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**From:** Wurfel, Sara (GOV)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 5:09 PM  
**To:** Kaffer, Nancy  
**Subject:** Re: Flint water

Ed Kurtz was the EM at the time. Important to remember that the emergency manager had the final say - with ultimate sign off by Treasury-on making the change, but also did so at the strong urging of Flint city leaders. This was not a decision that was forced upon the city. Exact opposite actually.

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, testing and an independent analysis of water rates and quality.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 25, 2015, at 4:14 PM, Kaffer, Nancy <[nkaffer@freepress.com](mailto:nkaffer@freepress.com)> wrote:

>

> Deadline question for a column due today. :)

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> Nancy Kaffer

> Columnist

> Detroit Free Press

> [www.freep.com/abettermichigan](http://www.freep.com/abettermichigan)

> 313-222-6585

> @nancykaffer, @abettermi

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kaffer, Nancy

> Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 2:54 PM

> To: 'Wurfel, Sara (GOV)' <[Wurfels@michigan.gov](mailto:Wurfels@michigan.gov)>

> Subject: RE: Flint water

>

> Hi Sara - A little confused by your response. Not sure if Darnell Earley was EM when the decision was made to use Flint River -- It may have been Michael Brown? He was EM when the decision was made to join the Karegnondi Water Authority but I'm not sure about the decision to switch to Flint River water and stop using DWSD, but regardless, he's an EM appointed by the governor -- but I'm unclear why you guys would sign off on something as important about the integrity of an entire city's water supply if you had "severe reservations"? Any light you could shed on that would be much appreciated.

>

> Also, not clear what the Genesee Board of Commissioners has to do with it? They're a separate water customer and have continued to use DWSD while Karegnondi is under construction.

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> Our data analyst has been in contact with HHS. Story on that is forthcoming.

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> \_\_\_\_\_

> Nancy Kaffer  
 > Columnist  
 > Detroit Free Press  
 > [www.freep.com/abettermichigan](http://www.freep.com/abettermichigan)  
 > 313-222-6585  
 > @nancykaffer, @abettermi  
 >  
 > -----Original Message-----  
 > From: Wurfel, Sara (GOV) [mailto:Wurfels@michigan.gov]  
 > Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:26 PM  
 > To: Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com>  
 > Subject: Re: Flint water  
 >  
 > Just so you know ... that's not accurate history, Nancy. This change was pushed and direct request of Genesee Co Board of Commissioners AND city council (7-1) and mayor at the time. We had severe reservations about switch but ultimately was nearly unanimous request from local local level that Treasury signed off on. (And FYI double checking, but nearly certain EM at time was not Darnell E.)  
 >  
 > Not that any of that matters, Nancy.  
 > The bottom line is that we have been working hard to do everything possible to play a supportive role and work in collaborative fashion across all levels of government with community, faith & business leaders, residents, etc.  
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 > Protecting public health is paramount and safe, clean, accessible drinking water is essential. That's what we solely focused on helping ensure.  
 >  
 > Highly recommend you reach out to state Health & Human Services team for how this data set was spliced and diced. That's key to understanding. They can walk through for you and Freep team.  
 >  
 > Thanks much,  
 > SW  
 >  
 > Sent from my iPhone  
 >  
 > On Sep 24, 2015, at 3:37 PM, Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com<mailto:nkaffer@freepress.com>> wrote:  
 >  
 > Hey Sara - comment on this elevated lead in the Flint water system? Specifically because the Flint EM is the one who made the decision to hook up to the Flint ... the same Flint EM who is now DPS EM, correct?  
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 > \_\_\_\_\_  
 > Nancy Kaffer  
 > Columnist  
 > Detroit Free Press  
 > [www.freep.com/abettermichigan](http://www.freep.com/abettermichigan)<<http://www.freep.com/abettermichigan>>  
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