
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 12:22 PM
To: roseb@gdls.com
Subject: RE: Option of Switching from Flint River Back to City of Detroit Water as Mitigation of Drinking Water Lead Exposure Issue

Mr. Rose,

Thanks for your note. You've captured the question well, and it is part of the technical advisory will be considering.

b

Brad Wurfel
Communications Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

From: roseb@gdls.com [<mailto:roseb@gdls.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 11:36 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Option of Switching from Flint River Back to City of Detroit Water as Mitigation of Drinking Water Lead Exposure Issue

Dear Mr. Wurfel:

This is a brief note to comment that switching the current Flint drinking water source from the Flint River back to the City of Detroit Water system might not resolve the plumbing lead leaching issue in Flint; the plumbing could still leach lead if the water supply is switched back to the Detroit City Water supply as changes to the supply could again necessitate changes to the treatment chemistry for the supply.

The media has stated that the Flint River water is "more corrosive" than was the City of Detroit Water supply. If it is actually the case that corrosivity is the issue, corrosivity (pH) of the raw, processed or finished water can be adjusted at the supply through chemistry probably far more economically than switching the water supply back to the Detroit City Water system. The root cause of the elevated lead in some of the Flint distribution system appears to be old piping infrastructure which are leaching lead; this appears to be accurately mentioned in the October 2, 2015 MDEQ communication regarding this issue. The Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee working this issue will hopefully evaluate the reasonability and feasibility of adjusting the water chemistry of the current Flint River water supply to mitigate the lead leaching in the near-term until long-term solutions to mitigate the drinking water lead leaching issue (e.g. replacement of old distribution and plumbing infrastructure containing lead) can be implemented.

Respectfully,

Boyd "Henry" Rose
Interested Member of the Public
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