

GLWA CEO Sue McCormick March 1, 2017 comments in response to question from VOD on Boil Water Alert issued Feb. 28 for Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park.

(Transcription from tape—some words unclear. Comments given at about 10 a.m.)

“This is a very unfortunate circumstance that resulted in what I would call an electrical mechanical failure. **It’s a systems control issue from a valve operator:** the valve was closing inappropriately causing pumps to back off as hot water was starting. We know pressure sagged in the process—particularly in the system from the other plants that would pick up that flow. That worked less effectively than we hoped it would. So we had pressure sag. We know the extent of that pressure sag based on the number of complaints we received in the area. In conversation with the MDEQ drinking water division we discussed how we should notify the public. So we issued what I would call a precautionary boil water alert. While today we don’t have any evidence that the system depressurized to the extent that contaminants could have entered the system through the ground or from buildings, we won’t know the result of our tests for 48 hours. Suggesting that people in the area boil their water for that time.