



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



KEITH CREAUGH
DIRECTOR

July 26, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Karen Williams Weaver
Mayor of Flint
1101 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

Dear Mayor Weaver:

The purpose of this letter is to express our serious concerns about the operations of the City of Flint (City) Public Water Supply (PWS). These concerns have been expressed previously by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

In a letter to you and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) dated June 3, 2016, the USEPA expressed their concerns about the City's inability to add chemicals to boost pH and chlorine residuals. The ability to boost pH is necessary to optimize corrosion control. A sodium hydroxide feed system was permitted by the DEQ for this purpose. To date, it has still not been installed, and there does not appear to be any urgency on the City's part to complete this project.

Of greater concern is the ability of the City to maintain adequate chlorine residuals throughout its water system. Assuring public health protection by disinfection is one of the most important responsibilities of any PWS. We are pleased that the temporary sodium hypochlorite feed system has now been installed near the Water Treatment Plant and that it is operating effectively. However, earlier this month the City's supply of calcium hypochlorite was depleted. The calcium hypochlorite is used to boost chlorine at the two water storage reservoirs in the City's distribution system when they are being filled. No backup plan to chlorinate reservoir water was in place. While a crisis was averted due to operational adjustments and by borrowing some calcium hypochlorite from a neighboring PWS, the event highlights the City's urgent need for assistance in its water system operations.

There was a meeting on July 13, 2016, with representatives of the City, the Governor's Office, DEQ, and outside experts to discuss a proposed plan to provide operational assistance and side-by-side management for the City's PWS. It was my understanding the City was to coordinate a follow up meeting to identify any remaining issues, determine solutions, and develop next steps. It is imperative that this meeting occur as expeditiously as possible.

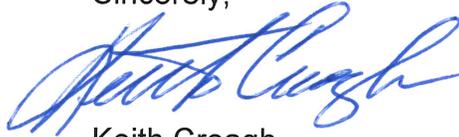
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Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to these matters. The DEQ continues to be a full partner in addressing these concerns with its primary focus on ensuring a safe drinking water system for the people of Flint.

Sincerely,



Keith Creagh
Director
517-284-6700

cc: Brigadier General Mike McDaniel (Ret.), City of Flint
Mr. Sylvester Jones, City of Flint
Ms. JoLisa McDay, City of Flint
Mr. Robert Kaplan, USEPA
Mr. Rich Baird, Governor's Office
Mr. Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. George Krisztian, DEQ
Mr. Bryce Feighner, DEQ