



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
MARQUETTE DISTRICT OFFICE



DANIEL EICHINGER  
ACTING DIRECTOR

March 22, 2023

**VIA EMAIL**

Ellis Mitchell, City Manager  
City of Benton Harbor  
200 Wall Street  
Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022

WSSN: **00600**  
County: Berrien

Dear Ellis Mitchell:

**SUBJECT: City of Benton (City) Harbor Update on High Service Suction Well and Reservoir Inspection**

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD) would like to provide an update letter after receipt of the inspection reports that were provided to EGLE on February 22, 2023, after completion of the high service suction well and water treatment plant reservoir. EGLE recognizes the effort the City has done on completing the inspection on both the high service suction well and reservoir, however due to the findings and limitations of the inspection, EGLE requests the following items be completed. **Please provide a response to this letter acknowledging the items below, within 30 days of the date of the letter. As part of this response, please evaluate the items below, and propose a schedule for completion.**

- Develop specific recommendations and timelines for completion of repairs based on the Solomon Diving Inc. report such as crack repairs and appurtenance rehabilitation.
- Install plugs or line stops to allow for proper isolation of the reservoir compartments.
- Clean out the settled residuals from the bottom of the reservoir and the high service pump station.
- Reinspect the reservoir after cleaning, focusing on the low elevation areas unable to be observed during the January inspection.
- Assess reservoir/suction well overflow backflow risk and propose corrective action.

If you have any questions regarding the items above or the deadline associated with this, please contact me a 906-630-4107 or by email at [BolfM@Michigan.gov](mailto:BolfM@Michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael Bolf, P.E.  
Engineering Section Manager  
Drinking Water and Environmental Health  
Division

cc: Abul Ahmed, Fleis & VandenBrink Operations (via email)  
Darold Harlan, Fleis & VandenBrink Operations (via email)  
George Krisztian, EGLE (via email)  
Maureen Nelson, EGLE (via email)  
Erin Russell, EGLE (via email)  
Summer Groomes, EGLE (via email)