

Busch, Stephen (DEQ)

From: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 3:30 PM
To: Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Information Request and Documentation

Please see the note below.

Has there been any further communication with or from DCH?

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Benzie, Richard (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Information Request and Documentation

Response from Jim Henry below.

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

From: Henry, James [<mailto:jhenry@gchd.us>]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Cc: Valacak, Mark; Cupal, Suzanne
Subject: RE: Information Request and Documentation

Hello Mr. Busch,

Thanks for your response. I'm looking forward to working with your office moving forward. Based upon my experiences with this investigation, I think it is necessary for my communications to be candid and followed up in writing whenever possible. Our goal is to successfully conduct this investigation in efforts to better protect the public.

I agree there are ambiguities written in the FOIA request. GCHD does not have municipal water system expertise and we are continuously learning about the processes. The FOIA request is specific enough that we should have received a timely response from the City of Flint. Also, it is addressed to the City and I apologize if there were misunderstandings regarding the intended recipient.

There have not been any conclusions regarding the source of illnesses. Our team is gathering information and we suspect there may be several sources. It has been made clear that the Flint municipal water system is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. It seems reasonable that your office would be involved regardless if a potential health risk from municipal water is related to consumption, inhalation or dermal exposure. Perhaps the legislation should be revisited to better address risks.

As you mentioned, we had communications with your office in October 2014, regarding Legionella, but I also had three telephone conversations with Mr. Michael Prysby, from your office between January 21, 2015 and January 23, 2015. These conversations occurred around the same time that your office participated with the TTHM presentation in Flint. I "explicitly explained" the details of the Legionella concerns and the possible associations with the Flint municipal water system and I specifically requested to meet with your office for further discussions.

Mr. Prysby informed me that the concerns were discussed with you. I was informed there was no reason to meet because the municipal water system is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Other than the timeframes written in your email, you are correct, I did not contact your office again until the email, dated March, 10, 2015.

GCHD has been working closely with MDCH and has consulted with CDC on several occasions regarding the epidemiological investigation. Also, we have been working with Legionella and municipal water experts, and recently with the USEPA. Based upon these discussions we have been informed that it is likely that a small amount of Legionella will survive the water treatment process at the plant and enter into the distribution system.

Our team is in the process of developing plans, which may include sampling locations within the distribution system and comparing environmental and clinical isolates. We recognize potential social, political and economic impacts regarding this investigation and need to be prepared for all outcomes. Hopefully, your office, the regulatory agency, will be available for assistance.

If a representative from your office is available to meet next week, please respond with some dates and times. I think it would be appropriate for the City to attend meetings and I will contact Mr. Croft, Flint DPW Director, after I receive a response from your office.

Thank you

Jim

Jim Henry
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