
From: Jacob Kanclerz <jacob@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 2:16 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Story on water infrastructure

Brad,

Sorry for harassing you here, I do understand you've got a lot on your plate. If it helps you, I just wanted to lay out a few of the questions I needed some help with for a broader follow-up on the Flint water situation, as it relates to water infrastructure in general across the state:

-- With regards to lead pipes for drinking water, the consensus I'm getting from folks I'm talking to is that cities are doing a pretty good job replacing these in the public right of way but there's still the private lines to the homes that are the problem. Generally speaking, what authority is allowed to the state/local utility for replacing private lead water pipes, and who is ultimately responsible to make sure this happens?

-- Another thing I'm picking up on is that when it comes to asset management, we've been a little slower at taking stock of water infrastructure and what condition it's in (or even where the pipes are at, according to one source) than roads, for instance. MITA was actually telling me there's some recent legislation that directs DEQ to gather more data from local governments on the state of their water infrastructure.

Those are the two main points I'm coalescing around for my story. Depending how time we can make, if you guys can provide some more details on the history of state appropriations directed to water infrastructure (I've heard it's dried up in recent years) that might help as well, plus any DEQ initiatives in these areas you think would be pertinent to the story (someone mentioned one of the department's SAW grants).

Thanks again!

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