



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

APR 03 2017

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

W-15J

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

Re: The City of Flint's March 28, 2017 Notification to EPA of a Three-Week Delay in Completion of Alternative Water Source Evaluation with Revised Schedule for the City's Water Source Selection Public Participation Plan

Dear Mayor Weaver:

Thank you for your letter dated March 28, 2017, regarding the City's efforts to meet the requirements in EPA's November 17, 2016 Amended Order (Order). In your letter, you point out that completion of the City's water source alternatives evaluation has been delayed by three weeks. This three-week delay will cause the City to miss the milestone dates in its Public Participation Plan timeline submitted to EPA on March 1, 2017.

EPA acknowledges the complexity of the City's water source alternatives evaluation process and understands and accepts the City's need for three additional weeks in which to complete that process. EPA also understands and accepts that the extension of the alternatives evaluation process will require a modification to the City's public participation plan. Based on your recent letter, the City now plans to initiate the public participation plan during the week of April 17th. In particular, the City plans to hold a press conference on Tuesday, April 18th and a Town Hall on Thursday, April 20th in which the public will be advised of the source alternatives that were evaluated along with the pros and cons of each alternative. Per the latest version of the City's public participation plan, the City will take input and questions from City residents through Sunday, April 30th.

To reiterate EPA's position as stated in my February 21, 2017 letter, EPA believes there needs to be an opportunity for meaningful public involvement in the City's final selection of its future water supply. At the same time, EPA is mindful of the City's desire to move the source water selection process forward. Taking both of those important interests into consideration, EPA questions whether the 10 to 12-day public comment period currently contemplated by the City is sufficient, and strongly urges the City to consider including a 30-day comment period in its public participation plan. A 30-day comment period will significantly enhance the public's ability to be heard, but will not significantly slow down the source selection process, especially

given the length of time that has already passed. The City has been hard at work on the water source alternatives evaluation for months, and as the City finally reaches the end of this process, EPA believes that City residents should have a meaningful opportunity to make their opinions known.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (312) 353-8320 or korleski.christopher@epa.gov to further discuss any questions the City may have regarding the content of this letter and the requirements of EPA's Order.

Sincerely,



Christopher Korleski
Director, Water Division

cc: Richard Baird, Michigan Governor's Office
Sylvester Jones, City Administrator, City of Flint
Keith Creagh, Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Bryce Feighner, Director, Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division, MDEQ