
From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 6:11 PM
To: Kyle Melinn
Subject: Re: Auditor General letter story

Thanks, Kyle! Appreciated.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 28, 2015, at 6:07 PM, Kyle Melinn <melinnky@gmail.com> wrote:

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> I'm off today, Dave, but I just sent this to John. He should be able

> to get it in. Thanks for letting me know

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> Sent from my iPhone

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>> On Dec 28, 2015, at 5:58 PM, Murray, David (GOV) <MurrayD1@michigan.gov> wrote:

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>> Kyle, I noticed that no one from MIRS contacted us or DEQ for a statement today about the Office of Auditor General letter about Flint water.

>> I saw you folks used an older quote. Did you want a statement from us? Is it too late to add it?

>> First, here's a copy of the letter in case you don't have it:

>> http://www.audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/15_16/l761032015.pdf

>> Our statement, which can be attributed to me:

>> The letter from the Office of the Auditor General includes some criticisms, but also reflects that state officials were following accepted protocols, or in one case, an interpretation of the corrosion control program that the EPA later clarified.

>> But we need to do better in ensuring Flint residents have safe water and tracking children affected by elevated lead levels. We continue to work with the bipartisan task force that is reviewing all the actions at the state, local and federal level and is expected to offer recommendations in a month or so. Gov. Snyder is committed to working with Flint Mayor Weaver and officials on these issues.

>> We appreciate the efforts of the Auditor General and will carefully consider all of the recommendations contained in the letter.

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>> For your background, here is a summary of answers from the Office of the Auditor General in response to questions mostly posed by Sen. Jim Ananich's office (the auditor added a few questions in the 11-page report). The questions were posed as the OAG conducts an audit of the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance's handling of the Flint water crisis.

>> Conclusions:

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>> n While the Flint City Council voted in March 2013 to move to the KWA pipeline, it didn't designate the Flint River as an interim water source. But the Department of Environmental Quality had approved the river as a backup source for emergency purposes in 2006. The treated water met safety standards in quarterly tests by the Flint Water Treatment Plant, but Flint had never tested its effect on the distribution system.

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>> n In an email review of key DEQ managers to determine if there was an effort to conceal information, only one email exchange raised red flags. The Environmental Protection Agency had asked DEQ in February 2015 if Flint had a corrosion control program; the DEQ responded the city had an optimized program in place. In April the EPA asked again, and the DEQ said that the Flint Water Treatment Plant was not doing corrosion control. DEQ later explained that the first answer was referring to its Lead and Copper Rule program, in which it monitors a new water source (in this case, the Flint river) for lead/copper for two consecutive six-month periods to determine if corrosion treatment is necessary. The report says there's no reason to believe that DEQ willfully misrepresented information to the EPA. It also concludes that Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance employees appeared to have notified management properly about the unfolding Flint water situation.

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