



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 24 2017

The Honorable Kate Fields, Councilwoman
City of Flint, Ward 4
1101 South Saginaw Street, Room 310
Flint, Michigan 48502

Dear Councilwoman Fields:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding your concerns with Mayor Weaver's designation of water sources for the City of Flint. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency appreciates hearing your perspective.

Over the past three years, Flint's water system has become among the most heavily monitored water systems in the country, and EPA is pleased with the continuing improvement in the quality of the City's drinking water.

EPA understands that Mayor Weaver's April 19, 2017 letter to EPA indicating that the City would stay on Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) water as a primary water source is a recommendation and not a final decision. The final decision will be made in accordance with the Flint City Charter and applicable law, in conjunction with the State.

EPA's January 21, 2016 Administrative Order is intended as an implementable framework by which the City would itself arrive at a source water decision that would result in drinking water quality fully protective of public health. A main goal of the Order is to ensure that any source water switch is accomplished safely, with appropriate planning and testing. From a public health standpoint, the GLWA source has been demonstrated to be a safe and reliable source over a 30-year period. The use of the GLWA source also takes into account: 1) that the City is experienced in safely delivering GLWA water to Flint residents; and 2) that there is not sufficient time to undertake the necessary and adequate corrosion control studies and switch over to a non-GLWA source prior to GLWA's cessation of service to the City in October of 2017.¹

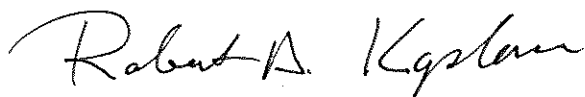
Should the City choose a course different than continuing to purchase water from GLWA, it must show that it would be accomplished safely and with full protection of public health in accordance with the Administrative Order cited above. If another option were selected by the City, the Order requires the City undertake extensive testing, prepare corrosion control plans, and submit that information to EPA for approval. This would need to happen as soon as possible so that EPA has sufficient time to evaluate any new approach, given the scheduled October 2017 cessation of GLWA service to the City.

¹ Please see EPA's February 24, 2017 letter to the City (enclosed).

Regarding public input into the source water designation, the City submitted a revised Public Participation Plan on March 28, 2017. On April 3rd, EPA recommended that the City extend its public comment period from 12 days to 30 days, which did occur. On May 4th, EPA requested additional information about public engagement opportunities and the plan for sharing the results of the public participation efforts with the Flint City Council; the City responded with this additional information on May 19th.² On May 22nd, the City Council voted to extend the public comment period on the source water selection for an additional 30 days.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. We look forward to continuing the collaboration between EPA and the City of Flint as we seek to further protect and promote public health for all of Flint's citizens.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Kaplan
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Eric Mays, Council Member, City of Flint
Ms. Jacqueline Poplar, Council Member, City of Flint
Mr. Wantwaz Davis, Council Member, City of Flint
Mr. Herbert Winfrey, Council Member, City of Flint
Ms. Monica Galloway, Council Member, City of Flint
Ms. Vicki VanBuren, Council Member, City of Flint
Mr. Scott Kincaid, Council Member, City of Flint
Mr. Kerry Nelson, Flint City Council President
Ms. Inez Brown, Flint City Clerk
Ms. Karen Weaver, Mayor, City of Flint
Mr. Sylvester Jones, City Administrator, City of Flint
Mr. David Sabuda, Director of Finance, City of Flint
Mr. Rick Snyder, Governor, State of Michigan
Mr. Richard Baird, Governor's Office
Mr. John Young, Consultant, State of Michigan
Ms. Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator, State of Michigan
Mr. Dan Kildee, 5th District Congressman, State of Michigan
Mr. Gary Peters, Senator, U.S. State of Michigan
Mr. Jim Ananich, Senator, State of Michigan
Mr. Sheldon Neeley, Representative, State of Michigan
Mr. Phil Phelps, Representative, State of Michigan

² Please see EPA's May 4, 2017 letter to the City (enclosed).

Mr. Christopher Korleski, U.S. EPA
Mr. Keith Creagh, MDNR
Mr. Bryce Feighner, MDEQ
Mr. Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner