

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT July, 2016

Earlier this month I reported on the latest results of compliance testing for lead and copper. While a majority of the 100 homes tested showed either no lead detection or below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard of 15 parts per billion (ppb), 17 were above that level. As this was over 10 percent of the sample sites, it placed the entire system into an action level whose major purpose is to:

- Educate and inform the public about the presence of higher levels of lead in some homes.
- Study whether a water provider is using the most effective anti-corrosion agent and to make any changes that would improve corrosion control.

Recent reports indicate that as many as 5,300 water providers do not comply with the testing and reporting requirements set by federal and state regulators and are; therefore, not in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. That is not the case in Pittsburgh.

We conducted the tests in a timely manner; submitted the results directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) by an independent, certified lab; and reported those results to the public as soon as they were accepted by PADEP. We will also be providing direct public notice to all PWSA customers via US mail, as well as creating and providing additional public education materials.

Several months ago I announced that PWSA was undertaking water quality initiatives, regardless of the lead action level status. Progress has been made on those initiatives, some of which the Authority is now required to do as a result of the exceedance. The updated status report is posted on our web site at: [PWSA Water Quality Initiatives Update - July 2016](#)

It has been my goal to provide as much information as possible to inform customers that we are on top of this issue and to provide education on the facts and choices available. I hope that this open and consistent record will initiate a discussion among the funding community – public and private – about the need to consider programs to assist lower income customers with private infrastructure replacement. In a briefing arranged by Mayor Peduto two weeks ago, he echoed support for transparency and exploring funding programs.

PWSA began the process of billing sewer only customers in the South Hills in July, which is the final major hurdle in the billing system resurrection. The bills include amounts for unbilled months and special payment arrangements for arrearages in excess of \$50. In addition to informational materials, each customer will receive a letter from me apologizing for the delay in billing. Customer service has a full plan for dealing with the many inquiries we anticipate receiving during the start of this effort, including Saturday hours from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm through the end of July.



This summer will be busy for PWSA staff and contractors. In addition to major work in Lawrenceville, Oakland, Banksville, and Shadyside, repair projects are ongoing under annual contracts for both water and sewer service. The Department of Engineering and Construction is preparing for what will be an ambitious list of capital projects in 2017.

PWSA is also preparing to bid several Green Infrastructure demonstration projects and complete the City-wide analysis of how the application of similar projects will mitigate stormwater overflow into the sanitary sewage treatment system.

Clearly this is both an exciting and challenging time for the Authority, and I look forward to providing regular updates as we work towards, and accomplish, our many goals.

Sincerely,

David L. Donahoe
Interim Executive Director