

WEDNESDAY MORNING: WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE [UPDATE]



[image (mod): LeAnn E.
Crowe via Flickr]

*Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.*

*Water, water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink.*

– excerpt, The Rime of the Ancient
Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Felony and misdemeanor charges are expected today in the Flint water crisis. State Attorney General Bill Schuette will put on a media dog-and-pony show, when it is expected that three persons – two engineers with the Michigan Department of Environmental quality and a Flint water department employee – will be charged for Flint's lead water levels after the cut-over to Flint River water.

Mind you, the descriptions of these persons do not match that of higher level persons who were responsible for

- 1) making the final decision to cut Flint off from Detroit's water system and switching to the Flint river;
- 2) evaluating work performed by consulting firms about the viability of Flint River as a water source, or about reporting on lead levels after the cut-over;
- 3) ensuring the public knew on a timely basis the water was contaminated once it was already known to government officials;
- 4) lack of urgency in responding to a dramatic uptick in Legionnaire's disease, or the blood lead levels in children.

Just for starters. Reading the Flint water crisis timeline (and yes, it needs updating), it's obvious negligence goes all the way to the top of state government, and into the halls of Congress.

Michigan's Governor Snyder has elected to perform some weird self-flagellating mea culpa or performance art, by insisting he and his wife will drink filtered Flint city water for a month. It's a pointless gesture since the toxic lead levels, experienced during the two years immediately after the city's cut-over to the Flint River, have already fallen after doing permanent damage to roughly eight thousand children in and around Flint.

Flint's Mayor Karen Weaver said about the governor's stunt, "[H]e needs to come and stay here for 30 days and live with us and see what it's like to use bottled or filtered water when you want to cook and when you want to brush your teeth."

Or get a new mortgage, I would add. The gesture also does nothing for Flint's property values. Imagine living in Flint, trying to refinance your home to a lower interest rate, telling the bank, "Oh, but the water's safe enough for the governor!" and the bank telling you, "Nah. Too

risky.”

UPDATE – 10:45 AM EDT –

Charges have been filed against City of Flint’s Laboratory & Water Quality Supervisor Mike Glasgow and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Office of Drinking Water and Management Assistance district director Steven Busch and MI-ODWMA District Engineer Michael Prysby. Mlive.com-Flint reports,

Glasgow is accused of tampering with evidence when he allegedly changed testing results to show there was less lead in city water than there actually was. He is also charged with willful neglect of office.

Prysby and Busch are charged with misconduct in office, conspiracy to tamper with evidence, tampering with evidence, a treatment violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act and a monitoring violation of the Safe Drinking Water.

None of the individuals charged in the case have been arraigned.

Sure would like to see the evidence on Glasgow, given the email he wrote 14-APR-2014 (see the timeline).

House hearing on encryption yesterday

- Worth the time if you have it to listen to the House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee’s hearing, ‘Deciphering the Debate Over Encryption: Industry and Law Enforcement Perspectives’ to catch Apple’s general counsel Bruce Sewell and

UPenn's CIS asst. prof. Matt Blaze. Not so much for Indiana State Police Captain Charles Cohen, who was caught up in misinfo/disinfo about Apple's alleged non-cooperation with the U.S. government. Wish there was a transcript, especially for the part where Sewell was quizzed as to whether Apple would encrypt their cloud.

- Speaking of Cohen and misinfo/disinfo, Apple said it hasn't released source code to Chinese (Reuters) – This is the spin IN's Cohen got caught up in. Nope.

Another Congressional hearing of interest: Fed Cybersecurity

In case you missed it, catch the video of today's House Oversight Subcommittee on Information Technology hearing on Federal Cybersecurity Detection, Response, and Mitigation. You may have seen Marcy's tweets on this hearing, at which Juniper Networks was a no-show, and Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) was kind of pissed off. Catch Bruce Schneier's post about Juniper's vulnerability.

Volkswagen has company: Mitsubishi's mileage data tweaked to cheat

The Japanese automaker may have to pay back tax rebates offered on vehicles meeting certain fuel efficiency standards. Data from mileage tests on hundreds of thousands of cars was fudged to make the cars look 5-10 percent more efficient.

Speaking of cheating: Volkswagen's use of code words masked references to emissions controls cheats

The amount of data under review along with the

use of code words and phrases like “acoustic software” may delay the completion of the probe’s report. Don’t forget: tomorrow is the second 30-day deadline set for VW to provide a technical solution for owners of its passenger diesel vehicles.

That’s enough. Michigan state AG newser underway now as I update this again at 1:15 p.m. EDT; I may not update here since I addressed known charges above. Catch you on the other side of the hump.