



STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State House, Second Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb  
Governor

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Anthony Copeland, Mayor  
City of East Chicago  
4527 Indianapolis Blvd.  
East Chicago, IN 46312

Dear Mayor Copeland:

Thank you for your letter outlining your thoughts on ways to continue to assist residents of the Superfund Site in East Chicago. I appreciate the thorough manner in which you and your staff detailed your priorities, and I applaud your entire team for your hard work.

Since early this year, there has been a sincere spirit of collaboration among state, local and federal partners to ensure the needs and concerns of the residents of the Superfund Site are heard and addressed. We have taken important steps and there is much more to do. My staff has assessed your requests, and detailed below you will see we have begun work on a number of your highest priority items.

- The Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is exploring funding sources that may be available to provide and install water filters for residents currently living in Zones 2 and 3 of the Superfund Site. The team is also identifying possible private sector or not-for-profit partners willing to assist with additional filter cartridges to help ease financial costs to residents.
- IDEM will conduct water sampling at private residences throughout the city to ensure the City of East Chicago remains in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) will continue to supply the East Chicago Health Department (ECHD) with the resources necessary to conduct free daily blood lead testing to Superfund Site residents.
- The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), through the State Revolving Loan fund, has committed to making below market interest financing available to the city for water infrastructure improvements throughout East Chicago. Moreover, the IFA will fund lead line replacement at homes in Zones 2 and 3 where soil removal activities are planned for 2017 and where recent EPA pilot sampling demonstrated exceedances of the lead action level. The IFA will work with the EPA and the city to coordinate the lead line replacement so as to minimize unnecessary disruptions to residents.

- State agency teams will continue to coordinate efforts with local stakeholders, elected officials, federal agencies, and others to ensure the very best and most collaborative outcomes.

We are also identifying tools that will help accomplish other priority items. They include:

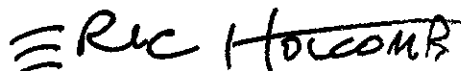
- Directing our Regional Mental Health Center partners to enhance their school-based and mobile services in East Chicago.
- Making Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding available to support families in Zone 1 with costs associated with relocation.
- Extending the partnership between the state and East Chicago health departments for state funding for local nurse care through the ECHD.
- Making available, through the IFA, grant funding to conduct water sampling at East Chicago schools.
- Ensuring that the IFA is engaged with the East Chicago Water Department at the time the city moves to develop a long-term water infrastructure improvement plan that will include upgrades to water mains, sanitary sewer mains, and storm water mains.
- Directing the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to seek funding flexibility to expand lead testing efforts throughout East Chicago and across the state.

Since signing the original emergency declaration order I have met with or contacted three new federal cabinet-level secretaries, requesting additional resources and greater flexibility for use of existing funds and urging them to visit East Chicago in the near future. My team has built an informational web portal for stakeholders and continued efforts to explore additional affordable housing options in East Chicago. Later this month, we will seek \$2 million to help East Chicago offset costs for the eventual Zone 1 demolition.

We are committed to assist you and our federal partners to ensure the safe and suitable relocation of all residents in the West Calumet Housing Complex located in Zone 1. It is critical that residents are given all the tools and assistance necessary to make informed decisions about their new home locations.

Again, I thank you and your entire team for your ongoing efforts. We are making strides forward, and though we have much left to do, I am confident that continued state, local, and federal collaboration will yield the results East Chicago Hoosiers deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Holcomb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eric Holcomb