
From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Rosenthal, Adam (DEQ)
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE: Water Advisory Update
Attachments: Water Advisory 8.18.2014.pdf

Here is a copy of the most recent press release from the city concerning the BWA. Although the statement is accurate in that no additional Fecal Coliform sample results were obtained from the affected area; the remaining portion of the first paragraph is poorly worded and doesn't portray the reason for issuing the BWA. The statement defers to an "abnormal test" due to sampling error over the most recent 48 hours as the trigger for the BWA. This is false as the BWA was in effect for over 72 hours at the time of the press release and was issued because of the fecal coliform result and the number of total coliform results obtained from the affected area between the 12th and the 14th. Also, while sampling error could be possible...other potential causes (LOP, mainbreak, Xconn, improper connections, etc.) should have been discussed in the press release.

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From: Fonger, Ronald [<mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 9:50 AM
To: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE: Water Advisory Update

Mike. Here's the city statement I mentioned.

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From: Jason Lorenz [<mailto:jlorenz@cityofflint.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 5:52 PM
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Water Advisory Update

For Immediate Release**City of Flint Boil Water Advisory Still in Effect for Area Affected by Discovery of Abnormal Water Sample**

Flint, Michigan – August 18, 2014 – The City of Flint's Utilities Department has received word today from the Department of Environmental Quality that the boil water advisory issued for a small portion of the city is still in effect although additional testing has shown no signs of E-coli or fecal coliform bacteria in the water. Testing over the last 48 hours has shown that the water tests negative for the presence of fecal coliform bacteria and E-coli, but an abnormal test result triggered the advisory. It is believed that a sampling error is to blame for the abnormal test; however, as a precaution, the advisory will remain in effect until the next citywide sampling has been completed. The next round of routine testing will take place on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 with the possibility that the advisory could be lifted as early as Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

Testing of the drinking water is a part of the routine process for ensuring the quality and safety of the system which happens weekly at nine different sites around the city. Drinking water contamination due to E-coli or coliform bacteria is very rare due to the fact that the bacteria cannot survive in the water for very long. The colder temperature of water in the system coupled with the regular blending of chlorine into the water makes for a hostile environment for these kinds of bacteria. The Flint Water Treatment Plant works diligently to provide water of the highest quality to everyone in the city.

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-Jason Lorenz
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