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DWSD, City of Flint Reach Agreement to Reconnect Flint to Detroit Water

Detroit water to begin flowing to Flint today

The City of Flint and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) have come to an agreement to reconnect Flint to the Detroit water system for a period of at least nine months.

The nine-month term of the contract, which takes effect immediately, can be extended upon mutual agreement.

Detroit water will begin flowing to Flint today.

Under the contract, the City of Flint will make monthly payments to DWSD. Flint's rates will be consistent with those of similar customers that DWSD currently serves.

Flint is preparing to join the new Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA), which is still under construction, around the completion of the nine-month contract with Detroit. The KWA will supply Flint—via Genessee County—with water from Lake Huron.

The new Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), which is slated to officially begin operations on January 1, 2016, will assume the terms and conditions of this contract with Flint at that time.

DWSD's Board of Water Commissioners earlier this week approved Flint's reconnection to the Detroit system.

Flint's switch back to Detroit water comes amid various, growing health concerns about the quality of water coming from the Flint River, which Flint began using after departing from the Detroit water system in spring, 2014.

Since January, 2015, DWSD Director Sue McCormick has had a standing offer to Flint to return to the Detroit system after being made aware that some leadership in Flint was willing, at that time, to revisit the city's decision to leave DWSD before the KWA was ready to go online.

"DWSD realizes the importance of the sanctity of public health, especially as it pertains to drinking water," Ms. McCormick said, referring to today's agreement with Flint. "With that in mind, the Board of Water Commissioners made the extraordinary move of approving this temporary agreement before financial terms were finalized."

Ms. McCormick added that the talks between Flint, DWSD and the GLWA Board were very cordial and she said that everyone acted in a spirit of cooperation in order to come to this agreement.