



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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

July 25, 2017

**Via E-Mail and Regular Mail**

Mr. Eric Oswald, Director  
Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Constitution Hall  
525 West Allegan Street  
P.O. Box 30473  
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

**Re: Lead and Copper Compliance Data for the City of Flint**

Dear Director Oswald:

I am in receipt of and thank you for your July 14, 2017 letter regarding lead and copper compliance data for the City of Flint's drinking water for the January - June 2017 monitoring period.

EPA has reviewed your letter and attachments, and based on the data that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has provided, EPA agrees that the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for the January - June 2017 monitoring period is 7 parts per billion (ppb) for lead. Based on the information MDEQ has provided, we also agree that the 90th percentile value for the City's drinking water has remained below the 15 ppb action level for two six-month monitoring periods in a row. Like MDEQ, EPA is pleased by the monitoring results obtained over the course of the last year and agrees that the results demonstrate significant improvement in the City's drinking water system.

In order to achieve continuing and long-term improvements to the system, EPA understands that the City will continue its lead service line replacement activities over the next three years. EPA recognizes that the City will continue its service line replacement activities notwithstanding the fact that, under the provisions of the lead and copper rule, such replacement activities could be terminated. EPA strongly agrees that the replacement of lead service lines should continue, and it is our belief and expectation that the WIIN funds available to the City will be applied to top-priority projects such as lead service line replacement.

Finally, like MDEQ, EPA remains concerned about the City's source water selection. The long-term provision of high-quality water to the citizens of Flint and the protection of public health depends on the choices made now. Per EPA's Enforcement Order, any source water switch must be done with substantial time built in to the schedule to allow for the conduct of complete and

effective corrosion control studies. As EPA has pointed out, the Mayor's proposed approach to use the Great Lakes Water Authority as its permanent source of water is an approach that minimizes further disruption, delay and uncertainty. Moreover, such an approach will allow the City to continue to utilize a drinking water supply approach that: 1) the City has now become very familiar with; and 2) based on the results discussed above, is demonstrating greatly improved water quality when compared to years past.

EPA thanks MDEQ for its continued efforts.

Sincerely,



Chris Korleski  
Director, Water Division

cc: Mr. Robert Kaplan, EPA  
Mr. Keith Creagh, MDEQ  
Ms. Amy Epkey, MDEQ  
Mr. Richard Baird, Michigan Governor's Office  
The Honorable Karen Weaver, Mayor of Flint