

Olszewski, Rosemarie (DEQ)

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 8:50 AM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Howes, Sarah (DEQ)
Cc: Shaler, Karen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Information Request and Documentation
Attachments: FOIA Request Flint Water.doc

For reference, attached is the county health department's FOIA request to the City of Flint from January.

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

From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 8:41 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Howes, Sarah (DEQ)
Cc: Shaler, Karen (DEQ); Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Information Request and Documentation
Importance: High

The district received this late Tuesday.

Steve Busch has indicated that the district has not received a meeting request from Jim Henry or the Genesee County Health Department as indicated in his email below.

The FOIA is specifically directed to the City of Flint not the DEQ.

While the change in source may have created water quality conditions that could provide additional organic nutrient source to support legionella growth, there is no evidence or confirmation of legionella coming directly from the Water Treatment Plant or in the community water supply distribution system at this time.

Seems like the next step is to communicate with DCH and possibly develop a joint strategy/response. Not sure who in Exec wants to take the lead on this. Steve Busch and Mike Prysby will continue to be lead for us on this. They have been in contact with DCH recently but only to learn that little progress has been made in identifying a source or sources for the illnesses.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Henry, James" <jhenry@gchd.us>
Date: March 10, 2015 at 6:40:17 PM EDT
To: Howard Croft <hcroft@cityofflint.com>, "Mike Prysby (DEQ)"

<prysbym@michigan.gov>, Elizabeth Murphy <emurphy@cityofflint.com>, "Natasha Henderson" <nhenderson@cityofflint.com>, Jerry Ambrose <gambrose49@gmail.com>, Dayne Walling <dwalling@cityofflint.com>

Cc: "Valacak, Mark" <MVALACAK@gchd.us>, "Cupal, Suzanne" <scupal@gchd.us>, "Hasan, Shurooq" <shasan@gchd.us>, "Childs, Bonnie" <BCHILDS@gchd.us>, "Hallwood, Dawn" <dhallwood@gchd.us>, "Johnson, M.D., Gary" <GJOHNSON@gchd.us>

Subject: Information Request and Documentation

Hello everyone,

The Genesee County Health Department has made several written and verbal requests for specific information since October, 2014, including a Freedom of Information Act Request on January 27, 2015. The information still has not been received and the city's lack of cooperation continues to prevent my office from performing our responsibilities.

The Genesee County Health Department has the responsibility to conduct illness investigations and consider all potential sources, this is not optional. In 2014, Genesee County experienced a significant increase of confirmed Legionella illnesses relative to previous years. Legionella can be a deadly, waterborne disease that typically affects the respiratory system.

The increase of the illnesses closely corresponds with the timeframe of the switch to Flint River water. The majority of the cases reside or have an association with the city. Also, McLaren Hospital identified and mitigated Legionella in their water system. This is rather glaring information and it needs to be looked into now, prior to the warmer summer months when Legionella is at its peak and we are potentially faced with a crisis.

This situation has been explicitly explained to MDEQ and many of the city's officials. I want to make sure, in writing that there are no misunderstandings regarding this significant and urgent public health issue. The Trihalomethane issues "pale in comparison" to the potential public health risks of Legionella.

I am submitting the attached FOIA request again and requesting that the legal obligations of the request are met. If the information is not available, please let me know. In the past, I have requested to meet with the water plant staff and MDEQ regarding Legionella concerns. I did not receive a response from the water plant staff and MDEQ declined. I think it is in the best interest for all stakeholders that we meet and discuss the issues.

Respectfully,

Jim

Jim Henry

Jim Henry RS, MBA

Environmental Health Supervisor

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