
From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 4:22 PM
To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV)
Subject: Water responses

Shorter version:

Hi Danielle,

Gov. Snyder spoke with Sen. Ananich this morning about how the state can continue working with Flint city leaders. We just received the letter from the senator and are reviewing his suggestions. We deeply share the senator's commitment to making sure all state residents have access to clean and safe water.

The governor and state agencies have been closely working with Flint leaders on their infrastructure challenges for months, including about providing \$4.2 million in grants and restructured loan financing to provide resources needed to locate and fix infrastructure problems and add the carbon filtration system.

It's important that people have accurate information about their health and water. The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services are testing water and working with Flint residents on issues related to what they can do if they have concerns about the pipes in their homes.

Thanks!

Dave

Long version:

Hi Nick,

Gov. Snyder believes all state residents to have access to clean, safe water.

The governor and the state agencies have played a highly visible role in working with Flint city leaders with their infrastructure challenges -- and will continue to do so. We understand why people are frustrated, and also want to make sure people have accurate information and know where they can go if they have questions about their health and the water connections in their home. The health and safety of Flint residents is always the first priority, and that includes ensuring there is clean, safe drinking water -- especially for children.

The state so far has provided \$4.2 million in grants and restructured financing to help the city locate and fix some of the problems with its water infrastructure and add the carbon filtration system. Several state agencies continue to work with Flint leaders on their water challenges including through Mayor Walling's technical advisory board. That board includes outside experts and members will study data and offer recommendations. The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services also are testing water and working with Flint residents on issues related to what they can do if they have concerns about the pipes in their homes.

It's important to remember that the emergency manager had the final say on making the change, but did so at the strong urging of Flint city leaders. This was not a decision that was forced upon the city. Emergency managers often try to work closely with mayors and city councils, getting recommendations from the local communities they are serving. The decision to make the switch during the construction of the Karegnondi pipeline came after an 8-1 vote by the City Council and strong endorsement by the mayor and Genesee County leaders. The move also came after a series of upgrades to Flint's water treatment plant.

It's also important to remember that switching back to Detroit water will not necessarily have the effect that some expect. Flint has long-term challenges with its water infrastructure that need to be addressed.

Dave

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