

Frequently Asked Questions about the Flint Water Distribution Optimization Project

Who are you?

Our Project Team includes Arcadis of Michigan, LLC, Confluence Engineering Group, LLC, Environmental Engineering and Technology, Inc., and McConnell Communications, Inc. Arcadis of Michigan, LLC is a subsidiary of Arcadis, a global design and engineering firm with over 100 years of experience in helping U.S. cities develop sustainable solutions to complex water challenges. Within Michigan, we have over 150 staff in two offices, and have also been involved in remediation projects for local industries. Confluence Engineering Group, LLC is a very small women-owned firm that specializes in complex distribution system water quality issues. Environmental Engineering and Technology, Inc. is a leader in the assessment and control of internal corrosion in drinking water systems. McConnell Communications, Inc. is a Detroit-based public relations and marketing firm, and is helping communicate with the community about the work that's being done.

Why are you here?

In January, the EPA issued an emergency administrative order that required the city to submit a plan and to optimize its process for corrosion control and water quality parameters. In April, the city (under the guidance of a committee that includes the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as well as representatives from other water systems) issued a request for proposals (RFP) for engineering services. The RFP asked bidders to both assess and develop a plan to optimize the City's corrosion control and distribution system practices. The agreement was signed by the City of Flint, MI on September 6th, 2016.

What are you doing?

Our job is to assess and optimize current water distribution system practices including chlorination, corrosion control, and operations and maintenance practices that impact water quality and customer satisfaction. We will be identifying short and long-term needs, including staffing and capital needs, and developing a training curriculum for City staff. We will then provide a plan that identifies and prioritizes recommended areas of improvement.

How long will this take?

The overall schedule is projected to take 9 months to complete. We will start to identify improvements in the first 3-4 months and begin implementation by the end of the year.

How can we stay informed with what you are doing?

Part of the reason we're here today, in addition to introducing ourselves, is to hear from you about the ways you would like to receive information. Potential communication methods may include a project website and additional town hall meetings with the community.