

Flint, MI Drinking Water Crisis

The Challenge:



President Obama signed an Emergency Declaration on January 16, 2016 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate all disaster relief efforts. In Obama's declaration he specifically mentions, "This emergency assistance is to provide water, water filters, water filter cartridges, water test kits, and other necessary related items for a period of no more than 90 days."

Our Industry's Solutions:

Meeting Maximum Contaminant Levels

This allowable concentration of a health contaminant is determined by the treatment and cost feasibility. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, however MCLGs are non-enforceable public health goals. The water treatment industry provides solutions for homes to meet these goals.

Treating Aesthetic and Health Contaminants.

Point-of-Use and Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) - at the tap or whole house water treatment - technologies can be used to treat aesthetic contaminants that might cause poor taste and odor and health contaminants, such as lead that can potentially harm the resident.

Product Certification.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredits certification bodies (ex. WQA Gold Seal and WQA Sustainability Programs) to test and certify products to the material safety requirement and contaminant reduction claim(s) as specified by the standard. Products displaying the certification body's seal assurances they have been rigorously tested and meet the requirements of the standard, program policies, and plant inspection policies. Visit WQA.org for a full list of WQA certified products.

Professional Certification.

Professional certification allows consumers to reach professionals that have an expertise in water chemistry and POU/POE water quality improvement. Visit WQA.org to find a water treatment provider and certified professional in your area.

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Point-of-Use & Point-of-Entry Technologies Provide Feasible Solutions

Pollutants can appear in the water supply by natural and man-made occurrences, such as lead. To monitor these pollutants, the EPA sets allowable concentrations of health contaminants. The procedure for receiving a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is broken into tiers and many contaminants are still moving through the process. Unregulated contaminants do not require testing and monitoring.

Fortunately, to help control the pollutants like lead, entering the water after leaving a municipal treatment facility, point-of-use and point-of-entry (POU/POE) – at the tap filters or whole house water treatment – can serve as a final barrier to ensure everyone has safe drinking water. By helping everyone receive the treatment they need exactly where they need it, the United States can realize its goals of public health in a cost-effective and reliable way.

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Lead

Potential Health Effects:

- Children are more at risk than adults
- Damage to the brain, kidneys, and bone marrow
- Damage nervous system and red blood cells
- Reduced intelligence, impaired hearing and decreased growth in children

Treatment Methods (POU/POE):

- Reverse Osmosis
- Solid Block and Precoat Adsorption Filters (properly designed submicron filtration with adsorption media)
- Strong Acid Cation Exchange (Na+form)
- Distillation

About WQA:

The Water Quality Association (WQA) has thousands of members nationwide and internationally, including major corporations as well as family-owned businesses that are involved in the water treatment industry.

Dedicated to consumer education and public awareness, the Water Quality Association is a not-for-profit trade group of businesses that provide treatment solutions for safe, clean water throughout the world – in homes, schools, commercial and industrial settings, and more. WQA promotes best practices for superior products and environmental sustainability with the guidance of respected, independent standards. Its labs conduct rigorous testing and certification, and training programs promote professionalism and ethics. Learn more: [wqa.org](#)