



Press Release

City of Detroit • Mike Duggan, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2016

CONTACT: Linda Clark, 313-236-0282 or clarkli@detroitmi.gov
Bryan Peckinpaugh, 313-410-2954 or peckinpaughb@detroitmi.gov

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department addresses water quality issue in Detroit's New Center area

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Henry Ford Hospital and M-1 RAIL release joint statement regarding water discoloration.

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) crews are on the scene in the New Center area coordinating efforts with M-1 RAIL teams and Henry Ford Hospital to test water quality as a result of reported discoloration. On Wednesday, construction crews activated a new water main in the area as part of ongoing infrastructure improvements along Woodward Avenue, releasing sediment through the lines that reached several buildings including Henry Ford Hospital and the Fisher Building. DWSD crews have flushed the transmission line, including the fire hydrant in front of the Hospital, forcing the sediment from the water system. The water is currently running clear, and there is no report of any contamination.

DWSD which has sent two water quality samples to be tested, is working with Henry Ford Hospital personnel, including its professional facilities management team, applying best practices to ensure the health and safety of the hospital's patients and employees. The hospital is also working with two independent agencies who are testing the water to ensure its quality has not been compromised. The results of water testing should be available by 6 p.m. tonight. Out of extreme caution, the hospital is not using the water for any purpose, including drinking or hand-washing.

This water quality issue is isolated to New Center and does not affect any other DWSD customers. There is no danger of lead in the water system. If anyone in the area is concerned about sediment in the water, DWSD encourages them to run the water at their tap for 30 to 60 seconds to flush out the sediment. If there is discoloration and it continues after this process, do not use the water and contact DWSD Field Services immediately at: 313-267-7401.

To contact Henry Ford Hospital, call Brenda Craig at 313-283-8331 or bcraig3@hfhs.org. To contact M1-RAIL, call Dan Lijana at 202-725-7873 or dan.lijana@m1rail.org.

About the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) serves more than 200,000 Detroit residential and commercial customers. DWSD's water network consists of more than 2,700 miles of transmission and distribution mains and nearly 3,000 miles of sewer collection piping.

To learn more about the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department or to request water services, make payments, or report water problems, call Customer Care at 313-267-8000 or contact us at: www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd.

###