

That said, the state has requested Flint to 'optimize' its water treatment to further limit exposure to lead from plumbing in homes. While statute allows several years for a drinking water system to actually undertake this process – Detroit took five years to complete its water optimization work – we are encouraging Flint water system operators to take these steps immediately and we are encouraged by the conversation so far.

Any resident who has concerns about lead in their drinking water should have their water tested at a certified laboratory and get professional consultation on how to address it. The leading cause of lead poisoning is known to be lead paint and, in some areas, environmental legacy hot spots where lead is present in soils. However, I will say it again: when homes are filled with lead plumbing or plumbing fixtures containing lead, homeowners should assume there is some varied level of interaction between water and pipes that results in lead exposure.

b

From: Ronald Fonger [mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Subject: RE: lead in flint water

Brad:

If needed, here is the link to what's been posted today.

I spoke with Dr. Marc Edwards, who is overseeing the research.

<http://flintwaterstudy.org/>

Ron Fonger
MLive Media Group
Reporter

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From: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) [mailto:WurfelB@michigan.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Ronald Fonger
Subject: RE: lead in flint water

Ron, thank you for reaching out. We definitely want to clarify some important points here. Give me a few to read this and pull together some stuff for you.

Again, THANKS!!!

b

From: Ronald Fonger [<mailto:RFONGER1@mlive.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)
Cc: Kristin Longley; Bryn Mickle
Subject: lead in flint water

Brad:

I left a message with Mike Prysby on Tuesday, Sept. 1, but wanted to reach out to you also because of stories we are working on about the extent to which lead is becoming an issue in Flint drinking water.

Today, Sept. 2, researchers at Virginia Tech posted the results on an experiment with Flint water online. The report concludes that Flint River water leaches much more lead from plumbing than does Detroit.

"On average, Detroit water is 12 times (or 12X) less corrosive than the Flint River water currently in use ... This is creating a public health threat in some Flint homes that have lead pipe or lead solder," the report says.

An earlier post by the same researchers says that initial water tests show "a serious lead in water problem" in Flint, partly because Flint River water is so corrosive to pipes.

Given the state's role in oversight of the city's drinking water system through DEQ and its overall oversight by state emergency managers during the past several years, I wanted to make sure I'm reaching out to the right person to respond to this information.

Could you let me know who that is?

I expect to post the first story about the experiment today and expect the issue will be getting more attention as the VT study of 300 water test kits from Flint is completed.

Thanks,

Ron Fonger
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