Message

From: Geyer, Rebecca [geyer.rebecca@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/22/2016 3:47:24 PM
To: Shoven, Heather [shoven.heather@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Chlorine/Bacterial Issue

From: Durno, Mark
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 7:58 AM
To: Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Geyer, Rebecca <geyer.rebecca@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Chlorine/Bacterial Issue

More, again....

Mark Durno
Homeland Security Advisor / Deputy Chief
Emergency Response Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
25063 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
440-250-1743

From: JoLisa McDay [mailto:jmcday@cityofflint.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 7:21 PM
To: Durno, Mark <durno.mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Pollins, Mark <Pollins.Mark@epa.gov>; Speth, Thomas <Speth.Thomas@epa.gov>; Pressman, Jonathan <Pressman.Jonathan@epa.gov>; Steve Branch <sbranch@cityofflint.com>; Sylvester Jones <sjones@cityofflint.com>; Robert Bincsik <rbincsik@cityofflint.com>; John Monsees <jmonsees@cityofflint.com>; feighnerb@michigan.gov; Richard Benzie (DEQ) <BENZIER@michigan.gov>; Thurston, Brian (DEQ) <THURSTONB@michigan.gov>; Bloemker, Jon (DEQ) <BLOEMKERJ@michigan.gov>; Lord, Daniel (DNR) <LordD1@michigan.gov>; Stacy E. Oakes <stacyleoakes@cityofflint.com>
Subject: Re: Chlorine/Bacterial Issue

Good evening,

While my intentions were pure in asking those questions, my demeanor and tone were poor. I apologize. It is never my intent to represent the City of Flint in a manner that is less than professional though I am striving to reach the goals set before this organization. Admittedly, it is a challenge.

As of Friday afternoon, I have a family emergency that I am attending to and may be called away. I am checking emails periodically but if I may not respond to your email or call immediately. I am doing what I can. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Sincerely,

JoLisa McDay, Utilities Administrator (Temp.)
City of Flint

Water Treatment Plant
4500 N. Dort Highway
Flint, MI 48505
jmcday@cityofflint.com

On Sat, Jun 18, 2016 at 8:52 AM, Durno, Mark <durno.mark@epa.gov> wrote:

JoLisa,

This process has been in place for several months. I recommend that we plan to meet this week so we can walk you through the process. In the meantime, you should discuss this with your staff so you have all relevant information.

Thanks,
Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 18, 2016, at 2:16 AM, JoLisa McDay <jmcday@cityofflint.com> wrote:

Good morning,

The sample was coliform positive. Thank you.

Do you have any history for the bacti testing that you are performing?
Do you have a chain of custody for the sample collected?
What was the procedure used for collecting the sample?
Did you collect upstream and downstream samples?
How many hours were hydrants flushed?
Did you notify the public that you would be flushing in the area?
Do you have HPC data for the site?
This type of information is collected for regulatory monitoring to correct areas of concern as well as improve a utilities response to areas that are representative of the distribution system.
Your site is not one of our DEQ approved sites for regulatory monitoring.
What type of flushing flow did EPA direct my team to perform?
As a matter of record, EPA did not want the City to flush at the onset of the warm weather because of a fear of scouring and disruption.
What is the phosphate concentration at the site?
What is the pH at the site?
I appreciate your patience and support with this effort and in answering my questions to address my concerns.
Who directed Flint staff to perform EPA analysis?
Water samples are not typically collected from homes or churches in a system Flint's size for regulatory bacti monitoring, what was the purpose of collecting those types of samples at those sites?
As a matter of record, Flint was told not to turn over its reservoirs which would move water in the system because EPA wanted to explore the 0.3 chlorine addition which might take a month to evaluate per Jonathan Pressman, Ph.D., your flushing at this rate is evidence that Flint's plan to move reservoir water was the correct strategy.
EPA owes Flint some answers.
Phosphate is too high! EPA has scared people into not using water because of Legionnaires.
Hydrant flushing will not fix that issue.

Hydrant flushers in a system that large are a helpful but inadequate solution.
The City of Flint requested assistance with expediting installation of the additional supportive chemical feed systems. Flint is requesting assistance from EPA by changing out the chlorinators at the outstations? There are better technologies that will improve residual chlorine and water quality.

Respectfully,
JoLisa McDay

On Jun 17, 2016 9:05 PM, "Durno, Mark" <durno.mark@epa.gov> wrote:

JoLisa,

Just wanted to make sure you are aware of a situation in the Water Distribution System. We had a low chlorine residual at one of our weekly monitoring sites this week. That resulted in a bacteria sample collection, which came back positive yesterday afternoon. EPA collected the bacteria sample on Wednesday at Saints of God Church. We worked with your staff to flush hydrants last night for almost two hours. There was still no chlorine in the church line. We collected additional bacteria samples, and they were run at WTP – both just came back negative for total coliforms tonight. After extended flushing, we finally detected chlorine in the system. We also collected Cl samples at neighboring houses and they had sufficient residual after the extended flushing (0.3 mg/L). To verify, five additional samples were collected this morning. We should have results around 10 am tomorrow. Your staff plans to leave at least two hydrants open to continue low-flow flushing in the neighborhood.

Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Mark

Mark Durno

Homeland Security Advisor / Deputy Chief

Emergency Response Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
25063 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145

440-250-1743