



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
DRINKING WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

December 19, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Alex Little, 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 August 29, 2024, concerning the city of Benton Harbor's (Benton Harbor) TMF Capacity Study options and providing updates on progress made closing technical and managerial gaps. Unfortunately, Benton Harbor, despite several efforts identified in the letter, has only been able to reduce the funding gap from \$2.5 million to \$2 million on an annual basis. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) encourages Benton Harbor to continue to work on other options to include:

- 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.


We acknowledge the complexity of the TMF issues facing Benton Harbor and are committed to partnering with you to ensure the highest quality water and the most reasonable cost to your citizens. EGLE is currently conducting a comprehensive sanitary survey of the water supply, and anticipates that a new Administrative Compliance Agreement will be required after the survey, which will establish new dates for addressing issues. EGLE is, therefore, suspending the requirement for Benton Harbor to submit a revised alternative selection and the TMF study.

EGLE encourages Benton Harbor to continue working on these issues and to continue producing water that meets all the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. EGLE will jointly establish a new schedule at the conclusion of the sanitary survey.

Alex Little, City Manager  
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EGLE applauds Benton Harbor's continued progress on their infrastructure projects and looks 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Oswald", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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  
Brandon Onan, EGLE  
Mike Bolf, EGLE  
Erin Russell, EGLE