
From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:35 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Shekter Smith, Liane (DEQ); Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Prysby, Mike (DEQ); Muchmore, Dennis (GOV); Hollins, Harvey (GOV); Murray, David (GOV); Wurfel, Sara (GOV); Jessica Brown; Brown, Eric (GOV)
Subject: Re: Urgent: Independent Flint Water Study

Brad,

We are aware of the VT professor. I can bring you up to speed this afternoon or whenever you are available

Stephen Busch, P.E.
Lansing and Jackson District Supervisor
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
MDEQ
517-643-2314

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 31, 2015, at 10:25 AM, Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov> wrote:

Liane / Steve, can you look into this situation as a priority?

Everyone else -- just got this from the ACLU. Call me if you have questions / counsel.

Thanks.
b

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Curt Guyette <cguyette@aclumich.org>
Date: August 31, 2015 at 10:18:34 AM EDT
To: "wurfelb@michigan.gov" <wurfelb@michigan.gov>
Subject: Urgent: Independent Flint Water Study

Mr. Wurfel,

Prof. Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech university has been leading a research project to conduct an independent study of lead in Flint's water. Working with a group of city residents, they have been collecting water samples from homes throughout the city. The study is still under way, but the results so far have been so disturbing that VT has begun posting results on the web in order to alert residents about how serious the problem may be.

This is what VT is reporting:

*Over the weekend we analyzed another 72 lead samples collected by Flint residents and mailed to VT. For the 120 samples analyzed to date, **forty two percent were over 5 ppb**, which suggests a serious lead in water problem according to our experience and criteria. Twenty-three (20% of those collected) also exceeded 15 ppb lead, suggesting a serious lead in water problem. **That is, the Flint Citizen Science study to date, is finding results worse than the EPA standard which is applied to sampling “worst case” homes.** The highest lead sampled in first draw so far was 158 ppb, and the highest sample after 45 second flushing is 1051 ppb. Six of 120 homes sampled (5%), had over 15 ppb lead even after 2 minutes of continuous flushing. **The 90%’ile lead level in the Flint Water Study is currently 30 ppb, which is double the EPA standard applied to “worst case” homes, and in a range where water consumption has caused lead poisoning in children and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Needless to say, these data are very worrisome.***

Here is the website containing the information.

I am writing about this for a story that will be posted tomorrow. If the city chooses to respond, I need to hear back from you by the end of the day today, Aug. 31.

Sincerely,

Curt Guyette