

**Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ)**

**From:** The Office of Senator Ananich <SenJAnanich@senate.michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:43 PM  
**To:** hedman.susan@epa.gov; mccarthy.gina@epa.gov  
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**Subject:** Letter Requesting EPA Review of Flint, MI Water  
**Attachments:** 2015.10.21 EPA Review Request FINAL.PDF

PPI

Administrator McCarthy and Regional Director Hedman,

Please see the attached letter regarding a request for an EPA review of Flint, Michigan's water treatment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The Office of State Senator Jim Ananich  
 Michigan Senate Minority Leader  
 District 27



CC: S492

George K.

Liane Shellen

Steve Busch

Maggie Pollack

Brad Wunfel

Director asked  
 that I  
 provide you  
 a copy.

mlt  
 10-23

Orig: Duesch

SENATE MINORITY LEADER  
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October 21, 2015

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Washington, DC 20460

Susan Hedman  
**Regional Administrator**  
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5  
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**Re: EPA Review Needed on Flint, Michigan Water Treatment**

Administrator McCarthy and Regional Director Hedman,

Today Congressman Dan Kildee requested that the United States Environmental Protection Agency conduct an investigation into the water system in Flint, Michigan. I agree that such an investigation is vital to ensuring that the people responsible for Flint's dangerous water quality are held accountable. Similar to Congressman Kildee's request, I am requesting the EPA conduct a review of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) oversight of water treatment in Flint as provided for in the Lead and Copper Rule, 40 CFR Sec. 141.80.

After decades of relying on water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), Flint began treating its own water from the Flint River in April 2014 at the behest of state-appointed Emergency Managers. DWSD had used — and continues to use — anti-corrosion treatments in its water to prevent lead leaching from an aging infrastructure into residents' drinking water. For a number of reasons, raw water from the Flint River is significantly more corrosive than the lake water that DWSD uses. Despite this, Flint chose not to treat the raw Flint River water by any method traditionally associated with preventing lead corrosion. Multiple consultants and the EPA advised the city to use additional corrosion control measures, but that advice went unheeded by the City of Flint and the MDEQ.

Foreseeably, lead has been seeping into Flint's drinking water for more than a year, causing an alarming rise in the number of children in Flint with elevated blood lead levels. Independent research conducted by Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards indicated high lead levels in tap water, and a study led by Hurley Medical Center pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha revealed that in high-risk areas of the city, the rate of lead overexposure among children more than doubled since switching water sources. State data have confirmed these results.

Additionally, several questions remain regarding how Flint and state officials conducted water sampling under the Lead and Copper Rule. Allegedly, officials did not target samples in high-risk Tier 1 locations or repeat locations in subsequent tests. Consumers were also instructed to pre-flush their taps prior to collecting samples, resulting in lower lead level results. It is unclear whether a sufficient number of samples were taken or why MDEQ excluded two high lead level samples from Flint's July 2015 water quality report.

