



## CITY OF FLINT

**Dr. Karen W. Weaver**

Mayor

July 12, 2016

Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (1101A)  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

Thank you for your June 16, 2016, letter to Governor Rick Snyder and me expressing appreciation for recent progress in addressing drinking water quality issues in the city of Flint (City) and encouraging the City and the state of Michigan to continue working cooperatively together. Your letter identified numerous challenges that lie ahead if the City is to provide long-term, sustainable safe drinking water to its residents. The City is aware of the challenges of operating its public water supply and has been working cooperatively with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on numerous projects to address those challenges and comply with requirements of the EPA Order. Some of those projects include:

- Replacing 33 service lines as a prototype for future service line replacements under the City's *FAST Start* program
- Issuing a Request for Proposals for the next phase of *FAST Start* service line replacements
- Issuing a Request for Proposals for developing a distribution system optimization plan
- Locating lead service lines and identifying areas of the City likely to contain lead service lines
- Identifying sites for Lead and Copper Rule compliance monitoring and educating residents on proper sample collection
- Responding to high lead sample results and addressing other customer concerns
- Installation and operation of chemical feed equipment at the Flint Water Treatment Plant in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendations
- Conducting distribution system flushing and maintenance in accordance with EPA recommendations
- Routine water quality data collection to assess bacteriological and disinfection by-product control and the effectiveness of corrosion treatment
- Hiring and training additional staff

In addition to the technical assistance provided by the state of Michigan for many of the projects listed above, the state is providing much-needed financial assistance. To date, the state has appropriated \$68.9 million, which has supported water sampling, inspection and replacement of fixtures in schools and other facilities, infrastructure prioritization, and purchasing water from the Great Lakes Water Authority. The state has also appropriated \$42.7 million to provide City residents with water bill relief and has

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additional funding in reserve for future needs in Flint. In addition, a \$25 million grant is in the approval process to support the City's lead service line removal efforts. Your letter expressed concern that a decision had not yet been made regarding the City's long-term drinking water source. Please be informed that the City made an initial decision on June 21, 2016, and the long-term drinking water source will be tied to the Karegnondi Water Authority. The City, county, and state are currently moving forward to establish the necessary 36-inch pipeline connection and redundancy for the residents of Flint. Funding has been committed. The MDEQ will be providing funding for that connection and will ensure proper technical oversight.

While recognizing the state and federal support to date, the City is still in need of additional financial and human resource support for operating the Flint Water Treatment Plant. Therefore, I am requesting a meeting with the EPA and MDEQ to identify solutions to this challenge. I will ask Maxine Murray from my office to schedule a meeting within the next two weeks with appropriate EPA and MDEQ leadership to address the capacity issue raised in your letter.

Your letter also expressed concern about the size and age of the infrastructure in the City that may impact water quality. The City acknowledges that it is struggling with an aging and oversized infrastructure, though this is not an issue unique to this City. It is an issue across the state and across the country. We are seeking solutions to this issue and, toward that end, are partnering with the MDEQ in planning an Infrastructure Summit to occur in the City. We would welcome your assistance in supporting the Infrastructure Summit and in searching for innovative technologies and solutions to address this national infrastructure crisis. I look forward to participating in the national conversation and seeking federal financial resources that will assist in the strategic investment of resources in Flint.

I greatly appreciate your support to the City and the cooperative working relationship with EPA staff. As the EPA transitions from its emergency role, rest assured that the City is committed to providing long-term, sustainable safe drinking water to its residents.

Sincerely,



Dr. Karen W. Weaver

Mayor

cc: Governor Rick Snyder  
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director,  
Mr. Rich Baird, Executive Office of the Governor  
Mr. Nick Lyon, Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Mr. Mark Valacak, Health Officer, Genesee County Health Department  
Ms. JoLisa McDay, Interim Utilities Director, City of Flint  
Brigadier General Mike McDaniel, *FAST Start* Manager, City of Flint  
Mr. Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, EPA  
Mr. Mark Pollins, Director, Water Enforcement Division, EPA  
Mr. Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director, MDEQ  
Mr. Bryce Feighner, MDEQ  
Mr. George Krisztian, MDEQ