



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

September 17, 2015

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Jim Ananich
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Sheldon Neeley
State Representative
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

The Honorable Phil Phelps
State Representative
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senator Ananich and Representatives Neeley and Phelps:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2015, regarding water quality in the city of Flint (City). Your interest in this matter is appreciated. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) takes seriously its responsibility to ensure safe drinking water for all Michigan residents. The MDEQ maintains a robust public water supply regulatory program through long-standing partnerships with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the state's regulated public water systems.

With respect to the draft memo referenced in your letter, the MDEQ does not review or receive draft memos from the USEPA, nor would we expect to while it is a draft.

Regulations associated with lead, copper, and corrosion control require communities to monitor water quality at customer taps. The monitoring protocols for sampling home water attempt to represent actual home water use, and they allow the MDEQ to get consistent results for year-over-year comparisons.

It is important to recognize that any home with lead plumbing or service connections will impart some amount of lead to water samples. While the compliance monitoring for lead in the City has not exceeded the federally-established Action Level, either before or after the City switched sources and treatment methods, there has always been

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detectable lead in the City's water sampling program for homes that have lead plumbing or service connections. The City's monitoring program's purpose is to show aggregated levels throughout the entire system, not individual home levels.

The law requires the City to provide individual lead results to customers whose homes are sampled for compliance with the Action Level. Each customer with an individual sample result that exceeds 15 parts per billion is provided information on actions they can take to limit lead exposure in their drinking water. System-wide results from the most recent lead compliance monitoring are included each year in the City's annual Consumer Confidence Report, which is provided to customers and available online.

It is important to note that the City performed extensive home water tests for lead and copper last year and this year, and is meeting state and federal drinking water standards. Local health departments also administer annual blood level testing on children in Flint; results show no discernable rise in levels that might be expected if there was an elevated lead level in the City water supply. The City currently has no unresolved violations of state and federal drinking water standards.

The MDEQ continues to work with the City and federal regulators on the shared goal of ensuring safe, reliable drinking water in this community.

I look forward to discussing this issue in greater detail at the meeting next week. If you should have additional questions before then, please contact Ms. Maggie Pallone, Deputy Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs, at 517-284-6715 or pallonem@michigan.gov; or you may contact me.

Sincerely,


Dan Wyant
Director
517-284-6700

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The Honorable Sheldon Neeley
The Honorable Phil Phelps
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cc: U.S. Representative Dan Kildee
Mayor Dayne Walling, City of Flint
Mr. Howard Croft, City of Flint
Dr. Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator, USEPA, Region 5
Mr. Thomas Poy, USEPA, Region 5
Ms. Denise Fortin, USEPA, Region 5
Mr. Michael Schock, USEPA
Mr. Darren Lytle, USEPA
Mr. Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech
Mr. Harvey Hollins, Governor's Southeast Michigan Office
Mr. Bill McBride, Governor's Washington Office
Mr. Eric Brown, Governor's Washington Office
Mr. Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Madhu R. Anderson, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Maggie Pallone, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Sarah M. Howes, Legislative Liaison, MDEQ
Mr. Brad Wurfel, Communications Director, MDEQ
Ms. Liane Shekter Smith, MDEQ
Mr. Richard Benzie, MDEQ
Mr. Stephen Busch, MDEQ
Mr. Pat Cook, MDEQ