
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Brown, Eric (GOV)
Subject: FW: additional comments about flint water, deq

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 3:03 PM
To: 'Ronald Fonger'
Subject: RE: additional comments about flint water, deq

I'll leave it to EPA to discuss unofficial draft reports by their folks.

We appreciate that residents of Flint have concerns about their water. The state's drinking water program, which implements federal safe drinking water laws and standards, oversees municipal supplies around the state, and has worked to ensure safe drinking water for more than four decades.

Municipal operators screen drinking water supplies for more than 90 different contaminants. Providers are required to employ certified, trained operators, because it is a complex task to maintain safe drinking water for tens of thousands of people or more.

The City of Flint has challenges, no question. Decades of forestalled maintenance of hundreds of miles of cast-iron water transmission lines around the city, much of which is beyond its service life; coupled with changes in city population size that put new demands on an old system that, in some places, impacts water quality; compounded by a rate structure which makes Flint's water very expensive, are all serious issues the city must confront. Few argue that the solution won't be cheap and relief for some parts of the city won't come quickly, because this problem didn't start last month, last year or even last governor; it started in the last century.

The State of Michigan's job here, via the DEQ, is to make sure the city's water production meets state and federal drinking water standards. We are in regular contact with federal counterparts at EPA to discuss issues and challenges related to Flint water. Everyone is paying very close attention, and the unavoidable fact is that the city's system is presently in compliance with state and federal safe drinking water standards.

To the extent the public concerns about the water system become part of the election politics in the city, we have no comment. But the DEQ wants everyone in Flint to understand our role as regulators, and that we take that role very seriously, in Flint and every other city around the state, because people's health hangs in the balance. Anyone who has a question about our standards, our required methods or the results is welcome to see what we do. We're transparent in our work because we stand behind it.

b

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PPI

cell:

From: Ronald Fonger [mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 12:30 PM

To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)

Subject: additional comments about flint water, deq

Brad:

I am also writing about a news conference held by Karen Weaver, Mayor Dayne Walling's challenger in the general election.

She made some specific comments regarding DEQ and I wanted to see if the agency wants to respond or comment.

Ron Fonger

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Reporter

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