

Rennaker, Joanne (DEQ)

From: The Office of Senator Ananich <SenJAnanich@senate.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:46 PM
Subject: Letter Requesting EPA Review of Flint, MI Water
Attachments: 2015.10.21 EPA Review Request FINAL.PDF

Administrator McCarthy and Regional Director Hedman,

Please see the attached letter regarding a request for an EPA review of Flint, Michigan's water treatment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The Office of State Senator Jim Ananich
Michigan Senate Minority Leader
District 27

SENATE MINORITY LEADER
JIM ANANICH

☎ 517.373.0412
 ✉ jeanjananich@senate.michigan.gov
 🌐 senatedems.com/ananich

📘 /jimananich 📺 @jimananich

October 21, 2015

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
 United States Environmental Protection Agency
 Ariel Rios Building
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Mail Code 6106A
 Washington, DC 20460

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator
 United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
 Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
 77 West Jackson Boulevard
 Chicago, IL 60604

Re: EPA Review Needed on Flint, Michigan Water Treatment

Administrator McCarthy and Regional Director Hedman,

Today Congressman Dan Kildee requested that the United States Environmental Protection Agency conduct an investigation into the water system in Flint, Michigan. I agree that such an investigation is vital to ensuring that the people responsible for Flint's dangerous water quality are held accountable. Similar to Congressman Kildee's request, I am requesting the EPA conduct a review of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) oversight of water treatment in Flint as provided for in the Lead and Copper Rule, 40 CFR Sec. 141.80.

After decades of relying on water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), Flint began treating its own water from the Flint River in April 2014 at the behest of state-appointed Emergency Managers. DWSD had used — and continues to use — anti-corrosion treatments in its water to prevent lead leaching from an aging infrastructure into residents' drinking water. For a number of reasons, raw water from the Flint River is significantly more corrosive than the lake water that DWSD uses. Despite this, Flint chose not to treat the raw Flint River water by any method traditionally associated with preventing lead corrosion. Multiple consultants and the EPA advised the city to use additional corrosion control measures, but that advice went unheeded by the City of Flint and the MDEQ.

Foreseeably, lead has been seeping into Flint's drinking water for more than a year, causing an alarming rise in the number of children in Flint with elevated blood lead levels. Independent research conducted by Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards indicated high lead levels in tap water, and a study led by Hurley Medical Center pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha revealed that in high-risk areas of the city, the rate of lead overexposure among children more than doubled since switching water sources. State data have confirmed these results.

Additionally, several questions remain regarding how Flint and state officials conducted water sampling under the Lead and Copper Rule. Allegedly, officials did not target samples in high-risk Tier 1 locations or repeat locations in subsequent tests. Consumers were also instructed to pre-flush their taps prior to collecting samples, resulting in lower lead level results. It is unclear whether a sufficient number of samples were taken or why MDEQ excluded two high lead level samples from Flint's July 2015 water quality report.

