



January 22, 2016

Craig Butler, Director  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
50 W. Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Director Butler,

We are writing to address the delayed response to signs of elevated lead levels in Sebring and Beloit's drinking water, as described to us in a call with Ohio EPA at 10:15 PM on January 22, 2016. Although the tests revealing lead contamination were conducted in August and September of 2015, this information was just recently made public and brought to our attention. It is therefore possible that residents in the affected areas have unknowingly been drinking water that poses threats to their health.

We would like to assist in distribution of accurate information to the public and ensure that proper action is being taken to rectify this situation and prevent similar incidents in the future. We request that you provide us with additional information as detailed below.

**Below is listed a timeline of events based on a call with Ohio EPA this morning. Please verify or correct the following information.**

- August 2015: Samples are collected from within the Sebring water supply pursuant to triennial testing
  - *Questions:*
    - *When did testing last take place prior to August 2015? What were the results of those tests?*
    - *How many samples were taken in August 2015? What was the range for the 2015 testing?*
- October 10, 2015: Ohio EPA was informed that lead levels had exceeded government-regulated action levels
  - *Question:*
    - *Is this the correct date?*
    - *When did the water system know of the exceedance?*
- November 10, 2015: The 30-day deadline by which the tested households should have received results

- *Question:*
  - *Again, is this the right date, or did the system have the results and the obligation to share them earlier?*
- December 10, 2015: The deadline for the water system to have completed the notification and public education required by rule 3745-81-85
- December 20, 2015: The deadline for the water system to have reported to Ohio EPA the documentation of the communication and public education efforts under rule 3745-81-90
- January 21, 2016: Ohio EPA issues three violations, which triggered notification to the public
  - *Questions:*
    - *Can you provide documentation detailing the violations?*
    - *When did Ohio EPA staff start providing on-the-ground assistance in the community?*
    - *When were ODH and local health/emergency management notified, and when did they begin providing water or setting up lead testing options?*

**Additional Questions:**

- Does Ohio EPA have a standard additional waiting period after a violation is triggered? Why the delay between the deadlines and the issuance of violations?
- Is there any rule that prevents Ohio EPA from directly notifying the public - especially if a local system has missed deadlines?
- What is the breakdown by which water systems are required to report every six months vs. annually vs. triennially?
- How many places in Ohio are under current public education requirements due to government action level exceedance?
- How many places in Ohio are only required to report every year or every three years, based on previous test results, as was the case in Sebring?
- How many homes in Ohio have pipes that would be susceptible to this type of corrosion?
- When will public information be available on the testing taking place now?
- What resources are available to residents who may be concerned about elevated lead levels?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. We urge you to take swift action to remedy this situation for the at-risk residents of Sebring and Beloit.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joe Schiavoni in black ink.

**JOE SCHIAVONI**  
State Senator  
33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Handwritten signature of John Bocchieri in black ink.

**JOHN BOCCIERI**  
State Representative  
59<sup>th</sup> House District