

Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force Recommendations on MDEQ's Draft Sentinel Site Selection

This response is intended to identify how the comments received from the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force have been addressed.

On February 1, 2016, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) reviewed their proposed sentinel system that was being developed. The purpose of the sampling sites has several goals. First, it is a mechanism to ensure that the city of Flint has an adequate number of Tier 1 sites for their next Lead and Copper Rule compliance monitoring. The city of Flint lacks a good inventory of lead service lines, and the MDEQ expects that at least 150 sites will be identified with lead service lines. The MDEQ also wants to utilize these sites to determine the effectiveness of the corrosion control additive, orthophosphate, on reducing the leaching of lead from the lead service lines. Samples will be taken over a period of time to determine the trends in lead levels that are generated at Tier 1 sites.

The MDEQ will leave aerators in place and will make sure that all samples taken from Tier 1 sites are incorporated in the lead and copper compliance monitoring program for the city of Flint. As additional lead service line sites are identified through other sampling efforts, these sites will be added to the sentinel sites. In particular, we are waiting for the addresses of sites being evaluated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to include as sentinel sites, but as of this writing, the addresses have not been provided.