
From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 6:14 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap
Attachments: Flint Testing and EBLLs_2.xlsx

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Dykema, Linda D. (DCH)
 Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 3:25 PM
 To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
 Subject: FW: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

Hi,

I just wanted to make you aware of this analysis.

Linda D. Dykema, Ph.D.
 Environmental Public Health Director
 Division of Environmental Health
 Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
 517.335.8566
 dykemal@michigan.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
 Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 2:57 PM
 To: Anderson, Paula (DCH); Miller, Corinne (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH); Moran, Susan (DCH); Grijalva, Nancy (DCH); Fink, Brenda (DCH)
 Cc: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Bouters, Janese (DCH); Barr, Jacqui (DCH)
 Subject: RE: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

I apologize for the delay in responding more specifically to this assignment, it took some time to review our Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program data to see if it might contribute to the understanding of the situation in Flint with their water supply. Here is what we found:

We looked at lead testing results for May 2014-April 2015, which is the 12 month time frame just after Flint started drawing their water from the river (water source changed in April 2014). We compared lead testing rates and lead testing results to the same time frame for the previous 3 years, to see if there were any patterns that suggested that there were increased rates of lead poisoning after the water supply was switched. Per the attached charts –

- Lead testing rates remained about the same from year to year (chart on the right).
- There was a spike in elevated blood lead tests from July-September 2014 (chart on the left, gold line).

- However that pattern was not terribly different from what we saw in the previous three years, especially in 2011-2012 (we are working with our Epidemiologist to statistically verify any significant differences).
- We commonly see a 'seasonal effect' with lead, related to people opening and closing windows more often in the summer, which disturbs old deteriorating paint on the windows, sills and sashes. Window fans frequently blow and spread the lead dust from the deteriorating paint to other parts of the room/house. We suspect that the summer data spike may be related to this effect.
- If the home water supply lines and/or river water were contributing to elevated blood lead tests, we expected that the increased rates would extend beyond the summer, but they drop quite a bit from September to October, stayed low over the winter, and are just starting to tail up again in the spring of 2015.

So upon review, we don't believe our data demonstrates an increase in lead poisoning rates that might be attributable to the change in water source for Flint. We recognize that lead exposure via the water is only a small piece of what may be happening for families in Flint, however, we hope the information is helpful.

Nancy Peeler

-----Original Message-----

From: Anderson, Paula (DCH)

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:31 PM

To: Miller, Corinne (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH)

Cc: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Peeler, Nancy (DCH); Bouters, Janese (DCH); Barr, Jacqui (DCH)

Subject: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please see the message below received from the Director's office just before 5. If at all possible, please provide an update of what you may, or may not, know ASAP, today if at all possible. Include Nancy Grijalva and Sue Moran in the response. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, Mark (DCH)

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:28 PM

To: Anderson, Paula (DCH)

Subject: RE: Flint - need update asap

There's an article from the metro times I located:

<http://www.metrotimes.com/Blogs/archives/2015/07/14/flint-family-finds-hazardous-waste-levels-of-lead-in-its-tap-water>

Based on this it sounds like at least one family might have had a child with elevated lead blood levels, which might or might not have come from the water. Sounds like the issue is old lead service lines, but there seems to be some difference of opinion on appropriate testing methods.

I'd send this over to Linda Dykema, Wes Priem and Nancy Peeler for their comments.

DEQ has jurisdiction over municipal water supplies, but we do have a program to follow-up on children with elevated blood lead levels, so I think it would be appropriate for the folks above to discuss the situation and recommend any action.