

Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ)

From: Joan Rose <rosejo@msu.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ)
Subject: : Meeting with Director Dan Wyant
Attachments: Flint Water Quality Assessment Letter.doc

Hello Mary Beth.

Can you pass this on to Dan. He wanted a copy of this letter. I sent this before the decision to switch back to Detroit water.

Joan

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On 11/20/2015 10:54 AM, Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ) wrote:

This is an automated response to your email message.

November 20, 2015, 8:00-5:00

Thank you for your email. I am out of the office. I will respond back to you as soon as I can. If this is urgent, please contact Karen Shaler at 517-284-6700. She will also monitor my email.

Thank you.

Mary Beth

Mary Beth Theien
DEQ
517-284-6700



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Oct. 1, 2015

Honorable Congressman Dan Kildee
5th District of Michigan
Flint MI

Dear Congressman Kildee

I am a public health water microbiologist and hold the Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research at Michigan State University and my expertise involves water quality and health. I am a member of the National Academy of Engineering and I have served as Chair of the Drinking Water Committee, (2004-2010) Science Advisory Board of the US Environmental Protection Agency,

I am preparing this short letter in regard to my assessment of the water quality and health issues in Flint. I have reviewed Dr. Marc Edwards' proposal, methods and results for lead. I have been in discussion with the County Health Department and reviewed the health issues. I have served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the City of Flint and have read the reports provided by Veolia and the City. I have been involved since January, 2015.

I will attempt to address five critical questions.

1. Is there a water quality problem in Flint?
2. How well is the problem understood?
3. What water quality testing should be done?
4. How can the state help the citizens of Flint?
5. How do we restore water quality and wholesomeness, protect public health and restore confidence?



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1. Is there a water quality problem in Flint?

In the US and in Michigan we pride ourselves not only on our safe drinking water meeting the national *Safe Drinking Water Act*, (SDWA) health based primary standards but on the wholesomeness of the water with high expectations associated with taste, odor and appearances. The SDWA however does not cover all of our water quality issues particularly in regard to the piping and plumbing system that makes up what is called the distribution system. **It has been well documented that when one changes the source water one can change the quality of the finished water at the tap due to the chemical, biological and physical conditions of the distribution system.** See "The Rise and Fall of the CAP: What went wrong with Tucson's Water Delivery of the CAP"

http://academic.engr.arizona.edu/HWR/Fall02/Stacy/CAP_Project/Documents/AZDS_Rise_Fall_of_CAP.pdf