
From: Crooks, Jennifer <crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 6:11 PM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: Draft notes from our discussion this afternoon

Liane—I'm sure I didn't get all this information exactly as you told me, so please edit. Thank you!

Discussion with Liane Shekter Smith, April 8, 2015 regarding Genessee CHD, Dept of Community Health (MDCH), City of Flint and MDEQ drinking water program to gather data to determine source of Legionella

Liane said she, the CHD and the MDCH met yesterday to discuss the status of the FOIA. She said that the first FOIA the CHD sent to the City last month, was so generic that the City told the CHD to refine its request. Yesterday, April 7, the CHD said they sent the City their second FOIA with more specific requests. MDEQ drinking water offered to assist the City in gathering the data for the CHD's second FOIA, but the MDEQ has not seen a copy of the second FOIA yet.

Several professors from Michigan State have been assisting the CHD. They said that Legionella is dormant below 68 degrees, so how could the Legionella case in March have been caused by the water supply?

After the above call with the CHD and MDCH, Liane spoke separately with MDCH. MDCH asked if it was true that MDEQ drinking water didn't respond to the CHD's FOIA request. Liane said that MDEQ drinking water never received a FOIA from the CHD. She said that the MDCH is having trouble keeping the CHD focused on the epidemiological investigation to identify the source of the Legionella. Seems the CHD is continually distracted by side issues going on with the Flint distribution system, such as the lead service line issues.

Liane said that the CHD is convinced that the source of the Legionella is the water main breaks—they believe there has been an increase in the water main breaks in the Flint distribution system. MDEQ drinking water is very happy to share FOIA information and will help gather the information requested. But, keep in mind, that no one tracks water main breaks—Liane said that the City probably has work orders to look thru to identify when and where water main breaks occurred.

Liane said that the CHD is not helping themselves. The CHD asked MDEQ drinking to ask CDC to get involved, and MDEQ drinking water said yes, what specifically should we ask CDC to help with, but MDEQ drinking water hasn't received a response from the CHD to date.

Normally, the MDCH will only work on a large research project if more than one county is involved, but in this case, MDCH is working with the CHD to do an epidemiological investigation. There are 46 cases of Legionella being studied, and they hope to be finished by the end of April.

MDCH is keeping in regular contact with MDEQ drinking water regarding this issue.

END