
From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 12:07 PM
To: 'Ryan Rifai'
Cc: Heaton, Anna (GOV); Biehl, Laura (GOV)
Subject: RE: Al Jazeera request for comments on water crisis

Hello Ryan

Flint residents need to have access to safe, clean water. Gov. Snyder and the administration have been working closely with the city to focus on health issues affecting children and other city residents, and address water infrastructure challenges. We are committed to working with Mayor Weaver and county leaders to address these shared concerns and obtain additional resources.

Gov. Snyder in October created action plan that focuses on increasing water testing, offering additional precautions for families with lead plumbing in their homes, and providing long-term solutions to address the city's water infrastructure challenges. The plan was created at Snyder's direction by the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the city of Flint.

The plan builds upon ongoing work with local, state and federal agencies and our partnership with city and community leaders. Together, we are working to ensure that all Flint residents have accurate information and know that help is available to address potential problems.

The state also has offered more than \$10 million in grants and other financial assistance to cover part of the payment for the temporary switch to the Great Lakes Water Authority until Flint's new water source is ready to go online as well as efforts to improve existing city water infrastructure and purchase water filters for residents.

The governor also appointed a bipartisan task force charged with reviewing all of the city, state and federal government actions and recommending changes looking forward that can address potential challenges in Flint and other cities. We continue to work closely with task force members.

For your background, the action plan includes:

- * Testing in Flint public schools immediately to ensure that drinking water is safe, with testing also available at no cost to any other school in Flint.
- * Offering free water testing to Flint residents to assure their drinking water is safe.
- * Providing free water filters to residents.
- * Expanding health exposure testing of individual homes.
- * Accelerating corrosion controls in the Flint drinking water system.
- * Accelerating water system improvements to address replacing lead service lines.
- * Expediting the completion of the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline.
- * Expanding a Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee to ensure the best technology, practices and science are being followed by adding an expert from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development to the group.
- * Naming Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as the Flint drinking water public health adviser.
- * Boosting a comprehensive lead education program to make sure residents have detailed information about how to protect themselves and their homes.

Dave Murray

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From: Ryan Rifai [<mailto:rayanr7@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:53 AM

To: Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov>

Subject: Al Jazeera request for comments on water crisis

Dear Dave Murraray,

I am a journalist for Al Jazeera, the media organisation based in Qatar.

I am writing a story about Flint's water crisis. It will be featured on www.aljazeera.com

Here are some questions I have that I hope you could help answer, please help with whatever you can:

What is the state of Michigan doing to help solve Flint and Detroit's water crises?

Why were water rates increased in 2014 in Detroit to the extent that many residents in the city and in Flint could not afford it?

If that was not the main problem, what was and who would you pin the most blame on for the crises?

How would you answer to accusations that the Michigan state's administration ignored warnings of unsafe drinking and cooking water in Flint?

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Ryan Rifai