STATEMENT ON FLINT and WATER QUALITY IN THE GLWA SERVED COMMUNITIES

Our thoughts are with those who are struggling without access to safe and reliable water in their homes. The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is paying close attention to what unfolded in Flint and we are doing what we can to assist. We have restored GLWA service to the city, and are working cooperatively with Flint's environmental consultants and others in assuring high quality water is restored to all properties. Flint underscores that the GLWA's first job is to protect the families we serve. Those of us involved in managing, cleaning and delivering water share a solemn obligation to protect public health.

Several of our customer communities brought to my attention that they are receiving calls from residents concerned that the water quality issues in Flint may be affecting the water quality in their community. I want to clarify the issue and provide assurance that what is in the press daily regarding Flint is an unfortunate circumstance, limited solely to the homes and businesses served by Flint.

The water crisis in Flint began when Flint switched its water supply source. Flint did not take the required steps to manage water chemistry. The new water from the Flint River was more corrosive, and as a result removed protective coatings in the pipes that come with properly treated water. This caused lead to leach from service lines and home plumbing – lead that ended up in water coming out of the taps. Lead did not come from the treatment plant and water mains; it came from lead service lines running between the water main and homes, and from plumbing inside the homes themselves, which contributes to test results varying from home to home. Flint has now switched back to GLWA water and improvement in the quality at the tap is being seen.

As the CEO of GLWA I want to provide you this assurance. GLWA is not content to simply comply with regulations. We observe the letter of the law as well as embrace the spirit of it. We have worked to achieve and maintain optimal corrosion control in our treatment of water. Federal regulations acknowledge that this treatment technique is the best approach to minimize exposure to lead in drinking water – establishing that protective coating – and minimizing the ability of lead or other materials from the service lines or plumbing fixtures in the homes we serve to leach into the water. While Federal regulations consider the path forward for us as individuals and communities to remove lead service lines and plumbing that are the sources of lead, GLWA will continue our commitment to maintain optimal corrosion control.

Testing for lead and copper occurs within the local communities served by GLWA. To our knowledge, no community consistently served water by GLWA, formerly DWSD, has reported any lead issues.

I encourage you to share this message with your local constituents, along with your Community's Water Quality Report that contains your lead and copper test results.

Best regards,



Sue F. McCormick, CEO
Great Lakes Water Authority