

The city has been using -- and Walling and state emergency managers have supported continuing to use -- the Flint River as a stopgap water source until the KWA pipeline is expected to be completed in 2016.

In state testing of city water samples, Flint has stayed below the federal threshold for lead, with less than 10 percent of tap water samples exceeding 15 ppb.

Water systems can be required to take steps like making water less corrosive or replacing lead service lines if sampling shows such elevated lead levels.

But after the Virginia Tech testing showed lead was much more prevalent than Flint's testing showed, Edwards and U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee each raised doubts about the water testing by the city and DEQ.

Kildee said in a news release Sept. 21 that "the city, DEQ and (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) have not adequately answered my questions on their testing methods to ensure the safety of Flint's water."

Reddit

From: Miller, Corinne (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH)
Subject: RE: Flint Water FAQ Document

Yes!

From: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Miller, Corinne (DCH)
Subject: RE: Flint Water FAQ Document

Thank --you... This is what we have been saying....if only our hirer ups would listen.

From: Miller, Corinne (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH)
Subject: FW: Flint Water FAQ Document

Fyi only

And from Gongwer this am.....

Officials have found lead in Flint's water system, but it is coming from final service connections, Department of Environmental Quality officials said in response to a push from U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee for additional water testing in the city.

Mr. Kildee (D-Flint) called Tuesday for the DEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to have independent testing conducted on the city's water system after the lead findings and complaints of murky water in the system (See Gongwer Michigan Report, September 22, 2015).

Brad Wurfel, spokesperson for the DEQ, said there is a federal rule calling for converting lead pipes to copper, but that the rule is designed to reduce the problem, not eliminate it.

"We felt we were clear that the lead detected in Flint's water is strictly the product of lead in home plumbing," Mr. Wurfel said of the meeting with Mr. Kildee and staff from other elected leaders. "It doesn't come from the river, or the plant, or the cast iron pipes employed for most of the delivery system. It comes from water passing through lead service connections - more than 15,000 of them in Flint, and it comes from home plumbing in older homes."

But he noted that Mr. Kildee is in the best place to push for change because much of what he would like to see happen would require federal funds.

From: Robinson, Mikelle (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 5:04 PM
To: Miller, Corinne (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH)
Cc: Moran, Susan (DCH)
Subject: FW: Flint Water FAQ Document

Hi Corinne and Linda,

Geralyn and Elizabeth requested a call with DEQ today in order to brief Nick and respond to some legislative inquiries. Below are my notes from the call that I sent to brief Sue and Mark as well as a Q & A document that DEQ developed and is currently being vetted by the Gov's office. Just wanted to be sure to keep you in the loop on this.

The DEQ PIO (Brad Wurfel) gave a long summary about the Flint water issue. He said bottom line is that the water itself is safe but they have an old water treatment plant and old cast iron pipes that haven't been upgraded in more than 40 years. 15,000 homes have old connections with varying levels of lead. Flint is not in violation of the lead standards however they could optimize the water supply by adding phosphate. Flint is also working on a meaningful optimization plan that will be completed sometime next year. He said that DEQ briefed the Mayor and some legislators on Monday on the situation. **He said Flint's water supply is not an imminent public health problem but a public confidence problem due to the many groups getting involved and controversial reports/media coverage on it.**

Some data from a local group of Peds is showing an uptick in blood lead levels which seems to contradict the data that CLPP collects. I've asked Rashmi to follow-up with Nancy P on a) the issue of the lead testing that a group of pediatricians did in Flint? b) messaging about lead, where it is found in the environment c) a brief explanation in writing that explains the results from the blood lead tests that Nancy's program has access to. I found the charts a bit hard to read/interpret. d) availability of any local programs that might be relevant, and e) anything else that might be useful for us to share with Genesee CHD. I'll also check with Linda D. on this. *(Linda, any thoughts on what might be useful?)*

DEQ developed a Q & A document that is being reviewed by the Gov's office and they will share with us. They will post this on their website after it is approved. DEQ would like the local health department to get involved in the messaging about what can be done such as running the water before using or get a filtration system. **Mark or I will need to follow-up with H.O. Valacak once we have some suggested talking points and information that can be provided to the public.**

The city owns only the first couple of feet of pipes in connections with homes, the rest is privately owned by the homeowner therefore it would be their expense to replace. The longer water sits in lead pipes, the higher the lead readings. DEQ's testing protocol produces consistent results across the state and matches the EPA's protocol. There are other areas of the state with the same problem. He estimated it would take \$60 M to replace the city's