

Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 3:10 PM
To: Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)
Subject: FW: University of Michigan inquiry re: Flint

From: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:17 PM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Cc: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Cook, Pat (DEQ); Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Shaler, Karen (DEQ); Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ); Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)
Subject: Re: University of Michigan inquiry re: Flint

Sounds like a good approach.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2015, at 11:52 AM, Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ) <SHEKTERL@michigan.gov> wrote:

Yesterday, Steve Busch and I participated in a conference call with Professors Lutgarde Raskin and Krista Wigginton (Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Prof. Stuart Batterman (School of Public Health) and several of their graduate students.

They wanted to discuss recent events in Flint and are interested in possibly providing sampling, analysis, and education/outreach to address potential lead exposure issues, TTHM issues, possibly microbial activity and/or aesthetic problems. They are aware of the report published on the ACLU website identifying lead as an issue in Flint and were interested in helping to obtain analytical data to determine the potential extent of the problem and to help residents understand what it means for them.

We suggested they begin by having discussions with the City to determine what level of assistance might be helpful to the City.

If this moves forward, we would recommend that DEQ, DHHS staff, LHD staff, and a group of local residents/stakeholders be included in discussions to guide future activities.

Today, Steve provided UM with contacts at the City. UM is interested in quickly arranging a preliminary meeting to flesh out what might happen going forward.

We'll keep you updated if this progresses.

Liane

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

Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)

From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 3:30 PM
To: Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Urgent: Independent Flint Water Study

From: Curt Guyette [<mailto:cguyette@aclumich.org>]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:19 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: Urgent: Independent Flint Water Study

Mr. Wurfel,

Prof. Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech university has been leading a research project to conduct an independent study of lead in Flint's water. Working with a group of city residents, they have been collecting water samples from homes throughout the city. The study is still under way, but the results so far have been so disturbing that VT has begun posting results on the web in order to alert residents about how serious the problem may be.

This is what VT is reporting:

Over the weekend we analyzed another 72 lead samples collected by Flint residents and mailed to VT. For the 120 samples analyzed to date, forty two percent were over 5 ppb, which suggests a serious lead in water problem according to our experience and criteria. Twenty-three (20% of those collected) also exceeded 15 ppb lead, suggesting a serious lead in water problem. That is, the Flint Citizen Science study to date, is finding results worse than the EPA standard which is applied to sampling "worst case" homes. The highest lead sampled in first draw so far was 158 ppb, and the highest sample after 45 second flushing is 1051 ppb. Six of 120 homes sampled (5%), had over 15 ppb lead even after 2 minutes of continuous flushing. The 90'tile lead level in the Flint Water Study is currently 30 ppb, which is double the EPA standard applied to "worst case" homes, and in a range where water consumption has caused lead poisoning in children and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Needless to say, these data are very worrisome.

Here is the website containing the information.

I am writing about this for a story that will be posted tomorrow. If the city chooses to respond, I need to hear back from you by the end of the day today, Aug. 31.

Sincerely,

Curt Guyette