
From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 12:17 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Meeting w Legislator

Mike is going to call City management this afternoon to see what they are doing and have planned to restore confidence. If asked by the City and the setting is appropriate we may participate. If so, we would be sure to coordinate with Brad, Sarah, and both of you. We would also be very clear with the City and those involved that any participation would be in a supportive role and that it should not be construed as a DEQ meeting.

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

From: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Meeting w Legislator

Mike's getting quite experienced at these types of meetings and handling them well.

Another question asked by Representative Neeley that I think we answered adequately was whether immunocompromised individuals and infants were more at risk from these contaminants. Mike explained that while we were not toxicologists or medical professionals, it was our understanding that those subgroups were more susceptible to microbial contaminants of an acute nature, and we were not aware of any increased risk from these chronic contaminants. We explained that these contaminants were in fact byproducts created by the thorough chlorination of the water to eliminate microbial contaminants.

In addition to Mike's summary, it also seemed that the Representatives were primarily concerned about whether Flint had the personnel to handle this situation, which I think Mike addressed. It was also made clear to us that the Representatives (or their constituents) would like more frequent monitoring. I tried to explain how any additional monitoring would be incorporated into the compliance determination -- that additional sample results from the pre-established sampling sites would be averaged over each compliance period (quarter) before being averaged with previous quarterly results, and that samples from other locations would primarily be for operational considerations and public awareness, but not compliance.

Finally, they indicated that based on the number of calls they are receiving and the tenor of the callers, there appears to be a significant (I think they used the word complete) loss of public confidence in the drinking water quality in Flint. Mike indicated that we would be working with the city to try to restore that confidence. Steve and Mike may want to carry that message to the city and discuss how they can restore confidence by becoming more transparent about their monitoring and acknowledging any past oversights, like not recognizing the need to alter their pumping and storage practices from one of maintaining high volumes in the event of a pipeline break to one of frequent and complete cycling of the tank volumes to reduce stagnation and TTHM formation. It should be a brainstorming session and not one of assigning blame but how to move forward. Maybe there are some lessons to be learned from how the Lansing BWL is trying to recover from the loss of public confidence as a result of their response to the ice storm a year ago.

Richard

From: Prysby, Mike (DEQ)

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 11:02 AM

To: Datema, Maggie (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Shaler, Karen (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Willard, Veronica (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)

Cc: Howes, Sarah (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ)

Subject: Meeting w Legislator

Richard Benzie, Sarah Howes, and I met with State Representatives Sheldon Neeley, 34th District and Phil Phelps, 48th District to discuss the TTHM violation in the city of Flint late yesterday afternoon . Attached is a summary of our discussion.

Michael Prysby, P.E.

District Engineer

Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance

517 290-8817