject: FW: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

FYI - our Director's office asked for information, so I called DEQ for the scoop.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dykema, Linda D. (DCH)  
 Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:07 AM  
 To: Miller, Corinne (DCH); Peeler, Nancy (DCH); Anderson, Paula (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH); Grijalva, Nancy (DCH); Moran, Susan (DCH)  
 Cc: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Bouters, Janese (DCH); Barr, Jacqui (DCH); Fink, Brenda (DCH); Groetsch, Kory J.

(DCH)

Subject: RE: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

I spoke with Steve Busch, Lansing District Office manager, DEQ Office of Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance.

The city of Flint recently conducted drinking water testing throughout the city with special attention to those areas known to have old service lines. The city water supply is in compliance with the lead rule, which means that 90% of the water samples were less than the lead action level of 15 ppb. DEQ will, however, recommend that Flint further "optimize" their corrosion control methods. The DEQ has not seen a change in the city's compliance with the lead rule since switching to the Flint River source.

Some water samples had lead levels above 15 ppb. Homeowners receive their sampling results and those with elevated levels are provided with information regarding how to minimize their exposure, including replacement of water supply lines. The city pays for line replacement from the main to the property boundary. The property owner is responsible for some portion of the cost if the line replaced is on their property. To Steve's knowledge, there is no program in Flint to assist homeowners with limited financial means.

Regarding the home with high drinking water lead levels: some years ago the supply line that serves the neighborhood was replaced, but somehow this house was not connected to the new line, such that the family's drinking water supply was coming from the old corroded lead pipe. None of the neighbors water had elevated lead levels, which was likely why she was temporarily connected by garden hose to a tap supplied by the new line. She has since been permanently connected to the new line.

Regarding the EPA drinking water official quoted in the press articles: the report that he issued was a result of his own research and was not reviewed or approved by EPA management. He has essentially acted outside his authority.