



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GREYER
DIRECTOR

December 20, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Christopher Korleski, Director
Water Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard (W-15J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Korleski:

SUBJECT: Next Steps in Complying with United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) January 21, 2017, Emergency Order and November 17, 2016, First Amendment – City of Flint

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 2017, outlining the next steps required now that the city of Flint (City) has made its long-term water source selection. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has worked extremely hard over the past year to help make this choice of a high quality, secure, and safe water source a reality. While this does eliminate some of the requirements in the consent agreement, there is still much work left to accomplish. We look forward to a continued partnership with the EPA in achieving of all applicable remaining requirements of the Emergency Order.

We are working closely with the City to help them complete the corrosion control study, including a comprehensive pipe loop study, that will start in January 2018. Flint has engaged a highly qualified contractor as its project manager and the new team is diligently working toward compiling an aggressive slate of projects to implement the long-term water source. Smart and expedited execution of Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act funding is a high priority part of that effort. One of those projects will be the completion of a connection to the Genesee County water system. We will ensure EPA is notified well before that project is complete and the City starts blending five percent Genesee County Drain Commission water with its current Great Lakes Water Authority water.

An area of mutual concern is the City's long-term technical, managerial and financial (TMF) capacity. The City faces numerous challenges in staffing its limited water treatment plant. As you know, the aging nature of their infrastructure, along with a general negative reputation, make it even more difficult to attract qualified candidates to Flint. Following the failure of its most recent effort to use an existing employee as its operator in charge (OIC), we have notified them that they must either hire a full-time OIC or contract for a permanent/full-time OIC, meeting the requirements of their treatment system no later than June 30, 2018. In the meantime, we are encouraged by the efforts of their temporary contractor to keep the plant running in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Mr. Christopher Korleski

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While many challenges remain ahead, we are confident that, working hand in hand with EPA Region 5, the city of Flint, and our associated contract partners, we will succeed in ensuring the city of Flint can provide its people with a safe and reliable source of drinking water for decades to come. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 517-284-6544; oswalde1@michigan.gov; or MDEQ, DWMAD, P.O. Box 30817, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Oswald", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Eric Oswald, Director
Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division
517-284-6544

cc: Mr. Robert Kaplan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Karen W. Weaver, Mayor, City of Flint
Mr. Steve Branch, Acting City Administrator, City of Flint
Mr. Richard Baird, Governor's Office
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Ms. C. Heidi Grether, Director, MDEQ
Ms. Amy Epkey, Administration Deputy Director, MDEQ