What the Eyes Don’t See Key Players:
Flint’s water became contaminated in April of 2014 when the city was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager and the drinking water supply was switched from Lake Huron water treated by Detroit Water and Sewerage plant to the Flint River water treated in Flint.

Individuals:
Mona Hanna-Attisha, director of the Michigan State University-Hurley Children’s Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative: revealed her research findings on high blood lead levels in children at a press conference in September of 2015 before her research was scientifically peer-reviewed. This was necessary because the State of Michigan would not share data with her about lead levels in Flint tap water (see, Miguel Del Toral) found by the EPA.


Rick Snyder: Michigan Governor, declared state of emergency in Flint on January 5th, 2016. Governor Snyder assigned the emergency manager, it’s important to note that emergency managers are not elected by the city.

Dayne Walling: Flint city mayor when the water supply source switched from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to Flint river until 2015 when he lost his reelection

Ed Kurtz: Was the Emergency Manager for Flint when they decided to use Flint River over the treated Detroit Water and Sewerage Department water

Darnell Earley: Emergency Manager for Flint at time of water switch

Gerald Ambrose: Former Emergency Manager

Howard Croft: Director of Department of Public Works. In charge of water operations from 2011 -2015, defended the distribution of Flint river water.

Government Agencies:
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): United States Federal Government Agency for environmental protection:

- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ): failed to require the city of Flint to add corrosion-control chemicals as part of the water treatment process. The corrosive water was what caused lead to leach into the water from the pipes.
- Elin (ee-len) Warn Betanzo: Dr. Mona’s high school friend, former EPA employee and engineer. Was the first person to tell Dr. Mona about Marc Edwards’ independent research on lead level in the water in Flint homes.
- Miguel Del Toral: Regulations manager within the EPA and whistleblower who leaked the EPA memo which cited the dangerous lead levels. His report was the first time an official publicized the serious issue with flint water.
- Brad Wurfel: MDEQ Communications Director and spokesperson who stated in July 2015, “Anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water in Flint can relax”, Dr. Hanna-Attisha is an “unfortunate researcher” and she was “splicing and dicing numbers” causing “near hysteria”. Called Miguel Del Toral a “rogue employee” of the EPA.
Local Government:
Genesee County Health Department: Responsible for alerting public health sector of unsafe water

- Chief Officer, Mark Valacak: helped coordinate the city’s emergency response after the release of Dr. Mona’s research

Flint City Council members (not mentioned directly in the text but important players: https://www.cityofflint.com/city-council/councilmembers/

Flint Resident:
Lee-Anne Walters - 37-year-old mother of four and military spouse who lived on Browning Avenue on Flint’s southside

Journalists:
Ron Fonger - The Flint Journal
Curt Guyette - Detroit investigative reporter

Officials:
Jim Ananich - Flint State Senator
Senator Debbie Stabenow - Senate Agricultural Committee
Natasha Henderson - Flint City manager
Thomas Poy - Chief of the Ground Water and Drinking Water Division of the EPA. Received the report from Miguel Del Toral

Others:
Jamie Gaskin - CEO of Genesee United Way
Pete Levine - executive director of the Genesee County Medical Society
Kirk Smith - CEO of the Greater Flint Health Coalition

References:
Flint water crisis timeline: https://www.nrdc.org/stories/flint-water-crisis-everything-you-need-know#sec-timeframe
https://www.michiganradio.org/post/how-people-flint-were-stripped-basic-human-need-safe-drinking-water
https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/12/20/506314203/2-former-flint-emergency-managers-face-felony-charges-over-water-crisis