WATER FACTS
March 2016 - Flint Water Crisis

Last fall in Flint, MI elevated blood lead levels were found after the drinking water source was switched to the Flint River. A state of emergency was declared in January and the Environmental Protection Agency is now overseeing the water supply, which has been switched back to Lake Huron. Long-term health effects are likely and lead is still leaching from damaged pipes. Residents are still dependent on bottled water and filters, and lawsuits have been filed against Flint and MI for economic and physical injury to residents. Pipe removal and replacement has begun and Flint has asked Congress for immediate aid.

Flint is economically challenged: a financial state of emergency was declared in 2011 and 40% of residents are below the poverty line. In April 2014 the drinking water source was switched to save costs. Federal guidelines state corrosive water like Flint River's be treated with an anti-corrosive agent, but it wasn't. This resulted in lead and iron leaching into the water supply. In the summer of 2014 residents' symptoms began to be documented and advisories were released to boil drinking water due to detected E. coli bacteria. In January 2015 Detroit offered to reconnect Flint to Lake Huron at no cost but the offer was rejected.

http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jan/22/flint-water-crisis-contaminated-water-contains

More Information

Dickinsonians for Flint is a student-led initiative on campus to raise funds and collect water filters to aid Flint residents in accessing safe, potable water. Stay up to date with efforts and fundraising events: facebook.com/DsonForFlint

ALLARM employs 10-15 student Watershed Coordinators each year. Fall applications are due Monday, April 4. Apply and learn more: j.mp/allarmjob

Sources:
ABC News   http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/latest-class-action-suit-filed-flint-water-crisis-37462289
CNN   http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/11/health/toxic-tap-water-flint-michigan/
Mother Jones   http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/01/flint-lead-water-crisis-timeline

@ALLARMwater | dickinson.edu/ALLARM