
From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Ronald Fonger
Subject: RE: Eisenhower piece

I'll be at your office by 11:30. Thanks, Ron.
b

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

From: Ronald Fonger [<mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 9:51 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Eisenhower piece

Does 11:30 work on Tuesday?
I have to cover a court case at 1. The Torch across the alley from our place makes a good burger if you like or we can grab coffee. Works either way for me.

Ron Fonger
MLive Media Group
Reporter

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From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) [<mailto:WurfelB@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 2:53 PM
To: Ronald Fonger <RFONGER1@mlive.com>
Subject: RE: Eisenhower piece

Let's go Tuesday. Gimme a time and place. Thanks, and have a great weekend!
b

Brad Wurfel
Communications Director,
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PPI (cell)

From: Ronald Fonger [mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 1:20 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Eisenhower piece

Hey Brad:

I'm afraid I didn't write this one. I forwarded the report on Eisenhower and your email to Dominic Adams as well as emails from the Flint School District that I had received in response to questions about the Freeman report. That said, I'm forwarding your email to my editors, and you may want to follow up with them (Bryn Mickle and Kristin Longley) or Dominic. His contact information is at the end of the story. Happy to get together Tuesday or Wednesday -- first part of the day works better -- and I have RTAB at 2 Wednesday. Just let me know

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) [mailto:WurfelB@michigan.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Ronald Fonger <RFONGER1@mlive.com>
Subject: Eisenhower piece

Hey, Ron.

I continue to have concerns about how the Journal reports this issue. Here are a few from yesterday.

The headline is factually incorrect. Plumbing and fixtures are not the same thing at all. In fact, I sent a note to you guys when I advanced you this piece which specifically said our findings are good news because fixtures are less expensive to replace than plumbing, and our testing indicates there are no deeper plumbing issues so far in the schools we're checking.

More to the point, these two adjoining paragraphs in the story don't even agree:

The DEQ says the leaching lead is likely because of the fixtures and the connected plumbing in the building -- lead solder joints on copper piping, brass valves and brass fittings, brass components in fixtures and galvanized piping.

"The highest contribution of lead appears to be from the individual faucet/fountains and not from the larger diameter supply plumbing within the main school building or the two out building units," the report says.

This paragraph offers a wholly inaccurate reflection of what's going on:

"The more thorough testing at Eisenhower comes after three Flint school buildings tested above the federal limit in initial screenings prompted by the discovery of rising levels of lead in Flint children's blood. Eisenhower was one of those schools, along with the Brownell school building and Freeman Elementary "

The testing of every Flint school was part of the commitment in the Governor's 10-point plan. The findings at all the schools have consistently shown limited instances of initial high samples, specifically associated with limited points in the building, where spikes are followed by dramatic drops on subsequent draws -- clear indication that the lead exposure is limited to faucets and bubblers that should have been replaced a long time ago.