



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Administrator
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

DEC 10 2015

Ms. Dimple Chaudhary
Natural Resources Defense Council
1152 15th Street, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Petition for Emergency Action under the Safe Drinking Water Act

Dear Ms. Chaudary:

I am writing to provide a status update regarding the Safe Drinking Water Act petition that you filed on behalf of several organizations concerned about lead levels in tap water in Flint, Michigan. Since the petition was filed on October 1, 2015, the State of Michigan and the City of Flint have taken a number of steps to address those concerns:

- 10/2/15 The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced a plan to accelerate Flint water system improvements, to expand water testing and health exposure testing in Flint, and to provide comprehensive lead education and free water filters to Flint residents. www.mi.gov/flintwater
- 10/7/15 The City of Flint's Technical Advisory Committee recommended implementation of corrosion control treatment and recommended that Flint reconnect to the Detroit drinking water system, now operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority.
- 10/8/15 The Michigan Governor and Mayor of Flint announced that Flint would connect to the Great Lakes Water Authority.
- 10/16/15 The Great Lakes Water Authority began supplying water treated with orthophosphate to the City of Flint.
- 12/9/15 The City of Flint began feeding additional orthophosphate to optimize corrosion control in the Flint water system.

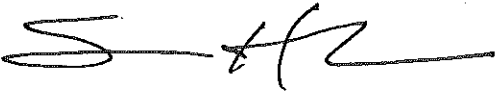
In light of the actions that the State and the City have taken during the past several weeks, EPA could arguably conclude that your petition fails to meet the jurisdictional prerequisites set forth in Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, EPA has instead decided to defer action on the petition until such time as the Agency determines that corrosion control treatment is fully optimized for the Flint system.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established a Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force that is working closely with the State of Michigan and the City of Flint to develop and implement a corrosion control treatment plan. The Task Force is providing technical assistance to the State and City to optimize corrosion control treatment for water being supplied by the Great Lakes Water Authority and to maintain optimized corrosion control treatment during the transition to water supplied by the Karegnondi Water Authority in mid-2016. Information about the Task Force is available at: <http://www2.epa.gov/mi/flint-safe-drinking-water-task-force>.

EPA is also conducting an audit of the Michigan drinking water program. The audit is examining the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and related rules on lead and copper, total coliform, nitrates and groundwater. The audit report will be published in 2016.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact the EPA Region 5 Regional Counsel, Leverett Nelson at nelson.leverett@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Hedman', written over a horizontal line.

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator