
From: Adler, Ari (GOV)
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 9:26 AM
To: Agen, Jarrod (GOV); Walsh, John (GOV)
Subject: Flint water PR

This is a public relations crisis – because of a real or perceived problem is irrelevant -- waiting to explode nationally.

If Flint had been hit with a natural disaster that affected its water system, the state would be stepping in to provide bottled water and other assistance. What can we do given the current circumstances?

Ari

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 <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/01/22/water-was-latest-hit-flint/22193291/>

Who wants to drink Flint's water?

By Robin Erb, Detroit Free Press 11:46 p.m. EST January 22, 2015



LeeAnne Walters 36 of Flint shows water samples from her home from Wednesday January 21, 2015 to Flint's new emergency manager Jerry Ambrose after city and state officials spoke during a forum discussing growing health concerns about the drinking water being raised by Flint residents on Wednesday January 21, 2015 at the Flint City Hall dome. (Photo: Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press)

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(Photo: Ryan Garza/Detroit Free Press)

Story Highlights

- Last fall, the city issued three advisories to boil the water after detecting coliform bacteria.
- One resident calls it "poop water."
- The water woes are the latest blows to a city where residents have felt swatted around for too long.

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In a city where residents have felt under siege for years — from crime, bad press and an emergency manager some feel forced upon them — the newest threat pours from kitchen spigots and showerheads.

It's the reason behind mysterious rashes on local children, parents say. Unexplained illnesses. Even sick pets.

Bethany Hazard said it's the reason for the brown rust circles that began appearing just months ago around her drains and the oily film in her bathwater in her longtime east-side home.

On the west side of Flint, Corodon Maynard said it's the reason he was bent retching violently over the toilet this month — just hours after chugging two glasses of water at bedtime.

"I was throwing up like bleach water. It came up through my nose burning," said the 20-year-old.

The water from the city system is so corrosive, according to General Motors officials, that the automaker's Flint Engine Operations pulled off the city water system, connecting instead into a water system operated by nearby Flint Township.

So what's in Flint's water and just how dangerous is it?

It depends on who you ask and what tests you're referring to.