DANIEL T. KILDEE
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Congress of the United States
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September 9, 2015

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Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mr. Dan Wyant
Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Administrator McCarthy and Director Wyant:

The attached June 24, 2015, memorandum between two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employees, Miguel A. Del Toral and Thomas Poy, published recently by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, suggests that there are high lead levels in the city of Flint, Mich., water transmission lines. Furthermore, this document reflects that children consuming this water had levels of lead in their blood in excess of three times what they were prior to the city of Flint switching its source water from the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD) to the Flint River.

In addition, this memorandum makes recommendations to Mr. Poy, Chief of the Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch of EPA Region 5, to do three things. First, for the EPA to work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to provide technical assistance to the city of Flint to deal with water quality issues. Second, it suggests the EPA review the compliance status of the city of Flint in respect to its compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Third, the memorandum recommends that the EPA conduct a review of the city of Flint testing procedures to ensure they are compliant with the LCR.

Regarding this memorandum and the surrounding water quality issues in the city of Flint, I have the following questions:

- Was this memorandum actually sent to Mr. Poy?

- Are the findings in the memorandum regarding the lead levels in the city of Flint water accurate?

- If there were in fact high levels of lead in the water in the city of Flint, when did the EPA and/or MDEQ plan to alert the public?

- What, if any, of the recommendations has the EPA followed from the memorandum?

- Given the demonstrated level of lead in the water in Flint, MI, is the water safe?

Regardless, I am very troubled by recent tests suggesting high levels of lead in the city of Flint's water system. As you know, on the EPA's website it says that lead above the "action level" in drinking water can cause a variety of adverse health effects, including delays in physical and mental development in babies and children.

According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA has the responsibility of enforcing water quality standards. EPA, however, has given the primary responsibility of enforcing water quality standards to the state of Michigan via MDEQ. As such, it is the responsibility of these agencies to ensure that the people of the city of Flint have safe drinking water.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc:

State Senator Jim Ananich
State Representative Sheldon Neeley
State Representative Phil Phelps
Mayor Dayne Walling, City of Flint
Howard Croft, City of Flint
Susan Hedman, EPA
Thomas Poy, EPA
Michael Schock, EPA-ORD
Darren Lytle, EPA-ORD
Denise Fortin, EPA
Liane Shekter-Smith, MDEQ
Pat Cook, MDEQ
Stephen Busch, MDEQ
Brad Wurfel, MDEQ
Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech