



Flint: Not a Reality Show

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GOLDEN, Colo., April 29, 2016 – The experience of Flint, MI residents and their drinking water issue continues to captivate national attention. But it is a reality that shouldn't become a show.

This is not a “made-for-TV” series, but instead is a real situation that a Midwestern community faced, one that relied on governmental, technical and scientific decisions to obtain their daily water supply, but were short-changed in health regards for economic and operational needs. This is a community – and one similar to many others – that grapples with tough fiscal conditions and hard choices in times when the answers are slow in coming, or just confusing. These are realities. They are not theatre.

Opportunists - Denied

But then there are the opportunists. Because Flint has become a rallying cry for many, it also is susceptible to abuse by those who seek to exploit its tragedy for commercial gain. We deplore these tactics. We have great concern for the community of Flint, as we do for the many other communities across the nation who face very difficult decisions on how to deal with the cost of water delivery.

At the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association (DIPRA), we employ technical staff to advise local water districts. We provide research, guidance and support for those professionals in decision-making positions – whether technical or civic – to help them balance the best need for their communities, with how to do it and afford it.

What we detest, are the outrageous campaigns of those who exploit Flint for their commercial advantage. The scare tactics, factual discrepancies, and, yes, outright lies, are amazing to us. But then, we are largely technical and scientific, and not given to audacious exploits to promote a product material.

Safeguards for You

What we do care about, is you. How you and your communities can make good, sound, financial and technical decisions, and how they enable you to provide today – and protect tomorrow – the citizens of your community with safe, sustainable water delivery.

We may not be made for Reality TV, but we are the real thing when it comes to safeguarding your utility operations, and the families in your communities. Let us know how we can help you in specific ways – we have regional engineers on hand for technical guidance who can advise on how to retain local choice in pipeline material, and stave off the scavengers who seek to exploit tragedies such as was done with Flint.