



The Township of Hamilton

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 8, 2019

Hon. Phil Murphy, Governor Office of Governor PO Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625	Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner NJ Department of Environmental Protection 401 E. State St. 7th Floor, East Wing PO Box 402 Trenton, NJ 08625-0402	Judith Persichilli, Acting Commissioner Department of Health PO Box 360 Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
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Steven J. Picco, Interim Director
Trenton Water Works
333 Cortland Street
Trenton, NJ 08609

Subject: Trenton Water Works

Dear Governor Murphy, Commissioner McCabe, Acting Commissioner Persichilli and Interim Director Picco:

After a State official recently revealed that one of Trenton Water Works' tanks located in Hamilton has exhibited "historically low" chlorine levels, I have written all of you and, quite frankly, the "answers" that I have obtained only cause me to have even greater concerns regarding both Trenton Water Works and the State of New Jersey's oversight.

It has come to light that during the recent summer months, the chlorine levels at the Trenton Water Works' Mercerville tower have been below acceptable standards. Informal testing by the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) was conducted at the Gershen Towers this summer and detected "no" chlorine levels from a location immediately inside of the building, before it enters the building's plumbing network. Despite this disturbing result, there was no formal, follow-up testing conducted by NJDOH. Trenton Water Works provides water to the facility; and there have been cases of Legionnaire's disease afflicting residents of this same facility and the immediate area dating back to 2003.

A decade ago, a NJDOH report indicated a potential cause for Legionnaire's cases: low chlorine levels at the Mercerville tower. With that report and more recent data that State officials have been privy to, there has been a disturbing lack of urgency by the State of New Jersey, which regulates Trenton Water Works and drinking water.

State officials should have taken this information and demanded that Trenton Water Works immediately remediate the situation at the Mercerville tower. Instead, we have been told that a bid request for this remediation would only be posted later this year. That is completely unacceptable.

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Until this occurs, I demand daily chlorine monitoring, on-site, at the Mercerville tank, with the results forwarded to our Township officials. Other water providers conduct 24 hour-a-day/7 days a week, on-site, chlorine monitoring at their towers.

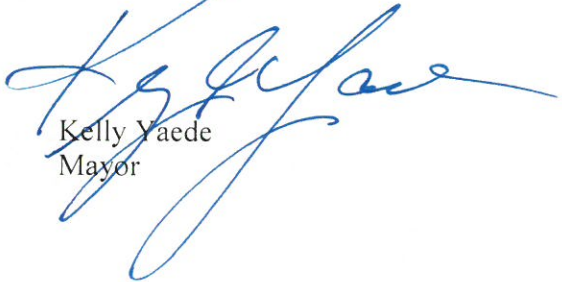
If on-site results from the Mercerville tank fall below acceptable levels, then immediate interim action to remediate chlorine must be taken by Trenton Water Works, with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection approvals, to correct the situation.

Further, I am demanding a hard deadline of when the permanent remediation of the Mercerville tower will be completed.

The time for the State of New Jersey and Trenton Water Works to fulfill their obligations to the citizens of Hamilton Township is long overdue.

Trenton Water Works has continuously failed to meet its responsibilities; therefore, the time has come for the State of New Jersey to finally compel the sale of the system.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Yaede". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kelly Yaede
Mayor