

Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 3:30 PM
To: Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)
Subject: FW: LeeAnn Walters Draft

From: Brown, Eric (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 3:20 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Re: LeeAnn Walters Draft

Very helpful, thanks

Sent from my mobile device

On Aug 27, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov> wrote:

Don't know what it is, but I know what it's not. The key to lead and copper in drinking water is that it's not in the source water, or even the transmission lines (most of which are cast iron). It's in the premise plumbing (people's homes). The reason statute requires operators of large systems to test for lead & copper in homes when they switch sources is because large systems inevitably means old neighborhoods, where there's likely a lead connection line to the homes or lead pipes in the premise plumbing (or lead in the solder of copper lines installed before the mid-1990s), and what we're checking for is whether the Ph of the new source water is mobilizing lead in the pipes.

Ironically, the leading fix for it is adding phosphate (ironic because we're fighting to reduce phosphorus in surface water all over the state, but particularly in the Western Lake Erie Basin). The phosphate smooths the water and reduces the interaction.

In accordance with statute, we sent Flint a letter early this month saying they passed muster on the two required rounds of lead and copper tests, but we still want them to 'optimize' their system (phosphates). By law, they now have 18 months to create an optimization plan, and something like two years thereafter to implement that plan. But they're going to switch sources again in June / July of next year, which starts the whole process over again. Such is the wisdom and flexibility of the federal statute ...

This person is the one who had EPA lead specialist come to her home and do tests, then released an unvetted draft of his report (that EPA apologized to us profusely for) to the resident, who shared it with the ACLU, who promptly used it to continue raising hell with the locals.

Bottom line is that folks in Flint are upset – because they pay a ton for water and many of them don't trust the water they're getting – and they're confused, in no small part because various groups have worked hard at keeping them confused and upset. We get it. The state is trying like mad get the word out that we're working on every aspect of the health safety of local water that we can manage, and the system needs a lot of work

(because the city didn't do any discernable maintenance for nearly 40 years and the transmission lines are falling apart), but it's been rough sledding with a steady parade of community groups keeping everyone hopped-up and misinformed.

Tell me what I can do to help you with the Peters' meeting, or anything else.

b

From: Brown, Eric (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:55 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: RE: LeeAnn Walters Draft

So this resident's lead levels are much higher than the 90th percentile mentioned in the previous email. What is the discrepancy?

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:00 PM
To: Brown, Eric (GOV) <BrownE15@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: LeeAnn Walters Draft

Letter to a very vocal resident that went out this week. This may be what Peters' office is wanting to discuss with you. This letter has some really useful info on lead and copper testing.

b

From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Shaler, Karen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: LeeAnn Walters Draft

When you say they should see it as well. Do you mean see the draft or be cc'd on the e-mail?

If the former, do you wish to share it with them?

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Cc: Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Shaler, Karen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: LeeAnn Walters Draft

Comprehensive. Thanks for sharing this, Liane. Lots of important information here. I'd suggest that Harvey Hollins and Dennis Muchmore need to see it as well.

b