



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

March 19, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Alex Little, Acting City Manager
City of Benton Harbor
200 East Wall Street
Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022

WSSN: 0600
County: Berrien

Dear Alex Little:

SUBJECT: Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) Capacity Study Response

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 2024, concerning the city of Benton Harbor's (Benton Harbor) TMF Capacity Study options. EGLE supports your proposed course of using the existing funds appropriated in 2022 PA 53, Section 308(6)(a), to further explore the three options outlined by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in their October 13, 2023 letter; however, this will require a change order to the current grant agreement between Benton Harbor and EGLE. This request can be made through the process required in the grant agreement.

EGLE encourages Benton Harbor to quickly pursue efforts needed to secure contracts with city contractors as outlined in your letter. The date for Benton Harbor to provide EGLE with the option that Benton Harbor chooses to further explore to close the financial gap will be extended to May 15, 2024. As previously stated, these options could include the following:

- Treat and distribute drinking water at a lower cost.
- Find additional sources of water system revenue.
- Identify a way to create a regional partnership and/or true costs of wholesale purchase rates.

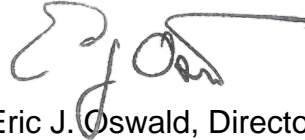
Benton Harbor's request to extend the deadline to August 31, 2024, to update the TMF Capacity Study will be granted.

EGLE staff are willing to come and present an update on the current status of the water system to City Commission on April 15, 2024. Information regarding the need for Benton Harbor to achieve TMF capacity and corrosion control will be included.

Alex Little, Acting City Manager
City of Benton Harbor
Page 2
March 19, 2024

We appreciate Benton Harbor's efforts to provide this essential service in a manner that is efficient and sustainable for its residents. If you have any questions, please contact me at OswaldE1@Michigan.gov or 517-284-6524.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Oswald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric J. Oswald, Director
Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division

cc: Marcus Muhammad, Mayor, City of Benton Harbor
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
Elaine Venema, Fleis & Vandenbrink
Darold Harlan, Fleis & Vandenbrink Operations
John Young, Independent Water Consultant
George L. Krisztian, EGLE
Mike Bolf, EGLE
Erin Russell, EGLE