
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:51 PM
To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV) (Wurfels@michigan.gov)
Subject: FW: Info download per our conversation
Attachments: Launch_and_Retrieval_Methods.pdf; OTsp07_TB.pdf; PotableWaterSeweragePipeLines.pdf; PPP_General_Brochure.pdf; USG Advanced Pipe Cleaning (Ice Pigging).pdf; 0707_036.pdf; 150207_155445_COLLAGE-1.jpg

Importance: High

FYI
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From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:10 PM
To: Hollins, Harvey (GOV)
Cc: 'Wyant, Dan (WyantD@michigan.gov)'
Subject: Info download per our conversation
Importance: High

Harvey,

We've got two issues I wanted to update you on. After trying to do this all in a single email, I realized it gets messy. So this is the first of two.

The water quality question remains under consideration. I've had a couple meetings this week with our drinking water team. I will circle back and push them for a specific recommendation on a good retail filter. Thus far, they've presented a range of options and been uncomfortable going past that because a) we don't specialize in home filtration. We're in charge of commercial / municipal size systems. And b) most filtration systems remove contaminants and toxics and organics. There's no way to know for sure if a faucet model will effectively work on odor or color issues until someone installs it and tries it out. For that, we'd need a home that has reported discolored / smelly water. And for that, I'd imagine we'd need to connect with the city and see if they've got logs of residents who have made these complaints.

The other potential help that could come from the state -- and after conversations with our folks I maintain it might be the best help we can give them -- has to do with maintenance. Of the \$2 million announced in January from Treasury, \$900,000 was earmarked for developing a maintenance triage plan. As that comes together, the next step will be actual maintenance. This means replacing valves and rotten sections of pipe, but it also means "pigging" lines with an inline device that runs through water transmission lines and forces out any built-up . . . material. In coordination with bleeding stagnant water via hydrants, this would probably be the fastest, most effective way to address the discolored / odorific water.

Our department specialists working with Flint imparted in an internal meeting this morning that the city has been a little reticent to pig their lines because the system is in such a condition that they worry a valve opened won't close (and vice versa), and a line that is barely still functional might get blown by the pigging. Our position is that would be preferable -- maintenance, after all, is about addressing those very situations. But if funding can be identified, through SOM or some foundation benefactor,

and we can convince the city to tackle the work, this would be a great way to spend it. The PDF files enclosed offer some more information about what this is, how it works, etc.

I'm still working to get a report of all the local municipal violations over the past two years. The two staff in the drinking water division who run those database searches are out of state this week, in Florida and Alaska respectively. Division assures me they'll get that report run as a priority upon return of those folks next week. In the meantime, here are some images (the Jpeg titled COLLAGE). It shows various conditions, mostly at mobile home parks around the state, where the water system has failed. May or may not be of use, but if nothing else it exemplifies that this stuff happens, much as we try to make sure it does not.

This is email one of two. The other issue I will present in the next email. If it is at all possible, I'd suggest we need to assemble Treasury, MDCH, DEQ and Ambrose + RS team sometime Monday to get everyone briefed on what each agency is doing in Flint right now and what we may need to do next. Don't know if that meeting gets called by you or Dennis, but I think you and I agree that we need a united, coordinated team approach to develop quickly.

Thanks,
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Brad Wurfel
Communications Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
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PPI cell