



CITY OF FLINT, MICHIGAN

Dr. Karen W. Weaver
Mayor

July 2, 2019

Mr. Michael D. Harris
Acting Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division-Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard, EC-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Sent Via Email Only

Re: City's Response to USEPA Region 5 June 26, 2019 letter regarding Concerns with Staffing Issues at the FPWS and Compliance with EPA's Emergency Order

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am in receipt of your June 26, 2019 letter. It is alarming that you would deem it necessary to send this letter to me, when month after month we communicate with the EPA along with EGLE to provide you updates on the progress the City has and continues to make to provide the necessary staffing levels for Flint's Public Water Supply for the safety of the residents. Therefore, it bears restating to the EPA the measures the City has taken to keep the Public Water System safe:

Specifically, the City has provided the EPA with regular updates on the DPW staffing levels, by providing it with the most recent Utilities organizational charts through Jennifer Wilson. The last organizational chart provided to Ms. Wilson was in May of 2019. During the monthly calls, the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations has provided you with on the ground updates of the job postings, application process, including interviewing, testing and offers of employment. Any concerns in the efficacy of this process should have been raised during these calls.

We have provided the EPA with the long-term contracts with F/V Operations to ensure that qualified operators are providing oversight to the WTP on a continual basis. In addition, we have kept the EPA informed on training taking place on WTP Standard Operating Procedures and the most recent progress working with EGLE to obtain additional funding for Nick Pizzi to continue training WTP staff.

On or about February 21, 2019, EGLE did raise staffing concerns, which resulted in the DPW Director and the HR/LR Director working to address these issues posthaste. As a result, and through our regular Voluntary Agreement Tracking Meetings with EGLE and

reporting this information to the EPA during monthly calls, we were able to address those concerns, providing a remedy. The resolution through the City's DPW Director working with EGLE staff, was to implement a four (4) foreman schedule which will limit overtime to one shift. A new operations foreman was trained and assigned to a shift. This not only addresses overtime due to low staffing, but also general fatigue of employees due to low staffing and long work weeks. Moreover, the City is continually seeking to recruit new staff as described in the Utilities Organizational Chart. Nevertheless, the WTP remains covered with well qualified contract staff until additional qualified City employees can be developed or hired.

Furthermore, on Thursday, June 6, 2019 your office, through Ms. Wilson, requested a meeting with the City so we could meet in person to which we responded and arranged a meeting here in Flint on June 17, 2019. However, on or about June 11, 2019, the City was notified the EPA needed to cancel the meeting, to which the EPA would reschedule. Last week we had the regular monthly call with the pertinent City staff available to respond to any concerns. However, you waited until after the call to raise these issues with one of my department heads, without the benefit of our team present to respond.

Public Health and Safety is our number one priority. Therefore, I would request that you provide the City with any and all reports and documentation verifying your concerns and when they were reported to EPA by EGLE. Finally, I would ask that in the future you would use the monthly meetings to discuss any issues pertaining to the EPA orders in advance of submitting a letter to me so we may resolve together.

We look forward to the EPA providing the City with the requested documentation and rescheduling the meeting that it cancelled with the City.

Sincerely,



Dr. Karen W. Weaver
Mayor

Cc: Mr. Mark Adas, City Engineer, City of Flint
Mr. Steve Branch, City Administrator, City of Flint
Dr. Pamela Pugh, Chief Public Health Advisor, City of Flint
Ms. Candice Mushatt, Communications and Public Information Officer, City of Flint
Mr. Robert Bincsik, Director of Public Works, City of Flint
Ms. Tamar Lewis, Acting Chief Financial Officer, City of Flint
Ms. Makini Jackson, Human Resources and Labor Relations Director, City of Flint
Mr. Herbert Winfrey, City Council President, City of Flint
Mr. Tom Poy, USEPA
Ms. Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Project Manager, Region 5, USEPA
Ms. Liesl Clark, Director, MDEQ

Mr. Eric Oswald, Director, Drinking Water Municipal Assistance, MDEQ
Ms. Amy Epkey, Administration Deputy Director, MDEQ
Mr. Aaron Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, MDEQ
Mr. Michael McClellan, Environmental Deputy Director, MDEQ