

To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 8/1/2017 7:10:20 PM
Subject: EPA OKs Flint drinking water loan forgiveness

By Annie Snider

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Flint city officials will not have to repay \$21 million they borrowed from a federally funded account to upgrade drinking water infrastructure following its year-and-a-half-long lead contamination crisis, EPA said today.

The move to forgive the beleaguered city's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund debt came at the request of Michigan GOP Gov. Rick Snyder.

"Forgiving Flint's past debt will better protect public health and reduce the costs associated with maintaining the city's water system over time," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement. "Rebuilding our nation's infrastructure is one of the President's top priorities, and EPA is especially focused on those communities, like Flint, that need it the most."

In December, Congress approved a \$100 million aid package to help the city replace lead service lines and upgrade its aging infrastructure. The measure also included funding to create a health registry of residents exposed to dangerous levels of lead in the water supply. Grants related to that registry were also awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services today.

WHAT'S NEXT: The city of Flint is continuing its program of lead service line replacement and the loan forgiveness will help free up funds for that effort and other upgrades.

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