



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GRETHUR
DIRECTOR

November 15, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I have been asked to respond to your October 25, 2016, letter on behalf of Governor Rick Snyder and Mayor Karen Weaver, city of Flint (City). As indicated in your letter, there are several steps that must occur for the Flint Water Treatment Plant (FWTP) to be able to treat water from the Karegnondi Water Authority. Both the State of Michigan (State) and City recognize the urgency associated with the need to complete the steps by October 2017, when the City will no longer have access to the nine-mile pipeline currently delivering Great Lakes Water Authority treated water to the City. The State and City are committed to partnering together to meet the necessary aggressive schedule and already have several steps underway.

On October 31, 2016, representatives from the City, State, and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) met to discuss the specific details associated with the actions outlined in your letter. There was also an October 31, 2016, meeting with the Genesee County Drain Commission (County), City, State, and USEPA, at which time a conceptual agreement was reached to move forward with a Request for Proposal to construct the three-mile connector pipe. The specific engineering details and construction management agreement are being finalized to assure both the interests of the City and County are addressed. The Request for Proposal is anticipated to be released in the near future, with a goal of securing a contractor before the end of the year and construction being completed by April 2017. This will allow the FWTP to begin startup treatment and testing shortly thereafter.

The City and State have also jointly selected CDM Smith to serve as the contractor responsible for completion of the FWTP evaluation. Finalization of the State contract is expected to occur shortly, with the evaluation to begin after the contract is in place. A separate City contract with Arcadis of Michigan, LLC, is also in place to review the distribution system and effectiveness of corrosion control. In addition, the City and State are working with national experts to develop and implement a comprehensive training plan for plant operators. Initial training began on September 27, 2016.

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Recognizing infrastructure improvements will require additional funding, the State and City are in the process of establishing a team to develop a prioritized project plan that will meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program. The work completed by CDM Smith and Arcadis of Michigan, LLC, will assist with informing the project plan. The project plan will be necessary for the City to be eligible for currently available Drinking Water Revolving Funds and future funds that may be available upon passage of pending legislation by Congress.

A follow-up meeting occurred on November 10, 2016, among the City, County, and State to assure the needed actions outlined in your October 25, 2016, letter remain on schedule. A draft Emergency Backup Water Supply Agreement was distributed by the State for review and comment by the City and County. The draft agreement provides an initial framework for the County to provide the City with treated water in the event an emergency occurs.

We would like to thank you and your staff for your office's ongoing support to assure a long-term water solution is achieved for the residents of Flint. The next status update meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Flint. We encourage the USEPA to participate in the meeting and look forward to your staff's input.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,



Keith Creagh
Director
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
517-284-6700

cc: Governor Rick Snyder
Mayor Karen Weaver, City of Flint
Mr. Robert Kaplan, Acting Regional Administrator, USEPA, Region 5
Mr. Nick Lyon, Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Mr. Mark Valacak, Health Officer, Genesee County Health Department
Mr. Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commission
Mr. Mark Pollins, USEPA
Mr. Richard Baird, Governor's Office
Ms. C. Heidi Grether, Director, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Mr. Robert Wagner, Program Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Amy Epkey, Deputy Director, Administration, MDEQ
Mr. Bryce Feighner, MDEQ
Mr. George Krisztian, MDEQ