

From Pauli's Draft Book.

Given everything that residents had experienced, it seemed like they were entitled to know about the <POU filter bacteria> findings while there was still time to take extra precautions, even though the results were preliminary and analysis ongoing. At the same time, the team certainly did not want to oversell the risks and cause unnecessary anxiety in people who had plenty of it to deal with already.

As we debated the finer nuances of risk communication internally, Marc Edwards contacted McElmurry in early December with a request. Based on Virginia Tech's latest findings, he was prepared to declare Flint water as safe as municipal water in other cities and wanted the FACHEP team to sign off on a statement to that effect. McElmurry told Edwards that a sweeping statement about Flint's water quality would be premature and declined to endorse the proposed statement. Although Edwards was clearly already positioning his narrative about the water to undercut FACHEP's work, from that point on my impression was that he was watching us like a hawk. It was plain that all of the business about bacteria, just like Smith's warnings about DBPs, was starting to interfere with his attempts to bring the story of his intervention in Flint to a triumphant conclusion.