
From: Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:32 PM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: Re: URGENT review please -- Draft Flint water release

Looks good to me.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 7, 2015, at 6:12 PM, Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov> wrote:

Team,

Please review this draft press release for the Thursday announcement in Flint. This incorporates some suggested edits to the strong draft from DEQ earlier today.

Thank you very much.

Gov. Rick Snyder: Move back to Detroit water provides best protection for public health in Flint *State, Mott Foundation and city form partnership to fund switch*

FLINT, Mich. – Flint families and children will be better protected by reconnecting with the Great Lakes Water Authority as the source of the city's drinking water, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

Snyder said Thursday that he will request the state Legislature to provide a portion of the \$12 million needed to reconnect with the authority, with the Flint city government providing \$2 million and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation donating \$4 million.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environmental Quality today also committed an additional \$3.5 million for water filters, free lead testing through the state laboratory for Flint water customers, and hiring additional staff to conduct health exposure monitoring for lead in drinking water.

Flint city leaders requested the state's help to fund the reconnection after a Wednesday meeting of Flint's Technical Advisory Committee. Flint's move to the Great Lakes Water Authority is expected to cost about \$1.3 million per month until the Karegnondi Water Authority is completed next summer.

"All Flint residents need clean, safe drinking water," Snyder said. "The technical experts helping the city on its water advisory all agree this move back to the Great Lakes Water Authority provides the best public health protection for children and families. This effort today is the result of people coming together to solve a problem. I appreciate Detroit's willingness to reconnect with Flint, the Mott Foundation's generous donation, and the dedication of all parties to come together to protect Flint families and children."

The move to Detroit water, which is drawn from Lake Huron, carries many public health benefits. As large bodies of water, the Great Lakes are naturally prone to fewer problems from

large rain events and other runoff issues that can be present in shallower rivers. Additionally, the Great Lakes Water Authority has already fully optimized its corrosion control, using phosphates to help coat the insides of pipes and prevent lead from leaching into the water.

However, reconnecting with the authority will not completely resolve the city's problem with lead service lines or aging infrastructure. It will take time for pipes in Flint to become coated with the phosphate corrosion control. Additionally, some households in the city could experience lead in their drinking water until all lead pipes and plumbing are replaced.

To best protect public health, Snyder said state and local authorities will continue to carry out steps outlined on Oct. 2 in a comprehensive action plan, including continued testing, the use of faucet filters and providing residents with accurate information about steps to eliminate lead in water.

Free filters are available for current MDHHS clients at the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office locations.

For residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs, free filters are available at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

At the Lippincott location only, extended hours will be offered this weekend, including until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Other good practices for residents concerned about lead include turning on the cold water tap and running the water until it's as cold as it will go. Additionally, only use cold water for cooking, drinking and especially mixing baby formula.

School test results released; more investigation planned

The state today also released the first results from its lead screening program in schools and homes. Of 37 total samples taken at 13 buildings, four samples spread over three buildings exceeded the federal action level of 15 parts per billion.

However, this sampling provides only an initial screen, and the state is committing to further testing water and inspecting plumbing at these schools. Until testing is complete, schools are advised to continue using bottled water and filtration as a precaution to protect children.

In addition, free testing is still available for any other Flint school, including daycares and Head Starts. Free testing is also available for any Flint resident.

Additional information, including more detailed lead screening results, is available at www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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