



REGION 4 ADMINISTRATOR

ATLANTA, GA 30303

April 25, 2024

ELECTRONIC MAIL

CONFIRMATION OF EMAIL RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba
219 South President Street
Post Office Box 17
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017
calumumba@jacksonms.gov

Re: City of Jackson, Mississippi, Public Water System and Wastewater System

Dear Mayor Lumumba:

Thank you for your March 27, 2024, letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan concerning the Interim Third-Party Manager and JXN Water. I am responding to your letter on behalf of the EPA.

Work to stabilize and improve the City's drinking water system is ongoing under a November 2022 Interim Stipulated Order (ISO) between the United States, the State of Mississippi and the City of Jackson. The EPA continues to oversee the ISO's implementation and we recognize that progress towards full compliance is ongoing.

We note since entry of the ISO, production capacity at both water treatment plants has increased and stabilized. JXN Water has also made significant progress on critical equipment projects at both water treatment plants including filter repairs, corrosion control optimization and winterization. Although there are continued boil water advisories, typically these have been issued in conjunction with JXN Water's line and fire hydrant replacement work. Almost all the boil water advisories are discrete and of short duration and we expect a downward trend in boil water notices as repairs are made. JXN Water has developed a website where quarterly status reports and other updates about the system are posted and holds quarterly community engagement events.

With regard to proposed Mississippi Senate Bill 2628, which did not make it out of committee, the EPA will continue to closely monitor any legislation that may have an impact on current litigation and negotiations. However, the EPA generally does not comment on proposed state legislation.

Thank you again for your letter. The EPA is committed to ensuring that the citizens of Jackson have access to safe and reliable drinking water. We look forward to our continued weekly meetings with representatives of the City and JXN Water to track the progress of ISO implementation and associated improvements to Jackson's drinking water system. If the City would like to further discuss the concerns identified in your letter, please have your attorneys contact DOJ attorney Karl Fingerhood (202-514-7519) or EPA attorney Suzanne Armor (404-562-9701). If you have further questions about other EPA matters, please contact me directly, or your staff may contact the region's Public Affairs Director, Davina Marraccini, at (404) 562-8293 or Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeaneanne M. Gettle
Acting Regional Administrator