



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 20 2016

The Honorable Karen W. Weaver
Mayor of Flint
1101 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

Dear Mayor Weaver:

Since you came into office, it has been our privilege to work with you on many steps to restore safe drinking water for the people of Flint and help you meet your responsibilities for operating and maintaining a sound water utility.

Our common goal is to build a lasting, sustainable water system in Flint, one where you have the capacity to provide clean drinking water throughout the city. As part of that effort, we support your initiative to properly replace lead service lines. Proper planning will be essential. We stand ready to work with you to review the procedures that will enable you to ensure that you have the proper precautions, for example, to avoid disturbances to service lines that could inadvertently send more lead into homes. We are encouraged to hear that you are reaching out for assistance to other cities, such as Lansing, that have undertaken such programs. We also encourage Flint to undertake targeted infrastructure work in conjunction with lead service-line replacement, for example, assessing the locations and functionality of system valves so that water-main isolation and main repair or replacement can be conducted as quickly as possible to minimize service disruptions.

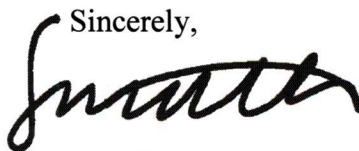
We understand that you are considering using Lansing's technology for removing and replacing lead pipes and that a demonstration of this technology will take place next week. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects the city to review with us specific plans for the demonstration that outline the procedures that will be in place and that we have adequate notice of the demonstration so that EPA representatives are onsite to ensure all safeguards are in place and assist the city in properly assessing the efficacy of this new technology. Our goal in providing this support is to be supportive of your efforts to ensure the residents of Flint have safe drinking water. Proper technical assessment will be critical should the city seek to utilize it in the future. This is particularly important given the existing order under Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and our February 19 letter confirming that the city has not yet demonstrated under that Order that it has an adequate number of qualified personnel in place to properly manage its water system.

Finally, I know you share our objective of continuing to support near-term efforts to optimize the entire Flint drinking-water system for both elimination of harmful bacteria and corrosion control. Having a system that meets these requirements is essential to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and eliminating the potential for high lead levels and other contaminants in drinking water. Effective corrosion control will protect residents from potential drinking-water lead exposures throughout the entire lead service-line replacement process. Even after all of the lead service lines are replaced, occupants will still need to rely on filtered or bottled water until the city's system has been optimized for corrosion control, as other plumbing materials used in homes can contain leachable lead, such as leaded

solder and brass in fixtures and valves. This timeframe may be beyond the three months identified in the current FastStart plan. I also encourage you to pay close attention to copper levels as you replace lead service lines, if copper piping is used. Without proper corrosion control, leaching of lead, copper or both into the drinking water can still continue and pose health concerns even after lead service-line replacement occurs.

We understand that you are planning to conduct a demonstration/exercise as early as next week, with line replacement as early as the following week. Our staff is standing by to provide technical assistance as needed, to review documents in advance of that demonstration and to attend the demonstration itself. Your designation of a central point of contact would assist us greatly in these efforts to stay in regular contact. We look forward to continuing to work with you in all of these areas so we can effectively support your efforts to replace lead service lines, develop institutional and management capability in your water system and carry out all the measures necessary to restore safe drinking water to Flint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy", written in a cursive style.

Gina McCarthy