MITA Underground Funding News Summary August 3, 2016 – September 15, 2016



Mike Thompson Cartoon Gallery Detroit Free Press

Lake St. Clair Beach Closures Reflect Problem with Sewage: Watch St. Clair Shores Patch

August 25, 2016

According to MITA, the type of problems St. Clair Shores is facing are the result of aging infrastructure that allows large quantities of raw sewage to flow into public waterways. Lance Binoniemi, MITA's vice president of government affairs, said that beach closures are a sign of the times. "Michigan has an infrastructure underground that is up to 100 years old," Binoniemi told the newspaper. "In some place there are still main water lines that are made out of wood."

Michigan Congresswoman Urges Action To Reduce Sewage Discharges Into Great Lakes

Michigan Radio

September 9, 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is developing a new regulation to require public notices of combined sewer overflow discharges into the Great Lakes. Michigan Congresswoman Candice Miller is in favor of the regulation, but she said the department should do more to prevent the discharges.

U.S. Senate Considers Flint Funding, But Time Is Short

Detroit Free Press

September 8, 2016

The U.S. Senate is expected to take up legislation in September that will provide federal funding to help replace miles of old lead pipes throughout Flint.

Director: 'Paralysis' At DEQ In Wake Of Flint Crisis

Detroit Free Press

September 8, 2016

Heidi Grether, the director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, told her Senate consent hearing that employees have refused to work on the Flint issue, and other good employees are actively looking for other jobs.

Flint Mayor Weaver To Visit 3 Homes During Water Line Replacement Detroit Free Press

August 31, 2016

Mayor Weaver said the city hopes to have crews out almost daily to replace 200 to 240 lead-tainted lines over the next month.

Detroit Goes Public With Hepatitis A Cases Linked To Sewage Michigan Radio

August 25, 2016

Two recent cases of Hepatitis A in Detroit are sparking a larger public health response because the victims had both recently dealt with basement sewage backups. Contact with sewage is a known path of transmission for Hepatitis A.

Beyond Bottled Water: Huge Checks, Slow Progress Test Patience in Flint Bridge Magazine

August 23, 2016

Eight months after President Obama issued a federal emergency declaration, inspiration and impatience walk hand-in-hand in Flint.

Detroit Residents File Claims After Flooding, But What Can Residents Expect? Michigan Radio

August 22, 2016

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is about to process an "unprecedented" number of claims as a result of a July 8 rainstorm that caused sewage to back up into basements on Detroit's east side.

Flint Water Case Could Hinge On Misconduct Charges

Associated Press

August 20, 2016

All eight state workers charged so far in connection with the Flint water crisis face a misconduct in office charge, which is a felony that can carry a five-year prison term.

Metro Detroit Roads Flood Because of 10 Water Pump-House Failures

Detroit Free Press

August 17, 2016

For metro Detroiters, the storm and its aftermath might have led to déjà vu. Just two years ago historic flash flooding left highways inundated and basements swamped across the region.

High Levels Of E.coli Found In Au Sable River After Sewage Spill Mlive

August 16, 2016

A public health advisory has been issued for an area of the AuSable River where unusually high levels of E.coli bacteria were discovered after 17,000 gallons of raw sewage overflowed into the river.

57,000+ Gallons of Sewage Spills Into Kalamazoo River

Fox 17

August 16, 2016

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Services says hundreds of thousands of gallons of partially treated sewage spilled into the Kalamazoo River Tuesday because of a control sequence issue with the pumps.

Michigan's New DEQ Director Focused on Improving Public Image, Employee Morale

Mlive

August 12, 2016

Heidi Grether said she is confident that the negative backlash from the Flint water crisis and other issues won't remain the focus when the public thinks about the DEQ.