
From: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 1:20 PM
To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV)
Cc: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ)
Subject: Re: Follow-up questions

The answers are below.

On Oct 2, 2015, at 12:31 PM, Wurfel, Sara (GOV) <Wurfels@michigan.gov> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kaffer, Nancy" <nkaffer@freepress.com>
Date: October 2, 2015 at 12:05:53 PM EDT
To: "Wurfel, Sara (GOV)" <Wurfels@michigan.gov>
Subject: Follow-up questions

- Reviewing my notes, I'm not sure I got a definitive answer from Wyant about corrosion control at the Flint water treatment plant. Was corrosion control in use? I'd like a simple yes or no, here – if no, obviously, why not – if yes, what was it, and why was – if any – what sounds like a lesser degree of corrosion control being used? I would like the names of the specific technologies/chemicals that were in use in the past, if in fact corrosion control was being used at the Flint plant, and the specific technologies that will be used going forward.

The plant was using a lime as a means of minimizing corrosion, which is an recognized corrosion control treatment by EPA. The two consequent monitoring results from December 2014 and June 2015 while meeting the action level were deemed optimal and were in fact increasing. As such the State sent s letter in August to require further optimization. We understand the City is going to use orthophosphate to fully optimize its system and that will happen this month.

- Was the MDEQ unaware that there were aging lead service lines in Flint, and that those would increase the lead risk? Were the Flint water treatment folks? Why was this not taken into account in developing the water treatment count?

The DEQ and City were aware that Flint, and many other older communities, has lead service lines. It was the City's decision to use lime as its first treatment option and to monitor to see its effectiveness. In some communities this treatment has been effective corrosion control.

- Wyant said that "two consecutive back to back tests" showed there was a problem; when were those tests performed and when were the results available?

Those test were performed in the six months leading up to Dec. 2014 and again June 2015. The results were made available to the residents that were tested, the City, and all testing results will soon be made available on the Flint water website the state has created. They overall results have always been available in the City's compliance documents.

Obviously I would like to use this information in a piece we'll have ready to go at 1:30p so ASAP would be great.

Nancy Kaffer
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
www.freep.com/abettermichigan
313-222-6585
@nancykaffer, @abettermi