
From: Murray, David (GOV)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:47 PM
To: Ryan Felton
Cc: Wurfel, Sara (GOV)
Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY | The Guardian re: Flint

Hello Ryan,

Gov. Snyder continues to work with Sen. Ananich and others about the concerns raised about Flint's water and the city's challenges with its infrastructure. We are working closely with federal and state agencies as well as city leaders and we expect an announcement about some additional steps later this week.

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.

We're working to build upon existing state efforts to work with Flint leaders on their infrastructure needs. 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.

Decisions about changes to the water system were not 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 to 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.

I urge you to contact Angela Minicuci at MDHHS, who can discuss how state blood test data is different than what has been reported.

Dave

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2015, at 2:10 PM, Ryan Felton <ryanfelton13@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all,

Following up to see if I can expect a response later this afternoon.

Thanks much!

On Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 3:37 PM, Ryan Felton <ryanfelton13@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all,

I wanted to see if the governor's office would have any response to the call from Senate minority leader Jim Ananich to have Flint reconnect with Detroit's water system. It's for a story I'm working on for the Guardian, regarding the increase in lead levels in the blood of Flint children ever since the city switched to using the Flint River.

Additionally, can you confirm whether or not the governor's office backed plans from Flint's emergency manager to transfer from using DWSD to the Flint River?

I'm working on a 5 pm deadline for tomorrow (9/30). I appreciate your time and look forward to the response.

Best,

Ryan Felton
Journalist
Detroit, MI
[734.353.2221](tel:734.353.2221)
ryanfelton.tumblr.com
Twitter: @ryanfelton13

--

Ryan Felton