
From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 11:00 AM
To: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Cc: Shaler, Karen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Flint NBC News Interview - Flint TTHMs
Attachments: TTHM NBC Interview Jan 5, 2015.doc

FYI

Liane J. Shekter Smith, P.E., Chief
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-284-6543

From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 10:22 AM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Willard, Veronica (DEQ)
Subject: Flint NBC News Interview - Flint TTHMs

Attached is a summary of the interview I had with Flint NBC 25 News late yesterday.....sorry this summary is late as I am receiving incoming calls from Flint residents...

Michael Prysby, P.E.
District Engineer
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
517 290-8817

**Flint NBC 25 News Interview
Flint TTHMs
January 5, 2015**

Walter-Smith Randolph, reporter, from Flint NBC 25 News conducted a telephone interview with me for broadcast on Flint local television concerning the TTHM violation in Flint's drinking water. I led the interview and provided Mr. Randolph an opportunity for follow-up questions. Below is a summary of topics that were presented.

TTHM violation – What does this mean for Flint residents? The TTHM violation notice to residents is not an immediate public health emergency since the health-effects posted in the notice require long-term exposure to TTHMs (over a significant portion of an individual's lifespan). TTHMs commonly occur in public water systems that disinfect with chlorine due to the reaction between chlorine and naturally occurring organic compounds (total organic carbon) in the source water. Surface water sources, including the Flint River watershed, typically have higher levels of naturally occurring organic compounds.

What is the DEQ's Role? The DEQ is working in collaboration with the city to ensure long-term public health protection and to keep the public informed. We are working with the city to help identify improvements in treatment and operation of the distribution system to reduce the levels of TTHMs. We are assisting the city with public notice requirements (when to post/contents). With our assistance, the city has proceeded with an operational evaluation of the water system ahead of state and federal requirements.

DEQ's perspective of the situation: The Flint River source is more difficult to treat since it requires more disinfection to maintain bacteriological integrity. Increased disinfection; however, when combined with higher levels of naturally occurring organics results in elevated levels of TTHMs that form over time out in the distribution system. The TTHM concentrations that developed in the system were more than anticipated due to several reasons:

1. Flint did not immediately change their mode of distribution system operation after switching sources to account for higher TTHM formation potential of treated water from Flint's WTP.