

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

LANSING



March 3, 2020

## **VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Robert Bincsik, Director of Public Works City of Flint 1101 South Saginaw Street Flint, Michigan 47502

WSSN: 02310 City of Flint

Dear Mr. Bincsik:

SUBJECT: VIOLATION NOTICE - Monitoring and Reporting for Lead and Copper

The records of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD), show that the city of Flint (City) is in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended (Act 399); specifically, R 325.10710a, Lead and copper in tap water; monitoring requirements of the 1979 Administrative Code.

In accordance with the above rules, the City shall collect samples every six months, have them analyzed for lead and copper, and report the results to EGLE. The City's specific monitoring requirement was to collect samples from 60 confirmed Tier 1 sites during the monitoring period from July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019.

EGLE's review of compliance monitoring reports indicates the City sampled from a total of 123 sites during the monitoring period. Of those, only 49 were confirmed to be from Tier 1 sampling locations. EGLE recognizes the City put forth a significant effort, despite an administration change near the end of the monitoring period, to obtain the requisite samples and applauds Mayor Neeley's door-to-door efforts to get resident participation.

Based on EGLE's review, the City was out of compliance with the July to December 2019 monitoring period beginning January 1, 2020. To return to compliance, the City must collect samples from 60 confirmed, properly tiered sites in accordance with the City's Lead and Copper Sampling Plan during the monitoring period of January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020; have them analyzed for lead and copper; and submit the analysis reports to the DWEHD.

Administrative Rule R 325.10404, *Tier 3 public notice; form, manner, and frequency of notice,* of Act 399 requires that suppliers provide public notice, by mail or direct delivery, and by any other means reasonably calculated to reach customers not normally reached by mail. Enclosed is a sample public notice. You may use your 2019 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), due to customers by July 1, 2020, as the vehicle to distribute the public notice. While the rules allow 12 months for distribution of public notice, EGLE **highly recommends** the City provide this notice no later than the CCR

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distribution date. Send us a signed and dated copy of the issued notice within ten days of distribution.

The DWEHD has imposed an administrative fines policy for public water system monitoring and reporting violations. There is no fine for this violation; however, failure to conduct monitoring, as required during the first six-month round of 2020, may result in a fine of \$1,000 per day with a \$10,000 maximum. Additionally, failure to issue a public notice for this violation may result in a fine of at least \$1,000. Additional violations are subject to fines of increasing amounts. Please contact me if you would like more information on the DWEHD's administrative fines policy.

If you have any factual information you would like EGLE to consider regarding the violation identified in this Violation Notice, please provide it in a written response to this office by March 20, 2020.

EGLE anticipates and appreciates your cooperation in resolving this matter. If you have any questions regarding this Violation Notice, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Oswald, Director

Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division

517-284-6544

cc: The Honorable Sheldon A. Neeley, Mayor, City of Flint

Ms. Angela Wheeler, City Attorney, City of Flint

Mr. Robert Jones, Contract Operator in Charge, F & V Operations

Mr. Tom Poy, Chief Advisor, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 5

Mr. Michael D. Harris, Acting Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, USEPA, Region 5

Ms. Nefertiti DiCosmo, Acting Chief, Ground Water Drinking Water Branch, USEPA, Region 5

Ms. Elizabeth Murphy, USEPA, Region 5

Mr. Richard Kuhl, Michigan Department of Attorney General

Ms. Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, EGLE

Mr. Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE

Ms. Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, EGLE

Mr. George L. Krisztian, EGLE

Ms. Kris Philip, EGLE