
From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 7:41 PM
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Cc: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Subject: FOS Update
Attachments: PWS Reports & Documents.docx; PWS Reports Documents.docx

Happy Holidays,

I wanted to provide a year-end note as I have been remiss in regularly communicating with you during the latter part of 2015. There are numerous things I could talk about but I want to finish this note before the holidays.

Attached to this message are a couple of documents that were recently developed that I thought you may find useful. The first is a document that Doug Pascoe put together at my request to identify all of the various reports that the Community Public Water Supply Program requires and/or may encounter in conducting our responsibilities. I think it is an excellent training document for new staff and a refresher (cheat sheet) for experienced staff that work with community systems.

The second attachment is a byproduct of Doug's work. I expanded the description of several of the more significant reports and documents that are required by Community Public Water Systems. This work was completed at the request of the Executive Office because their recent involvement in Flint and increasing exposure to the PWSS Program had led to some confusion over all the various reports we would mention in meetings or reference in communications. They included terms we often use without much thought to their relative meaning, such as Reliability Studies, General Plans, Capital Improvement Plans, Asset Management Plans, DWRF Project Plans, DW Needs Surveys, Emergency Response Plans, etc. Liane indicated that it would be helpful for the Executive Office to be provided with a briefing on these major reports. Most of you probably don't need this document, but I would suggest you keep it handy for future reference and for training new staff (or new bosses!) or even for explaining them to communities. I am still working on the guidance that Chuck Thomas

drafted for CIPs that we discussed at the Program meeting on December 1st. It only needs some minor edits before it can be circulated, but I haven't gotten to it yet so it will have to wait until January.

I am also behind on reviewing the DW Needs Surveys some of you have submitted. Some of these surveys will have to be returned to you or to the system for additional work, but I suspect most will be submitted to EPA once I check for any obvious oversights or errors. I did submit Detroit's needs survey last week (which account for over half of the state's total needs) for a preliminary review by Cadmus. Detroit basically deleted all of the projects they had listed on their 2011 and started over fresh on the 2015 survey, which made it difficult for SE MI staff to review. Detroit has provided a lot of good documentation and basically repeated many of the projects they had listed in 2011, but they broke them into smaller components and provided greater detail. I am hoping to get an indication from Cadmus whether we needed to do much more to Detroit's survey to make it easier for them to accept this survey, or if they thought that it was in pretty good shape despite Detroit starting from scratch.

Finally, I wanted to make you aware of how much time ODWMA staff in the Lansing District and in Lansing central have spent on dealing with the Flint lead issue. According to time accounting reports since August 1st, there have been 1951.3 combined ODWMA staff hours expended on Flint issues through December 5th. This time does not include that of the Director, Jim Sygo, George Krisztian (basically full time) Maggie Pallone, Brad Wurfel, and their support staff, nor does it count the time spent by the Governor and his support staff or the efforts of DHHS or DLARA.

To put this number into perspective, a full time FTE is considered to provide around 1800 hours of productive work annually (subtracting for 13 paid holidays, typical usage of vacation and sick leave days, etc.). So 1950 hours over 4 months is basically the equivalent of 3 full-time FTEs from ODWMA working on nothing but Flint for that duration. It is no wonder we have been unable to keep up with our day jobs. The bulk of these hours are from the Lansing District staff – Steve, Mike, Adam and JoAnn, but Liane, Tracy Jo, and I have also spent a considerable time on these matters (not the least of which is responding to FOIAs), and lately, other staff such as Dana DeBruyn and Lois Graham have been involved heavily in the school sampling effort.

Hopefully, as the ongoing audits and task force activities conclude over the next few months and the school sampling program is completed, our resources will once again be directed at the overall program goals. This challenging time also presents an opportunity for us to rethink how we do some things and what the Community Public Water Supply Program should look like going forward. I suspect there will be some changes proposed in the future – hopefully with more resources provided.

As always, feel free to call or contact me should you have any questions. Enjoy your family and friends during this special time of the year, and be safe.

Richard

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