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Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)

From: Crooks, Jennifer <crooks.jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 5:58 PM
To: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Cc: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Poy, Thomas; Porter, Andrea; Devereaux, Tracy Jo (DEQ); Kuefler, Janet; Shoven, Heather; Deltoral, Miguel
Subject: Final Notes from call Tuesday 8/31/15 with MI DEQ RE: Flint

Thank you, Liane, for your edits—I incorporated all of your edits, and further clarified who said what.
 Jennifer

Date: August 31, 2015
Present: Liane Shekter Smith, Richard Benzie, Steve Busch, (2 other MDEQ staff?), Tom Poy, Andrea Porter, Janet Kuefler, Jennifer Crooks

STRATEGIC NEXT STEPS FOR FLINT TO ADDRESS LEAD CORROSION CONCERNS

Tom Poy discussed Marc Edwards' website, "Flint, MI Water Study Updates" (<https://flintwaterstudyupdates.wordpress.com/>). The discussion focused on the lead sampling and analytical results Marc Edwards' team posted to their website. Tom emphasized that EPA is not involved with Marc Edwards' work in Flint. Tom mentioned that the Edwards team's samples may not have been analyzed by a certified lab (which is only required for compliance samples) nor taken from sites that qualify as Tier 1 for LCR compliance sampling, but the results give further evidence that lead levels in Flint are trending upward. (The conclusion that there is an increasing trend of lead concentrations at consumer taps builds upon earlier compliance sampling taken by Flint in 2014 and 2015 that showed the 90th percentile of the 1st 6-month sampling period at 6ppb, then the 90th percentile of the 2nd 6-month sampling period at 11ppb.) Everyone at the meeting agreed that Flint is in compliance with the Safe Drinking water Act action level for lead. However, because the city's population exceeds 50,000 persons, MDEQ stated that Flint needs to additionally optimize their treatment process to reduce lead levels further, if possible.

The "Flint, MI Water Study Updates" website is putting added pressure on MDEQ and EPA to ensure that Flint addresses their lack of optimized corrosion control treatment in an expedited manner in order to protect the residents from exposure to high lead levels. Richard noted that there are numerous systems across the country that have installed corrosion control treatment, have optimized their corrosion control, but did not necessarily reduce their lead levels. We all acknowledged that this is true. MDEQ acknowledged that implementing installation of corrosion control treatment in Flint is prudent to protect public health since there are approximately 15,000 lead service lines within the city. EPA acknowledged that to delay installation of corrosion control treatment in Flint would likely cause even higher levels of lead over time as Flint's many lead service lines are continuously in contact with corrosive water.

Region 5 and MDEQ brainstormed on strategic next steps for Flint to address lead corrosion concerns. These steps included:

1. **Public Education for Flint Residents.** Liane has contacted the Department of Community Health to discuss developing a consumer lead education piece outlining the consumer's options to lower the lead in their drinking water. The Region was glad to hear of a plan to initiate Lead Public Education since this will provide the public immediate actions they can take. The educational material could include steps consumers can take to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water (flushing their lines after long stagnation periods, using filters certified to remove lead, etc.) as well as longer term fixes to remove lead sources (for example, financing the cost to remove any part of a lead service line on the owner's property at the same time as Flint is replacing its portion of the lead service line).

2. **Gathering Information on Flint's Future Treatment Plans.** Steve Busch said Flint and their engineering consultants were meeting this week (Sept 1) to discuss conceptually the necessary optimized corrosion control treatment at Flint. Tom Poy shared EPA lead experts' (Mike Schock and Darren Lytle of EPA's Office of Research and Development in Cincinnati) caution against simply adding orthophosphate without first studying the water quality and existing distribution system conditions to ensure that any installed treatment has a good chance of working. EPA lead experts have research and field experience showing the complexity of optimizing corrosion control treatment when water quality is significantly changed, as is the case for Flint.
3. **Offering Flint Free Help from EPA Experts.** Steve Busch has already provided the names of EPA lead experts (Mike Schock and Darren Lytle) to Flint, as has Susan Hedman, R5 Administrator. MDEQ and Region 5 agree that, to successfully control lead corrosion in the distribution system, Flint needs to review this situation holistically, while also addressing the lead issue in an expedited manner.
4. **Laying Groundwork for MDEQ/EPA Collaboration with Flint.** If Flint accepts the offer of technical assistance for optimizing corrosion control, Tom Poy suggested that MDEQ and EPA lead experts (Mike Schock and Darren Lytle) form a partnership to provide such help. EPA experts are able to provide pipe scale analyses, as well as other laboratory support. Although Flint (using their consultant) bears the ultimate responsibility for designing and installing corrosion control, MDEQ and EPA experts are willing and able to provide advice throughout the process.

END

Jennifer

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