
From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 12:20 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: Re: question on Flint

Richard,

I requested a copy of Flint's water rate schedule...of which they provided...based on our calculation...the water bill for a family of four using 1000 cuft (7500 gal) on a monthly basis having a 5/8" meter would be approx. \$98. The bill will be \$20 higher for a 3/4" meter. So I could see a family of 6 with leaking fixtures and a larger meter size seeing a monthly bill in this range. I can provide u with a copy of their rate schedule tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 13, 2015, at 10:43 AM, "Benzie, Richard (DEQ)" <BENZIER@michigan.gov> wrote:

Those bills seem high even if it includes sewerage. Do you know if it does include wastewater? If it does, be sure to point that out -- that it is a combined bill that reflects both utilities, not just the cost of drinking water. But those bills sound almost as high as what most of those customers are probably paying for their internet and cellphone service or even their cable bills! I wonder which one they think is more essential.

I believe there have been some significant wastewater treatment plant projects in the Genesee County system in recent years, so maybe a significant component of any increase is also on the wastewater side.

Richard

From: Crooks, Jennifer [<mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 10:33 AM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Cc: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: question

Thanks for the update, Richard. The numerous people I talk to from Flint say their water bills are between \$175-\$200/month. Would DWSD have raised their rates that high? (Don't answer that; just pure conjecture ☺) I talked with a woman yesterday, whose pediatrician swears there has been an increase in kidney stones in his patients since April. I told her to have the pediatrician contact CDC in Atlanta. (I prepared a briefing this summer for ATSDR/CDC about the physical ailments people were complaining about to me, but without any expert or documentation, they didn't pick it up.) Talked to another man yesterday that's mounting a campaign to stop paying their water bills, and wants to organize against the City. And on it goes...

Jen

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ) [<mailto:BENZIER@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Crooks, Jennifer
Subject: RE: question

Still going on -- even some council members talking about going back to Detroit at least until the KWA pipeline is available sometime in 2016. I don't know that the newspapers or media are advocating for one side or the other in this issue, but covering those individuals who are keeps the flames flickering.

I can't say the city wouldn't be better off to not have switched to the River, but I believe Flint was sure that DWSD was going to raise water rates significantly after the contract expired (by decree of DWSD) in order to recoup lost bonding costs or something similar. Flint did not want to be subjected to rates without any contractual controls.

From: Crooks, Jennifer [<mailto:crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 4:57 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: question

Richard—Last week when we were on the call with Jason, Wendy, and Tom Poleck, you made a passing comment about the newspaper getting into the stories about Flint drinking water, maybe elevating the issue in the public to fire them up? Perhaps talk of going back to Detroit water?

Jen