

FLINT WATER CRISIS

In the interest of historical continuity, CACC has decided to publish a detailed timeline of the Flint water crisis for our readers to reference.

2012

Gov Rick Snyder's Local Financial Stability and Choice Act passes, which states "an emergency manager is immune from liability" and "This act does not impose any liability or responsibility in law or equity upon this state, any department, agency, or other entity of this state, or any officer or employee of this state, or any member of a receivership transition advisory board, for any action taken by any local government under this act."

4-16-2013

EM Kurtz signs an agreement to join the Karegnondi system.

4-17-2013

Detroit notifies Flint it must renew or service will end in one year. The KWA pipeline will not be ready in that time. Flint must either negotiate a new contract with Detroit, or find a temporary source.

6-30-2013

EM Kurtz resigns. He had announced his planned resignation a month prior.

10-1-2013

Darnell Earley appointed Emergency Manager of Flint.

4-9-2014

State environmental regulators approve permits allowing Flint to source water from the river.

4-25-2014

The switch is made. The 50-year-long stream of Lake Huron water from Detroit to Flint ends.

JUNE 2014

Citizens of Flint begin complaining about the smell, taste and discoloration of the water. Many complain they have become ill from drinking their tap water.

8-8-2012

Gov. Snyder appoints Ed Kurtz as Emergency Manager (EM) of Flint.

12-20-2012

Treasury officials meet with Flint. Use of the Flint River is discussed. Treasury officials will study only two options: staying with Detroit water, or switching to the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA).

3-25-2013

Even though they hold no power under the Emergency Manager arrangement, the Flint City Council votes to join the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline project that will bring Lake Huron water in 2016.

6-26-2013

EM Kurtz hires an engineering firm to plan using the Flint River as a water supply.

6-29-2013

Meeting at Flint Water Treatment between Flint city officials, MDEQ, and the firm hired by Kurtz determines water from the Flint River would be "more difficult to treat, but still viable."

3-7-2014

EM Early turns down Detroit's offer to continue water service. Earley says in a letter to Detroit Water and Sewage Dept. that Flint plans to get its water from the Flint River.

5-14-2014

EM Early sells the pipeline that has carried water from Detroit to Flint for \$3.9 million.

8-14-2014

Flint tap water tests positive for E. coli. Boil water advisories are issued, and continue on and off until September 9. Tests indicate citizens may be exposed to pathogens entering the system.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Flint adds additional chlorine to its water, attempting to battle E. coli.

1-2-2015

Flint is found in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act. MDEQ finds unacceptable levels of total trihalomethanes (TTHM), a byproduct of Flint's heavy chlorination and disinfection process. Overexposure to TTHM can lead to an increased risk of cancer and other health issues.

1-9-2015

University of Michigan-Flint finds some water samples taken on campus contain lead. At the time, UM-Flint researchers thought this was an isolated problem. A few infrequently used drinking fountains were closed.

1-13-2015

EM Earley is appointed as EM of Detroit Public Schools. Jerry Ambrose is appointed EM of Flint.

2-27-2015

The EPA has some questions for state regulators. The state responds in an email from Stephen Busch of the MDEQ, stating Flint has an "Optimized Corrosion Control Plan." The statement is false.

3-23-2015

Flint City Council votes 7-1 to "do everything possible to reconnect with the Detroit water system."

3-24-2015

EM Jerry Ambrose rejects the City Councils' decision, calling the vote "incomprehensible" and stating flatly "Flint water today is safe by all EPA and DEQ standards."

10-13-2014

A General Motors plant announces it will stop using Flint River water, citing corrosion concerns. The company announces it will buy Lake Huron water from Flint Township until the KWA pipeline is finished.

1-6-2015

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling holds a press conference assuring that Flint water is safe to drink.

1-11-2015

City Council members ask to stop using Flint River Water. The estimated cost to switch back to Detroit water is \$12 million. EM Earley denies the request, and says he will hire water treatment consultants.

2-25-2015

Testing performed by the city reveal high lead content in the water of a Flint household. Lee Anne Walters' water has a lead content of 104 parts per billion (ppb). 15 ppb is the EPA's limit for drinking water.

3-19-2015

MDEQ notifies EPA that "MDEQ had investigated and found Ms. Walters' high lead was due to lead sources in her plumbing." Walters reports to the EPA that the original plumbing was stolen when the building was abandoned, and new lead free plumbing was installed when she purchased

APRIL 2015

Lee Anne Walters discovers her child has lead poisoning. The city discovers the source is the service line from the public water system to the home. Officials close the service line and connect the home to a neighbor's garden hose. Walters calls the city and ask if there is "an Optimized Corrosion Control Program." Officials correctly inform her there is no corrosion control program of any kind.

4-29-2015

Flint's financial emergency is deemed to be "over." Emergency Manager Jerry Ambrose leaves office. A "Receivership Advisory Board" begins overseeing the city's mayoral and council decisions.

6-24-2015

A leaked memo written by Miguel Del Toral at the EPA discusses the high lead content in the Walters' home. An EPA spokesperson announces federal regulators haven't yet assessed the extent of the issue.

8-20-2015

The state revises a report issued by the city of Flint. The revision removes two water samples that are high in lead, which allowed the city to meet a federal standard. One of the samples was taken at the Walters' home. State officials say they removed the sample because the home had a water filter, which could lower the result. Yet, the Walters' sample showed the highest lead content in the sampling pool.

9-24-2015

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and other Flint pediatricians report that lead levels in children not only rising, but have doubled since switching to Flint River water. MDEQ's Wurfel calls the study "irresponsible."

9-30-2015

Gov Snyder states "things were not fully understood" when the switch was made to the Flint River.

10-1-2015

Flint issues a lead advisory due to high levels in children. Genesee County responds by declaring a public health emergency. The city plans to distribute thousands of water filters.

6-23-2015

A judge rejects an injunction that would force Flint to switch back to Detroit water. The suit is filed by the Coalition for Clean Water, a group founded by city pastors and others.

7-10-2015

MDEQ's Brad Wurfel says in a Michigan Radio interview "anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water of Flint can relax. It does not look like there is any broad problem with the water supply freeing up lead as it goes into homes."

9-19-2015

Mark Edwards and other researchers from Virginia Tech sampled the water of 300 Flint homes. Their study finds high lead levels across the city, 13,200 ppb is the highest. The EPA considers water with lead greater than 5,000 ppb to be hazardous waste. Mark Edwards says "Flint is the only city in America that I'm aware of that does not have a corrosion control plan." MDEQ's Brad Wurfel responds in a letter to the Flint Journal "...this group specializes in looking for high lead problems. They pull that rabbit out of that hat everywhere they go."

9-29-2015

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint, has urges Gov. Snyder to switch Flint back to the Detroit water system. Snyder spokesman Dave Murray has says "Flint water does meet federal safety standards." The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services states the increase in lead levels in children's blood is "seasonal and not related to the water supply", but an independent analysis by the Detroit Free Press finds no correlation with typical seasonal variations.

10-6-2015

The state disperses 20,000 water filters. Genesee Co. Health Dept. and United Way another 4,000.

10-16-2015

Flint reconnects to Detroit's water system. It will take around three weeks to flush the city's water system of Flint River water. It is not known when lead levels might return to normal.

11-13-2015

Clean water activists and citizens of Flint file a class action lawsuit against the state of Michigan and the City of Flint government employees. The lawsuit seeks damages to create a "medical monitoring fund."

12-29-2015

Governor Snyder apologizes to the city of Flint. MDEQ director Dan Wyant and Brad Wurfel, MDEQ public information officer resign.

1-5-2016

Governor Snyder declares a state of emergency for Genesee County. Gina Balaya, spokesperson for the U.S. District Attorney's office announces the beginnings of a federal investigation.

1-14-16

Hundreds of Flint Citizens march on the state capitol. As they fill the rotunda with calls for the governor's resignation and arrest, Gov. Snyder phones the White House, asking for a federal declaration of emergency and federal assistance.

10-8-2015

Gov Snyder announces Flint will switch back to Detroit water, at a cost of \$12 million. Flint will pay \$2 million. The state and the Mott Foundation will contribute \$10 million.

11-3-2015

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, who had earlier defended the safety of Flint's water, loses re-election.

12-15-2015

Mayor Karen Weaver declares a state of emergency in Flint, saying the drinking water has caused irreversible damage to the health of the city's children.

12-19-2015

National commentator Rachel Maddow of MSNBC reports on the crisis. She claims to explicitly show how responsibility falls to Gov. Rick Snyder and his "radical, anti-democratic policies."

JANUARY 2016

The Flint Water Crisis has gained national media attention. State Rep. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing, announces plans to introduce legislation that would make it a felony for state employees to manipulate data. Media personality and Flint native Michael Moore and others have call for the resignation, arrest and prosecution of Gov. Snyder. Estimates at the cost of repairing the city's water distribution system are as high as \$1.5 billion.

"Those who refuse to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it."

-George Santayana, 1905