
From: Bennett, Charles (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:28 PM
To: Rosenthal, Adam (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: more Flint news

Salvation is near! Erin Brockovitch will be sending her "water expert" to Flint to "make sure you get honest answers..."!

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/02/erin_brockovich_advisor_headin.html#incart_river

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From: Crooks, Jennifer <crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: question on flushing/water rates in MI

Thank you, Richard. Yes, Steve B explained to me this morning, that the commodity charge is based upon the amount of water the resident is using; however, the base rate/service charge would include operation and maintenance costs, including flushing.

Jen

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ) [mailto:BENZIER@michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 12:57 PM
To: Crooks, Jennifer; Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: question on flushing/water rates in MI

There currently is no regulatory oversight of rates in Michigan.

But be careful about saying residents aren't paying for water used for flushing -- as the overall costs of operating the water system have to be reflected in the revenue stream somewhere. The rates probably reflect the cost of producing "lost" water, just not in an accountable manner. If you say they are paying for it (even directly), it may still generate a negative reaction if they realize the costs are "hidden" and being borne by all customers.

From: Crooks, Jennifer [mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 12:12 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: question on flushing/water rates in MI

Richard---I have a couple of questions for you regarding the citizen complaint on Flint, that I'm responding to.

Regarding the water rates part of this email, "Flint river. runs right through the city of flint. they have been opening the hydrants and letting water pour out of them to "purge" the system, **then charging consumers double for their mistake**"

I was going to remind the citizen that they are only charged based upon what the water meter reads at individual connection (home). The citizens aren't directly paying for what is being flushed. I was going to say that the flushing program removes stagnant water in the system, which can increase levels of trihalomethanes and increase bacteria growth, among other activities.

Also, who regulates water rates in Michigan? I don't think MI has a rate commission, right? Any oversight on individual water supply rates?

Jennifer

From: Crooks, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 8:22 AM
To: Richard Benzie; Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FYI: (CWA - FY15-124819-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Michigan

Forgot to cc you all, Jen