



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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



PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

July 15, 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 email of July 11, 2024, concerning the city of Benton Harbor's (Benton Harbor) TMF Capacity Study options and requesting an extension to select an alternative to close the financial gap. Your extension is granted until August 31, 2024. As mentioned in previous communications, 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 deadline to update the TMF Capacity Study with the newly selected alternative will also be extended to December 31, 2024. We applaud Benton Harbor's continued progress on their infrastructure projects and look forward to residents seeing the benefits of those improvements. If you have any questions, please contact me at [OswaldE1@Michigan](mailto:OswaldE1@Michigan), or 517-284-6544.

Sincerely,

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

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