

Corrine Anderson-Ketchmark  
506 S. 222<sup>nd</sup> St. #5  
Des Moines, WA. 98181

Water District 54  
Eric Clark – District Manager and  
Water District Commissioners  
922 S. 219<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, WA. 98198  
cc. Des Moines City Council

Mr. Clark, I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent water pipe break and E Coli boil water warning. I am concerned for several reasons, but mostly because after reading the District 54 web page history of water quality issues and the lack of long-term solutions to prevent water contamination from occurring again. I was alarmed to learn that the pipes date back to 1935 without any plan to update the water pipes in addition to a prior pipe break in 2013 when E Coli contamination occurred. While chloride was administered, it ended in 2016 with no further plan to prevent this from happening again.

Now that we have endured the pipe break and E Coli in the water ten years later, I am perplexed that there is no further planning to ensure that this will not happen again. Which also brings me to how this situation was handled, little to no communication or alert to the community was provided. It was only when E Coli was discovered during the regular testing that the community was contacted and not in a comprehensive way. It seemed to be an afterthought, as a crisis. When in fact the Water district knew the pipe break had occurred in May and the community learned by word of mouth to boil water, not knowing to refer to the Water District web site. Had my neighbors not told me I wouldn't have known. As a result, I suffered stomach pains and diarrhea and now know that it was the E Coli in the water. I incurred the expense of purchasing bottled water and to this day continue to use, due to the lack of confidence that the water is safe to drink.

My concerns also extend to not only the personal impact but also to the economic impact on the community. I love living in Des Moines, for a number of reasons. I know that the economic development of this area is critical to the sustainability of the community. If the Water District does not have a short-term and long-term solution to sustainable safe, quality water then it means businesses are not able to count on being in a community that provides sustainable water, air and physical infrastructure to conduct business.

For personal quality of life reasons, which includes a strong economic business community, my confidence in the Water district to make good decisions is critically important. I would think that

this would be of utmost importance to the Water District and Commissioners. I expect the Water District to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure safe water.

I have cc this letter to the Des Moines City Council as I believe a collaborative effort to address this problem is needed.

Sincerely,



Corrine Anderson-Ketchmark

canderk67@gmail.com