

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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May 17, 2016

Mr. Steve Estes-Smargiassi
Director of Planning and Sustainability
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
100 First Avenue, Building 39
Boston, MA 02129

Dear Mr. Estes-Smargiassi:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy on April 13, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "Flint Water Crisis: Impacts and Lessons Learned."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on May 27, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Graham Pittman, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to graham.pittman@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittees.



John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
and the Economy

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

cc: The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Morgan Griffith

Current LCR compliance sampling requires that a minimum of 50% of sampled homes have lead service lines; the same homes are required to be sampled year after year to measure effectiveness and changes in corrosion control. The National Drinking Water Advisory Council recommends a change away from this scheme to customer requested sampling.

1. How will customer initiated sampling that includes any home, even at low or no risk for lead in water, achieve the intent of the LCR's monitoring requirement, which is assessment of CCT effectiveness through monitoring lead-in-water levels at a small number of highest risk homes?
2. How would sampling using the strategy recommended by the NDWAC have been able identify the DC or the Flint water crisis any sooner than current LCR sampling?

The EPA science advisory board submitted a report to EPA finding that partial lead service line replacements may pose a risk of increased lead exposure.

4. Should the revised LCR include a ban on partial lead service line replacements?
5. Is public health protected when water systems perform partial lead service line replacements as is currently a standard practice in many water systems?
6. Under the proactive lead service line replacement program recommended by the NDWAC, what measures can be used to ensure that actual replacements are mandatory?

The Honorable Paul Tonko

1. Are states or the federal government providing sufficient resources and technical support to enable drinking water utilities to put together accurate inventories and develop asset management plans to help them evaluate and proceed with a good infrastructure repair and replacement program?
2. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has some valuable experience in identifying and replacing lead service lines. But, as you know there are multiple challenges for cities like Flint to implement a program where the ratepayer assumes a portion of these costs. What support can be given to low-income homeowners to replace privately owned portions of lines?
3. My understanding is that many cities do not have accurate inventories of the physical infrastructure in their systems, let alone accurate records of where the lead is in their systems. Is this accurate for many systems around the country?
4. Do you believe creating an inventory of lead service lines is critical for running an efficient replacement program and improving public education?

5. What incentives need to exist to get more systems to develop and update inventories of infrastructure?
6. Many systems have not transitioned into the digital age. What has Boston done to provide more information to homeowners and what resources were necessary to get your map tool started?
7. Do most utilities implement an asset management plan? Do small and distressed systems have the resources and technical expertise necessary to do so?
8. Generally, is lead service line replacement part of existing asset management plans?
9. Can you explain the challenges for lead line replacement in cities that have reduced populations or numerous abandoned properties, resulting in service lines that are not in regular use? Would leaving those lines in place present any risks to the systems should corrosion control cease in the future?

The Honorable Lois Capps

1. Flint has shown us that we must invest in our nation's future by supporting our infrastructure as well as our preparedness moving forward. What mechanisms and collaborative efforts can be put in place moving forward to ensure that we do not see a repeat of the crisis we experienced in Flint in another community?