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Subject: Draft Briefing to Governor
Attachments: Flint Briefing - Draft 9-30-2015.dotx.docx
Importance: High

Attached is the draft briefing memo for the Governor. We did our best to keep it to one page, but let us know if you have other content needs.

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Meeting/ Policy Briefing Template

Policy or Meeting Topic

City of Flint and Lead Concerns in Customer Tap Water

Staff Lead

Purpose of Meeting/ Policy Paper

Decision Points

Recommendation

Key Stakeholders Positions

EO:

Dept:

Legislature:

Outside Interest:

Current Press/ Communications

Executive Summary

Background/ Attachments

Lead can pose health risks to anyone, but there are heightened risks for pregnant women, infants, and children. Lead in drinking water is regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. As there is no safe level of exposure to lead, EPA has established a non-enforceable goal of zero for lead concentrations in drinking water. For most contaminants, EPA sets an enforceable regulation, a maximum contaminant level (MCL), based on this goal. However for lead, EPA instead established a treatment technique rather than an MCL because the source of lead contamination in drinking water is most often a result from corrosion of plumbing materials belonging to water system customers and not under the ownership or control of the public water system.

This is also the case in the City of Flint. Water from the City of Flint Water Treatment Plant using the Flint River has been analyzed and shown to contain no detectable level of lead. However, in a 2011 EPA survey, the City of Flint reported that approximately 18,000 out of 33,000 total active service connections used lead service line materials. As more than half of the City's 550 miles of water mains are more than 75 years old, the use of lead material in service connections was common at that time. The City owns a small portion of each service connection from the public water main to a curb stop valve at the edge of the Right-of-Way. The remaining portion is owned by, and the responsibility of each individual water customer.

Therefore, the treatment technique regulation for lead, the Lead and Copper rule (LCR), requires water systems to control the corrosivity of their water. The regulation also requires systems to collect tap samples from sites served by the system that are more likely to have plumbing materials containing lead. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the lead action level (AL) of 15 parts per billion (ppb), then water systems are required to take additional actions which can include:

- Taking further steps to optimize their corrosion control treatment (for water systems serving 50,000 people that have not fully optimized their corrosion control).