

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

September 7, 2016

Mr. Joel Beauvais
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
USEPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, Mail code 4101M
Washington, DC 20460

SUBJECT: EPA's Letter of July 6, 2016 concerning the Lead & Copper Rule (LCR)

Dear Mr. Beauvais:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) is responding to the EPA Administrator letter of July 7, 2016 to Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy and your letter of July 6, 2016 to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASHTO). Connecticut, as noted in my previous response, is completely committed to assuring public health protection for the people and ensuring that public drinking water consumed in the state of Connecticut is safe. To that end, the CTDPH instituted practices and policies to strengthen the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) beyond the minimum requirements such as:

- 1) Issuing formal enforcement actions as soon as the CTDPH learns of an exceedance
- 2) Requiring the consumer notices to be issued to customers promptly and within 48 hours of learning of the high lead results
- 3) Requiring that the lead education is issued to customers promptly and within 48 hours of learning of the lead exceedance
- 4) Encouraging and reminding public water systems to post individual sampling results and provide information on lead service line locations
- 5) Working with public water systems, local health departments and school boards to identify and address lead risks at schools
- 6) Sharing of high lead results with the CTDPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to ensure that children exposure to lead is evaluated and abated.
- 7) Reaching out to EPA to assist with questions raised by public water systems in Connecticut regarding the applicability of the EPA technical recommendations for the optimal corrosion control treatment evaluation that was published in 2016 to the small water systems, the conflicting action level and sampling procedures provided in the existing EPA 3Ts guidance, and the pre-stagnation recommendation in the revised sampling protocol of February 2016.
- 8) Working to comprehensively address each and every complaint received.



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Mr. Joel Beauvais
September 7, 2016
Page 2

Therefore, we concur that committing resources to practices and policies that enhance the LCR beyond the minimum requirements are helpful in the efforts to lessen the potential implications of lead in drinking water. However this shifting of limited staff resources has continued to weaken the State oversight capacity to ensure that the many other regulated contaminants of significant health risk are equally and adequately addressed. The extensive requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act deserve complete and comprehensive attention by state agency staff. To address this critical responsibility and need to be comprehensive, the State of Connecticut and CTDPH once again requests that the EPA join us in support of doubling the financial resources under the Federal STAG Public Water Supervision Grant. This grant is used in Connecticut specifically to fund DPH Drinking Water Section staff that assure compliance and oversee SDWA Rules. Presently CTDPH receives \$1.3 million; we are requesting \$2.6 million to assure adequate public drinking water program staffing levels.

We encourage EPA to support Connecticut in maintaining this level of essential public health protection and look forward to working with EPA with a focus on public health to identify strategies that will improve the safety and sustainability of our public drinking water systems in Connecticut. The CTDPH would appreciate a written response from EPA addressing the important items noted within this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Pino", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Attachments

Cc: Peter Grevatt, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, USEPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, Mail code 4601M, Washington, DC 20460
Yvonne Addo, Deputy Commissioner, CTDPH
Governors' Office

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2016-13

To: Community Public Water Systems

From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section *LMathieu*

Date: May 24, 2016

Subject: Eligibility of Service Line Replacement Under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently clarified the eligibility of service line replacements paid for with DWSRF funds. The [May 9, 2016 memo](#) states that complete service line replacement is an eligible DWSRF expense, regardless of pipe material and ownership of the property on which the service line is located. These types of projects may be funded if the entity is eligible to receive DWSRF funding and all other requirements of the Program are met.

The Drinking Water Section (DWS) expects the next call for DWSRF projects to be issued in the fall of 2016. The Eligibility Applications submitted in response to this call will be used to develop the projects lists for funding for state fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The DWS especially encourages public water systems with known lead service lines to consider submitting an Eligibility Application for funding a replacement project through the DWSRF Program.

For more information on the Lead and Copper Rule, please refer to Circular Letters [2016-07](#), [2016-09](#) and [2016-11](#), and the DWS website www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater; or link directly to the [Lead & Copper Rule](#) page.

For more information on the DWSRF Program, please visit www.ct.gov/dph/dwsrf.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Regulatory Services Branch
Local Health Directors



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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2016-11

TO: Community Water Systems & Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section 

DATE: May 5, 2016

RE: Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)

The Department of Public Health-Drinking Water Section (DWS) is assessing and re-evaluating all protocols and procedures related to the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) and as necessary sending out reminders and alerts to make sure that the public water systems (PWSs) are fully informed of their responsibilities and obligations under the LCR. As a result, this letter will:

1. Bring to your attention the [EPA Technical Recommendations for the Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment Evaluation](#) that was published in March 2016. We expect that this technical publication be used as a guide when PWSs evaluate corrosion control treatment and make submittals to DWS for review & approval. The purpose of this document is to provide technical recommendations to help primacy agencies and systems comply with corrosion control treatment (CCT) requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), including designation of Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment (OCCT). This document summarizes the regulatory requirements, and provides technical recommendations that can assist systems in complying with CCT steps and assist primacy agencies with evaluation of technical information from systems. It also includes background information on corrosion and CCT techniques. This document provides Excel-based OCCT Evaluation Templates that can be used to organize data and document decisions.

2. Remind you that the addition of a new source or a change in treatment requires DWS review and approval, and will automatically revert the system back to the standard monitoring requirements for Lead, Copper & Water Quality Parameters. Pursuant to Section [19-13-B102\(e\)\(8\)\(D\)\(iv\)\(VII\)](#) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), Any Community Water System (CWS) or Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) subject to a reduced monitoring frequency shall obtain approval from the department in writing of any upcoming change in treatment or the addition of a new source. The department shall review and approve such change in treatment or addition of a new source before the CWS or NTNC may implement it. The department may require the CWS or NTNC to increase monitoring frequency to a routine monitoring schedule and increase the number of required sample sites specified for standard monitoring or take other appropriate steps, such



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as increased water quality parameter monitoring or re-evaluation of the CWS's or NTNC's corrosion control treatment given the potentially different water quality considerations.

3. Ask you to re-evaluate the lead and copper sampling pool and the sampling site selection criteria & location pursuant to the requirements set in Section 19-13-B102(e)(8)(A) of the RCSA.

In compliance with this LCR requirement, each CWS or NTNC shall complete a materials evaluation of the distribution system in order to identify a pool of targeted sampling sites. When conducting the materials evaluation, the CWS or NTNC must use the information collected pursuant to [40 CFR 141.42\(d\)](#), as amended from time to time. When the information collected is insufficient to locate the requisite number of lead and copper sampling sites to meet the targeting criteria then the CWS or NTNC shall review the sources of information listed hereafter:

(I) All plumbing codes, permits, and records in the files of the building department(s) that indicate the plumbing materials that are installed within publicly and privately owned structures connected to the distribution system;

(II) All inspections and records of the distribution system that indicate the material composition of the service connections that connect a structure to the distribution system (e.g., checking service line materials when reading water meters or performing maintenance activities); and

(III) All existing water quality information, which includes the results of all prior analyses of the CWS or NTNC or individual structures connected to the CWS or NTNC, indicating locations that may be particularly susceptible to high lead or copper concentrations.

The sampling sites selected for a CWS's sampling pool (tier 1 sampling sites) shall consist of single family structures that contain copper pipes with lead solder (CPLS) installed after 1982 and before 1987 or contain lead pipes (LP); or are served by a lead service line (LSL). When multiple-family residences comprise at least 20 percent of the structures served by a CWS, the CWS may include this type of structure in the CWS's sampling pool. Any CWS with insufficient tier 1 sampling sites shall complete the CWS's sampling pool with tier 2 sampling sites, consisting of buildings, including multiple-family residences that contain copper pipes with lead solder installed after 1982 and before 1987 or contain lead pipes; or are served by a lead service line. Any CWS with insufficient tier 1 and tier 2 sampling sites shall complete the CWS's sampling pool with tier 3 sampling sites, consisting of single family structures that contain copper pipes with lead solder installed before 1983. A CWS with insufficient tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 sampling sites shall complete the CWS's sampling pool with representative sites throughout the distribution system. For the purpose of this requirement, a representative site is a site in which the plumbing materials used at that site would be commonly found at other sites served by the CWS. Sampling sites shall not include faucets that have point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment devices designed to remove inorganic contaminants.

The sampling sites selected for a NTNC (tier 1 sampling sites) shall consist of buildings that contain copper pipes with lead solder installed after 1982 and before 1987 or contain lead pipes; or are served by a lead service line. A NTNC with insufficient tier 1 sites to meet the targeting criteria shall complete the NTNC's sampling pool with sampling sites that contain copper pipes with lead solder installed before 1983. If additional sites are needed to complete the sampling pool, the NTNC shall use representative sites throughout the distribution system.

Any CWS or NTNC having a distribution system containing lead service lines shall draw 50 percent of the samples the CWS or NTNC collects during each monitoring period from sites that contain lead pipes, or copper pipes with lead solder, and 50 percent of those samples from sites served by a lead service line. A CWS or NTNC that cannot identify a sufficient number of sampling sites served by a lead service line shall collect first-draw samples from all of the sites identified as being served by such lines.

Your sampling pool should be re-evaluated and updated. The sampling site plan inventory form should be revised to include at least the minimum number of required sampling sites for lead and copper

standard monitoring based on your water system's population, which shall be reported to the DWS on [this form](#) (i.e. sampling point form under the sampling site plan) by 6/15/16.

4. Re-emphasize the new sampling protocol and remind you of the appropriate sampling collection methods. In our Circular Letter #[2016-07](#) dated 3/14/2016, we alerted you of the EPA memorandum titled "[Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures for Purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule](#)". We encourage you to follow these sampling procedures, and further remind you of the sampling collection methods described in Section 19-13-B102(e)(8)(B) of the RCSA, specifically the method established for the collection of lead service line samples. Pursuant to Section 19-13-B102(e)(8)(B)(iii) of the RCSA, lead service line samples shall be collected in 1 of the following 3 ways:

- (I) At the tap after flushing the volume of water between the tap and the lead service line (the volume of water shall be calculated based on the interior diameter and length of the pipe between the tap and the lead service line);
- (II) Tapping directly into the lead service line; or
- (III) If the sampling site is a building constructed as a single-family residence, allowing the water to run until there is a significant change in temperature which would be indicative of water that has been standing in the lead service line.

5. Alert you of the lead public education and notification requirements. Section 19-13-B102(i)(6) of the RCSA describes clearly the requirements for content of the public education and consumer notification, the delivery method, timing and frequency of the notifications. To assist you in assuring compliance with these requirements, a [guidance](#) document is available on our [webpage](#). Although there is a maximum wait period in the regulations to issue the lead education and consumer notices, the Department expects the lead public education materials and/or consumer notices to be issued to customers within 48 hours of learning of the lead test results.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Carissa Madonna of the DWS at 860-509-7333.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief – Regulatory Services Branch
Local Health Directors
Certified Operators

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter # 2016-09

To: Public Water Systems serving a population of more than 50,000

From: *Lori Mathieu*
Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section

Date: March 14, 2016

Subject: Increasing Transparency in the Implementation of the Lead & Copper Rule & Enhancing Efforts to Notify Residents Promptly of Lead Results

Recently, the EPA Office of Groundwater & Drinking Water issued a letter to all Commissioners having regulatory authority for public water systems (PWS), which requested States to take near-term action to address risks from lead in drinking water.

Therefore, the Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section (DPH DWS) requests all PWS to work together with DPH DWS to increase transparency in the implementation of the Lead & Copper Rule (LCR). The DPH DWS strongly recommends that PWS post the following information on your websites and submit a copy of this information to DPH DWS within 30 days of the date of this letter:

- The materials inventory that PWS were required to complete in accordance with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 19-13-B102(e)(8)(A), including the locations of lead service lines, together with any more updated inventory or map of lead service lines and lead plumbing in the system; and
- At a minimum, the two most recent monitoring periods of lead compliance sampling results collected by the PWS in accordance with RCSA Section 19-13-B102(e)(8), should be kept updated regularly on your website, as well as justifications for invalidation of lead samples in accordance with RCSA Section 19-13-B102(e)(8)(F).

Additionally, DPH DWS requests PWSs to enhance efforts to notify residents promptly of lead results collected from their homes. PWSs should also provide clear information on lead risks and how to abate them. The general public should also receive prompt information on high lead levels in drinking water systems. These actions are essential to restoring public confidence in our shared work to ensure safe drinking water for consumers.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Lori Mathieu at (860) 509-7333.



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CC: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief – DPH Regulatory Services Branch
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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter # 2016-07

To: CWS and NTNC Public Water System Owners & Certified Operators
From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section
Date: March 14, 2016
Subject: EPA Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures for Purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule

Recently, the EPA Office of Groundwater & Drinking Water issued a memorandum to all Water Division Directors regarding clarification on the recommended tap sampling procedures relating to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The memorandum is attached to this circular letter for your reference.

In the near future, the Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) will be releasing a comprehensive LCR Guidance Document with a revised sampling protocol. In the interim, however, it is recommended that any PWS conducting routine lead and copper sampling review their current sampling protocol with respect to the attached recommended procedures. Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Carissa Madonna at 860-509-7333.

cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief – DPH Regulatory Services Branch

State-Certified Laboratories

Local Health Directors



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Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
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Date Signed: February 29, 2016

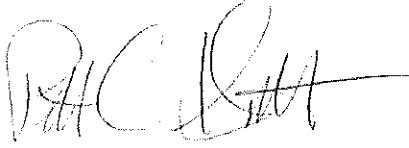


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 29 2016

OFFICE OF
WATER**MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures for Purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule

FROM: Peter C. Grevatt, Director
Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water 

TO: Water Division Directors
Regions I - X

The Lead and Copper Rule, 40 C.F.R. Sections 141.80 to 141.91, requires monitoring at consumer taps to identify levels of lead in drinking water that may result from corrosion of lead-bearing components in a public water system's distribution system or in household plumbing. These samples help assess the need for, or the effectiveness of, corrosion control treatment. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide recommendations on how public water systems should address the removal and cleaning of aerators, pre-stagnation flushing, and bottle configuration for the purpose of Lead and Copper Rule sampling.

Removal and Cleaning of Aerators

EPA issued a memorandum on *Management of Aerators during Collection of Tap Samples to Comply with the Lead and Copper Rule* on October 20, 2006. This memorandum stated that EPA recommends that homeowners regularly clean their aerators to remove particulate matter as a general practice, but states that public water systems should not recommend the removal or cleaning of aerators prior to or during the collection of tap samples gathered for purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule. EPA continues to recommend this approach. The removal or cleaning of aerators during collection of tap samples could mask the added contribution of lead at the tap, which may potentially lead to the public water system not taking additional actions needed to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. EPA's recommendation about the removal and cleaning of aerators during sample collection applies only to monitoring for lead and copper conducted pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 141.86.

Pre-Stagnation Flushing

EPA is aware that some sampling instructions provided to residents include recommendations to flush the tap for a specified period of time prior to starting the minimum 6-hour stagnation time required for samples collected under the Lead and Copper Rule. This practice is called pre-stagnation flushing. Pre-stagnation flushing may potentially lower the lead levels as compared to when it is not practiced.

Flushing removes water that may have been in contact with the lead service line for extended periods, which is when lead typically leaches into drinking water. Therefore, EPA recommends that sampling instructions not contain a pre-stagnation flushing step.

Bottle Configuration

EPA recommends that wide-mouth bottles be used to collect Lead and Copper compliance samples. It has become apparent that wide-mouth bottles offer advantages over narrow-necked bottles because wide-mouth bottles allow for a higher flow rate during sample collection which is more representative of the flow that a consumer may use to fill up a glass of water. In addition, a higher flow rate can result in greater release of particulate and colloidal lead and therefore is more conservative in terms of identifying lead concentrations.

Conclusion

EPA is providing these recommendations for collection of Lead and Copper Rule tap samples to better reflect the state of knowledge about the fate and transport of lead in distribution systems. The three areas discussed above may potentially lead to samples that erroneously reflect lower levels of lead concentrations. The recommendations in this memorandum are also consistent with the recommendations provided by the EPA's Flint Task Force. For more information about the Task Force please view EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/flint>.

To provide further information on this topic, EPA included an amended "Suggested Directions for Homeowner Tap Sample Collection Procedures" in Appendix D of the 2010 revision of *Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring and Reporting Guidance for Public Water Systems* (EPA 816-R-10-004). This document can be found at:

<http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100DP2P.txt>

Please share these recommendations with your state drinking water program directors. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Thompkins at thompkins.anita@epa.gov.

Attachment

cc: James Taft, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Suggested Directions for Homeowner Tap Sample Collection Procedures

Revised Version: February 2016

These samples are being collected to determine the lead and copper levels in your tap water. This sampling effort is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and your State under the Lead and Copper Rule, and is being accomplished through a collaboration between the public water system and their consumers (e.g. residents).

Collect samples from a tap that has not been used for at least 6 hours. To ensure the water has not been used for at least 6 hours, the best time to collect samples is either early in the morning or in the evening upon returning from work. Be sure to use a kitchen or bathroom cold water tap that has been used for drinking water consumption in the past few weeks. The collection procedure is described below.

1. Prior arrangements will be made with you, the customer, to coordinate the sample collection. Dates will be set for sample kit delivery and pick-up by water system staff.
2. There must be a minimum of 6 hours during which there is no water used from the tap where the sample will be collected and any taps adjacent or close to that tap. Either early mornings or evenings upon returning home are the best sampling times to ensure that the necessary stagnant water conditions exist. Do not intentionally flush the water line before the start of the 6 hour period.
3. Use a kitchen or bathroom cold-water faucet for sampling. If you have water softeners on your kitchen taps, collect your sample from the bathroom tap that is not attached to a water softener, or a point of use filter, if possible. Do not remove the aerator prior to sampling. Place the opened sample bottle below the faucet and open the cold water tap as you would do to fill a glass of water. Fill the sample bottle to the line marked "1000-mL" and turn off the water.
4. Tightly cap the sample bottle and place in the sample kit provided. Please review the sample kit label at this time to ensure that all information contained on the label is correct.
5. If any plumbing repairs or replacement has been done in the home since the previous sampling event, note this information on the label as provided. Also if your sample was collected from a tap with a water softener, note this as well.
6. Place the sample kit in the same location the kit was delivered to so that water system staff may pick up the sample kit.
7. Results from this monitoring effort and information about lead will be provided to you as soon as practical but no later than 30 days after the system learns of the tap monitoring results. However, if excessive lead and/or copper levels are found, immediate notification will be provided (usually 1-2 working days after the system learns of the tap monitoring results).

Call _____ at _____ if you have any questions regarding these instructions.

TO BE COMPLETED BY RESIDENT

Water was last used: Time _____ Date _____

Sample was collected: Time _____ Date _____

Sample Location & faucet (e.g. Bathroom sink): _____

I have read the above directions and have taken a tap sample in accordance with these directions.

Signature _____ Date _____



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 29 2016

Commissioner Raul Pino MD, MPH
Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Commissioner Pino:

There is no higher priority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency than protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our nation's drinking water. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Connecticut and other states have the primary responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of drinking water regulations, while the EPA is tasked with oversight of state efforts. Recent events in Flint, Michigan, and other U.S. cities, have led to important discussions about the safety of our nation's drinking water supplies. I am writing today to ask you to join in taking action to strengthen our safe drinking water programs, consistent with our shared recognition of the critical importance of safe drinking water for the health of all Americans.

First, with most states having primacy under SDWA, we need to work together to ensure that states are taking action to demonstrate that the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is being properly implemented. To this end, the EPA's Office of Water is increasing oversight of state programs to identify and address any deficiencies in current implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule. EPA staff are meeting with every state drinking water program across the country to ensure that states are taking appropriate actions to address lead action level exceedances, including optimizing corrosion control, providing effective public health communication and outreach to residents on steps to reduce exposures to lead, and removing lead service lines where required by the LCR. I ask you to join us in giving these efforts the highest priority.

Second, to assure the public of our shared commitment to addressing lead risks, I ask for your leadership in taking near-term actions to assure the public that we are doing everything we can to work together to address risks from lead in drinking water. Specifically, I urge you to take near-term action in the following areas:

- (1) Confirm that the state's protocols and procedures for implementing the LCR are fully consistent with the LCR and applicable EPA guidance;
- (2) Use relevant EPA guidance on LCR sampling protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control;
- (3) Post on your agency's public website all state LCR sampling protocols and guidance for identification of Tier 1 sites (at which LCR sampling is required to be conducted);
- (4) Work with public water systems – with a priority emphasis on large systems – to increase transparency in implementation of the LCR by posting on their public website and/or on your agency's website:

- o the materials inventory that systems were required to complete under the LCR, including the locations of lead service lines, together with any more updated inventory or map of lead service lines and lead plumbing in the system; and
- o LCR compliance sampling results collected by the system, as well as justifications for invalidation of LCR samples; and

(5) Enhance efforts to ensure that residents promptly receive lead sampling results from their homes, together with clear information on lead risks and how to abate them, and that the general public receives prompt information on high lead levels in drinking water systems.

These actions are essential to restoring public confidence in our shared work to ensure safe drinking water for the American people. I ask you for your leadership and partnership in this effort and request that you respond in writing, within the next 30 days, to provide information on your activities in these areas.

To support state efforts to properly implement the LCR, the EPA will be providing information to assist states in understanding steps needed to ensure optimal corrosion control treatment and on appropriate sampling techniques. I am attaching to this letter a memorandum from the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water summarizing EPA recommendations on sampling techniques. We will also be conducting training for state and public water systems staff to ensure that all water systems understand how to carry out the requirements of the LCR properly. Finally, we are working to revise and strengthen the LCR, but those revisions will take time to propose and finalize; our current expectation is that proposed revisions will be issued in 2017. The actions outlined above are not a substitute for needed revisions to the rule, but we can and should work together to take immediate steps to strengthen implementation of the existing rule.

While we have an immediate focus on lead in drinking water, we recognize that protection of the nation's drinking water involves both legacy and emerging contaminants, and a much broader set of scientific, technical and resource challenges as well as opportunities. This is a shared responsibility involving state, tribal, local and federal governments, system owners and operators, consumers and other stakeholders. Accordingly, in the coming weeks and months, we will be working with states and other stakeholders to identify strategies and actions to improve the safety and sustainability of our drinking water systems, including:

- ensuring adequate and sustained investment in, and attention to, regulatory oversight at all levels of government;
- using information technology to enhance transparency and accountability with regard to reporting and public availability of drinking water compliance data;
- leveraging funding sources to finance maintenance, upgrading and replacement of aging infrastructure, especially for poor and overburdened communities; and
- identifying technology and infrastructure to address both existing and emerging contaminants.

As always, the EPA appreciates your leadership and engagement as a partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may contact Peter Grevatt, Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at grevatt.peter@epa.gov or (202) 564-8954.

Thank you in advance for your support to ensure that we are fulfilling our joint responsibility for the protection of public health and to restore public confidence in our shared work to ensure safe drinking water for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Beauvais". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joel Beauvais
Deputy Assistant Administrator

Enclosure

