

<p>Dec 22</p>	<p>Professor Edwards also stated that these documents will show support to Hurley Medical Center's doctor Mona Hanna-Attisha's studies and conclusions even though they would not publically endorse it. When presented with the documents and there contents, Brad Wurfel, the Director of Communications for the DEQ vehemently denied the connection between the city's water and the high blood lead levels.</p> <p>“I’m saying that there is a difference between blood lead levels and water lead levels... Different testing, different sampling, different things... They are apples and cars.” <in the video></p> <p>"The connection between water and blood is there's other sources of lead getting into kids' blood. " Wurfel said. "Historically lead has represented approximately less than 20 percent on the average of lead found in kids' blood as the source...it's not the big source historically.</p> <p>http://nbc25news.com/news/local/professor-emails-show-state-knew-of-high-lead-levels-in-flint-water</p>
<p>Nov 10</p>	<p>Brad Wurfel, a spokesman for the DEQ, issued a statement today, pledging the agency's cooperation.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>“We’ve appreciated the federal government’s support on the situation in Flint – including its announcement last week that the Lead and Copper rule speaks ambiguously on the corrosion control issue. Nobody wants to see a situation like Flint, and we look forward in working with our federal partners going forward because we share the goal of making sure the Flint situation is not repeated – in Michigan, or anywhere else.”</p> <p>http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/11/epa_says_it_will_audit_michiga.html</p>
<p>Oct 19</p>	<p>Brad Wurfel, a DEQ spokesman, told Bloomberg BNA Oct. 19 that the Safe Drinking Water Act requires cities of 50,000 or more to maintain full corrosion control even while they're doing testing. However, he downplayed the significance of the e-mails.</p> <p>“The e-mails only show a snapshot” of the discussions between DEQ and EPA, he said.</p> <p>http://www.bna.com/flint-mich-didnt-n57982059677/</p>
<p>Oct 19</p>	<p>"Our staff was very clearly confused," MDEQ spokesman Brad Wurfel told the Free Press this morning, adding the state had never overseen a water source switch on a system as large as Flint's.</p> <p>http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/10/19/michigan-official-federal-water-rules-not-followed-in-flint/74207204/</p>
<p>Oct 10</p>	<p>Quietly in the back of the room stood Hanna-Attisha, She leaned over to Brad Wurfel, the state spokesman who a week earlier had called her work “unfortunate” in a time of “near hysteria.”</p>

	<p><i>You called me irresponsible</i>, Attisha recalled saying to him. Wurfel said he was sorry.</p> <p>"I had the opportunity to apologize ... I was grateful for the opportunity to do it," Wurfel told the Free Press later. "I will be the first to say, I came on a little strong on this because I believed the numbers we had in the moment."</p> <p>http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/10/10/hanna-attisha-profile/73600120/</p>
Oct 8	<p>A spokesman for the MDEQ, Brad Wurfel, said that the sample requirements are based on population, and that the requirement was lowered because new census data showed Flint's population had dropped below 100,000. He also cited difficulty in getting enough people to send in water sample kits for testing. "Participation has historically been a well-documented challenge in Flint," he said.</p> <p>In response to questions from Al Jazeera, Wurfel said that "the city, the state and the U.S. EPA are taking necessary steps to address lead concerns in Flint. Free lead filters for all Flint residents are a precautionary step to ensure public health while we look more closely at exposure concerns."</p> <p>http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/10/8/the-fight-for-clean-water-in-flint-michigan.html</p>
Oct 2	<p>We understand many have lost confidence in the drinking water. We need to build that back. We need to do more," Dan Wyant, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, said during a news conference in Flint.</p> <p>State officials are still investigating, but among the differences in how the cities treat their water is that the Detroit system, which taps Lake Huron, adds a corrosion control agent called orthophosphate to prevent lead in pipes getting into the water, said Brad Wurfel, spokesman for the environmental regulatory agency.</p> <p>Flint had not been doing that, but will start under the guidelines announced Friday. The state said a year of testing showed that the city system exceeded the levels at which corrosion controls must be used. Wurfel said orthophosphate gathers on pipes' interior walls and forms a layer that reduces the water's exposure to lead.</p> <p>http://bigstory.ap.org/article/72fc19a8f47d44109552a11ecaebdcd5/public-health-emergency-declared-due-lead-flint-water</p>
Sep 28	<p>State regulators quickly responded. Brad Wurfel, spokesman at the Department of Environmental Quality, said the water controversy is becoming "near-hysteria."</p> <p>"I wouldn't call them irresponsible. I would call them unfortunate," Wurfel said of the doctors' comments.</p>

	<p>"Flint's drinking water is safe in that it's meeting state and federal standards," he said. "The system has an aging portion that needs to be addressed. They haven't had meaningful maintenance for four decades or more."</p> <p>Associated Press: http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20150928/NEWS01/150929872/doctors-urge-flint-to-stop-using-water-from-flint-river</p>
Sep 29	<p>But officials with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality dispute the findings of the draft report. MDEQ spokesman Brad Wurfel says the report was the work of a "rogue employee" and promised the final report — not yet released — would tell a much different story.</p> <p>"You have to have to do a full year of studying" the water chemistry as it behaves across the system before implementing corrosion control, Wurfel says, adding that's the only way to know how much phosphate to add to the water.</p> <p>http://www.npr.org/2015/09/29/444497051/high-lead-levels-in-michigan-kids-after-city-switches-water-source</p>
Sep 29	<p>"You have to have to do a full year of studying" the water chemistry as it behaves across the system before implementing corrosion control, MDEQ spokesman Brad Wurfel said. He says that's the only way to know what corrosion-control treatment to use.</p> <p>That period of study was to be completed by June 30.</p> <p>As the DEQ reads federal regulations, Flint technically has up to two years after the study to install treatment. But Wurfel says an announcement on the state's decision will come by the end of this week, and "the prescription for optimizing the system for corrosion control is going to be done in Flint by the end of this year."</p> <p>"If I handed you a bag of chocolate chips and a sack of flour and said 'make cookies,' you'd still need a recipe right? They need to get the results from that testing to understand how much of what to put in the (new water source)," Wurfel said.</p> <p>"We have a plan to expedite this with the city ... and folks can take some comfort in that," Wurfel said.</p> <p>It's not clear yet how much the treatment will cost, but Wurfel says "this won't break the bank." A state-appointed emergency manager made the interim switch to the Flint River to save the city money.</p> <p>The city expects to stop using the Flint River when a new regional water system in Genesee County is completed, slated for the end of 2016. According the MDEQ's Brad Wurfel, that's because they won't need to study the nature of the new water source – Lake Huron. Because Detroit's water system uses water from Lake Huron, Flint will be</p>

	<p>able to use the same corrosion-control treatment it did when it was hooked up to Detroit's system.</p> <p>http://michiganradio.org/post/flint-mayor-state-approve-plan-fast-humanly-possible-help-keep-lead-out-water#stream/0</p>
Sep 25	<p>The question is not that whether there is a higher level of lead in water from the Flint River — it's that river water may be more corrosive as it travels through lead pipes on residential properties and in homes, said Brad Wurfel, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. About 15,000 of the 40,000 Flint customers have lead pipes connecting to the city system, he said.</p> <p>But he said testing has shown that lead levels in the Flint water system — both before and after the switch in 2014 — have been under the acceptable limit of 15 parts per billion during every three-year testing cycle since 1992. Additionally, two rounds of supplemented tests since the system switch put lead levels at 6 parts per billion and then at 11 parts per billion — a change that Wurfel said fits in line with previous fluctuations.</p> <p>Congressman Dan Kildee, a Flint Democrat, called state and local testing "lackluster."</p> <p>For one thing, Flint residents collect samples, and there are concerns that there are too few samples and that they represent only some parts of the city. And Wurfel confirmed that about 60 bottles of water samples were turned in by citizens in the last round of testing, even though 200 bottles were sent out.</p> <p>In the best of circumstances — with enough sampling and previous clean tests of water — citizen sampling might be adequate. But, in Flint — where there's a major change in the system that some residents say have led to health problems, "it seems to be a much higher standard would apply," Kildee said.</p> <p>In addition to water testing, Wurfel a said state public health officials have reexamined results of blood-lead level testing among Flint children. In short, that data doesn't show the same upward trend that Hanna-Attisha's found, he said.</p> <p>Wurfel said environmental officials aren't taking the matter lightly, and they realize the water system is in "dire" need of an overhaul. They've requested a meeting with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency authorities to "review protocols" to make sure the state's testing is adequate.</p> <p>"Lead is serious. Lead builds up. Lead effects children. It's not something we take lightly," he said. "We're confident with what we've done, but we know there are concerns."</p> <p>http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/09/24/water-lead-in-flint/72747696/</p>
Sep 24	Regarding an oil spill exercise // Not water related

	<p>"There's things we can control and there's things we can't control," DEQ communications director Brad Wurfel said. "One of the things we can control is being prepared."</p> <p>http://wcrz.com/your-support-for-safe-water-flint-has-been-overwhelming-thank-you-video/</p>
Sep 15	<p>Brad Wurfel, director of communications for the DEQ, said there is lead in all water where lead service lines and plumbing with lead solder exist.</p> <p>"The problem isn't new," Wurfel said Tuesday. "It's just news (now, and) a knee-jerk reaction would be an irresponsible response."</p> <p>http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/09/virginia_tech_researcher_says.html</p>
Sep 11	<p>DEQ Communications Director Brad Wurfel said in an email to The Flint Journal-MLive that the agency appreciates "that the state representatives have concerns about what they are seeing in various forums on this issue."</p> <p>"Obviously the department looks forward to briefing local legislative leaders and answering all of their questions," the statement says.</p> <p>http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/09/kildee_other_elected_officials.html</p>
Sep 10	<p>The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has estimated at least 15,000 homes in Flint have lead plumbing, and Communications Director Brad Wurfel said the only way to eliminate lead in those homes would be to replace hundreds of miles of lead pipes and connections.</p> <p>Flint residents "who have lead pipes or a lead service connection had lead in their water at some level before this issue was in the newspaper ... before the switch to the Flint River," Wurfel said in an email THursday, Sept. 10. "Optimizing (corrosion control) can minimize impacts, but it won't alleviate the issue."</p> <p>"The city of Flint has challenges, no question," Wurfel said. "Decades of forestalled maintenance ... coupled with changes in city population size that put new demands on an old system ... compounded by a rate structure which makes Flint's water very expensive, are all serious issues the city must confront."</p> <p>The "solution won't be cheap and relief for some parts of the city won't come quickly because this problem didn't start last month, last year, or even last governor; it started in the last century," the statement says.</p> <p>Wurfel said that while the state "appreciates academic participation in this discussion, offering broad, dire public health advice based on some quick testing could be seen as fanning political flames irresponsibly."</p> <p>--</p>

Wurfel said the state's program for ensuring water quality is built on federal law and "has been effectively protecting drinking water supplies for decades ... a consistent, solid program."

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Wurfel said large water system operators like Flint must carry out two consecutive rounds of water tests in a 12-month period after changing water sources.

The tests allow the city is to see what changes need to be made to minimize corrosion.

"Those (test) results show the system complies with the federal rule -- 90 percent of the samples are 15 ppb or less," Wurfel said in an email. "If the system is large -- 50,000 or more customers -- they still have to proceed with optimizing the system.

"They get a year to make a plan, based on the results of the tests. We get a year to review the plan. They get two years to implement the plan," the statement says. "We've encouraged Flint to skip the time periods and move immediately to optimizing."

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/09/university_researchers_dont_dr.html

Sep 9

Ron,

As we discussed last week, **the state DEQ is just as perplexed by Edwards' results as he seems to be by the city's test results**, which are done according to state and federal sampling guidelines and analyzed in certified labs.

When I said we were unsure how the Virginia Tech team got its results, that's not the same as being surprised that they got them. There are a conservatively estimated 15,000 old homes with lead plumbing in Flint alone, and this group specializes in looking for high lead problems. They pull that rabbit out of that hat everywhere they go. Nobody should be surprised when the rabbit comes out of the hat, even if they can't figure out how it is done.

It's scientifically probable a research team that specializes in looking for lead in water could have found it in Flint when the city was on its old water supply. We won't know that, because they've only just arrived in town and quickly proven the theory they set out to prove, and while the state appreciates academic participation in this discussion, offering broad, dire public health advice based on some quick testing could be seen as fanning political flames irresponsibly. Residents of Flint concerned about the health of their community don't need more of that.

	<p>As I mentioned last week, the issue here isn't Flint's water source or water plants. It's the high number of older homes with lead pipes and lead service connections. Anyone with lead plumbing in their homes should recognize there's some communication of lead from that.</p> <p>The state and the EPA are working together in Flint – have been from the start, and we are in regular communication with federal counterparts to discuss Flint water. The state's program has been in place, protecting community water supplies for more than 40 years around the state. The reason this conversation began is because we have lead and copper rules; the city met the state and federal standard, and has agreed to further optimize its system to even further reduce lead levels, but let's be clear: lead pipes means some lead in water, at some level. Folks who have concerns should get a water specialist to take a look at their home and see what they need to do to achieve peace of mind, because lead and copper are home plumbing problems that no water source can eliminate entirely.</p> <p>b</p> <p>Brad Wurfel</p> <p>Communications Director</p> <p>Michigan Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p>XXX-XXX-XXXX</p> <p>XXX-XXX-XXXX cell</p> <p>Via email to Ron Fonger</p>
Sep 6	<p>“The samples don't match the testing that we've been doing in the same kind of neighborhoods all over the city for the past year,” says Brad Wurfel, a state Department of Environmental Quality spokesman.</p> <p>Wurfel says DEQ has conducted two rounds of testing in the past year. He adds that the Department of Community Health conducts its own blood level lead testing in Flint.</p> <p>“With these kind of numbers,” Wurfel says, “we would have expected to be seeing a spike somewhere else in the other lead monitoring that goes on in the community.”</p> <p>http://michiganradio.org/post/team-testing-flint-water-lead-sample-sample</p>
Jul 13, 2015	<p>“Let me start here – anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water in Flint can relax,” said Brad Wurfel, spokesman for Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality.</p> <p>He says preliminary tests of at least 170 homes in the past year show the woman's home was an outlier. Wurfel says those reports should be finalized in a few weeks.</p>

	<p>“It does not look like there is any broad problem with the water supply freeing up lead as it goes to homes,” Wurfel said.</p> <p>Wurfel says anyone with a home that’s more than 30 years old should contact their city and get their water tested, no matter where they live.</p> <p>Old homes sometimes have lead service connections with city water systems. Lead can get into drinking water that way, or through some old copper connections, which may have lead solder, Wurfel said.</p> <p>http://michiganradio.org/post/leaked-internal-memo-shows-federal-regulator-s-concerns-about-lead-flint-s-water#stream/0</p>
<p>Aug 14, 2014</p>	<p>The city said in a statement to MLive: "The hydrant flushing is in response to localized complaints of discolored water. Residents in the affected areas may see increased water cloudiness for a short time, but the water will be safe to drink. The water throughout the City meets all (state Department of Environmental Quality) required drinking standards." ...</p> <p>But no official seems to know what happened to Flint's water supply to cause the discoloration.</p> <p>And it's unclear if the problem has persisted. Flint spokesperson Jason Lorenz, who did not return Metro Times' request for comment, told MLive he wasn't sure what caused the discoloration.</p> <p>Brad Wurfel, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, referred Metro Times requests for comments to DEQ district engineer Michael Prysby, who says by email that "the discoloration appears to have been caused by unauthorized drafting of water from fire hydrants in these areas for street sweeping activities."</p> <p>"This issue was discussed with the city and the department of public works, and this method of obtaining water for street sweeping will be discontinued," Prysby says.</p> <p>http://www.metrotimes.com/detroit/flint-residents-raise-concerns-over-discolored-water/Content?oid=2231724</p>
<p>Apr 2014</p>	<p>Brad Wurfel, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Quality, says Flint has a series of permits and they're "racing to get all this work done."</p> <p>http://nbc25news.com/news/local/flint-residents-to-start-receiving-water-from-flint-river-on-april-17?id=1030164</p>