
From: Crooks, Jennifer <crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Flint lead sampling results?

Thank you, Steve!
Jennifer

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ) [<mailto:BUSCHS@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 8:39 AM
To: Crooks, Jennifer; Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Flint lead sampling results?

Jennifer,

We will provide the 90th percentile when available, but at this point we do not anticipate any violations of the Lead and Copper Rule.

Stephen Busch, P.E.
Lansing and Jackson District Supervisor
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
MDEQ
517-643-2314

From: Crooks, Jennifer [<mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ)
Cc: Bair, Rita
Subject: Flint lead sampling results?

Steve/Mike/Pat—Thank you for cluing me in to the fact that Liane and Tinka are talking about Flint next Tuesday. I guess it's just a manager discussion, from what I understand. I understand that Flint didn't get the minimum number of lead samples (100) for the second 6-month monitoring period that ended June 30, so I assume Flint is collecting the remaining samples now. Our Division Director, Tinka Hyde asked today if we will know what the lead results are from the second 6-month monitoring period. Perhaps you don't know what the results are for the remaining samples Flint began taking in July; but do you know what the other 80+ sample results are? Would you be able to share this information with us prior to the call on Tuesday? If not, Liane can share this info regarding the status of the sampling and the sample results with Tinka on Tuesday.

Thank you all for your hard work with Flint and with your management; I know this has not been an easy problem to deal with for anyone.

Jennifer

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: RE: DRAFT Flint Journal response — edit, add and subtract from this as you see fit. Need it asap. Thanks!
Attachments: Editorial response to Virginia Tech testing Flint homes for lead.doc

Here are my suggested edits in an attached word document. I thought we should probably just draft a single response so I am circulating it to you three before we reply to Brad.

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 12:12 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: DRAFT Flint Journal response -- edit, add and subtract from this as you see fit. Need it asap. Thanks!

We are aware that Virginia Tech researchers are now testing water at various Flint homes for lead levels in their plumbing.

First, we want to be very clear that the lead issue in Flint, to the extent there is one, is not from the source water or the plant or even the transmission lines. The river has no detectable levels of lead in it, and treated water from the plant has not detectable levels of lead in it. The issue is how, whether, and to what extent the water is interacting with lead plumbing in people's homes.

It does not appear their research lab is certified, and we can't speak to the whatever sampling methods are being employed to achieve these results. The results reported so far fail to track with any of the lead sampling done by the DEQ for the past 25 years (since 1991), or the blood lead levels testing regularly conducted by the state department of community health. That said, we do appreciate that Virginia Tech's team is working on this issue because it brings the public spotlight on an important fact: if you have lead water pipes in your home, or a lead service connection to the city system, it is very likely you are ingesting some level of lead. That's just a fact, and in the City of Flint that fact affects 15,000 or more residences.

The state's monitoring program, which uses certified laboratories and a standardized, federal testing protocol, looks specifically at the homes in communities most likely to experience lead problems. Our results, obtained from two separate rounds of testing over the past year, concluded that the mean average of lead in Flint drinking water, meets state and federal safe drinking water standards.

That said, the state is pushing Flint to 'optimize' its water, which means addressing additives that can minimize the extent to which the water interacts with lead plumbing in homes. While statute allows several years for an operator actually undertake this process — Detroit took five years to complete its water optimization work — we are encouraging Flint water system operators to take these steps immediately and we are encouraged by the conversation so far.

Any resident who has concerns about lead in their drinking water should have their water tested and get professional consultation on how to address it. The leading cause of lead poisoning is known to be lead paint and, in some areas, environmental legacy hot spots where lead is present in soils.