



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

April 4, 2016

Councilman Melvin Priester, Jr.
City of Jackson
219 S. President Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

RE: Jackson City Council Requests of March 10, 2016, for Assistance in Identifying Corrosion Study Costs and Testing of Water at Jackson Area Schools

Dear Councilman Priester:

During the March 10, 2016, Special City Council Meeting, the Council requested that the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) research information on potential costs associated with conducting a corrosion control study for a water system. Further, the Council requested that MSDH research ways that additional assistance in testing drinking water in Jackson area schools could be accomplished.

Per your request, Bill Moody, Director of Public Water Supply, was able to find the following information regarding the costs of performing a corrosion control study and annual costs of corrosion control treatment. MSDH will continue to research these costs and provide you with any additional information as it becomes available.

A small surface public water supply in Maine with a population of approximately 16,000 recently advertised for a request for proposals to conduct an "Optimization of Corrosion Control Practices" study for their water treatment facility. In response, the water system received 5 proposals ranging in cost from \$8,500 to \$28,900. Assuming that costs are proportional, a system the size of Jackson could expect costs of \$93,000 to \$319,100. A copy of the RFP information is attached.

Providence, Rhode Island has a large surface water system serving 295,700 people. Their annual cost for corrosion control treatment has been approximately \$500,000 annually for the last several years. It appears that corrosion control in their case is very intertwined with daily operational activity making specific breakout of costs difficult.

Serving over 600,000 people, the Birmingham Water Works Board in Birmingham, Alabama, is somewhat similar to the City of Providence. They are monitoring the performance of their corrosion control treatment on a daily basis by performing standard corrosion Langlier index calculations and a corrosion control marble study. With this method, they are constantly evaluating treatment performance, and if the results indicate a problem, treatment can be modified fairly quickly.

The specific EPA approved corrosion control study being considered by the City of Jackson is not known. With more specific breakdown of the corrosion control study elements being considered, a more accurate estimate of costs may be available from sources in the water supply industry.

Additionally, members of the City Council indicated a desire for additional water quality testing in the Jackson Public Schools. Hearing your concerns, MSDH sought and obtained permission to leverage state and federal EPA funds to perform limited testing in the approximately 60 Jackson Public School facilities. MSDH will work with the City of Jackson Public Works Department and the Jackson Public School District to start additional testing of drinking water in area schools at no cost to the city or the school system.

Finally, based on preliminary information from the flush efficacy study recently conducted by MSDH at homes in the Jackson area, it appears that lead levels significantly decreased after following the current flushing recommendations.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jim Craig, Director
Health Protection

pc: Leslie Royals, P.E., Director, Office of Environmental Health
William F. Moody, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Water Supply

Enclosures