

**PWSA Water Quality Initiative  
Status Report  
August 26, 2016**

In May, 2016 the Authority outlined a water quality program initiative involving programmatic, testing and customer education efforts. This report is designed to keep customers updated on those efforts.

<i>Item</i>	<b>Status</b>
<p><b>1. Continue free residential customer requested lead testing program. Advise customers on options based on results. (Note: these tests are for any customer whether or not they have known lead services.</b></p> <p><i>Due to spike in testing requests, steps have been taken to improve requesting and reporting process. These will be adjusted as needed.</i></p>	<p><b>PWSA has received 3,520 requests from customers for testing. To date, 850 have been returned, 691 of which have been analyzed by an independent certified lab with the balance at the lab for analysis.</b></p> <p><b>The results of those completed:</b>  <b>396 are non-detect for lead (57.3% of those tested)</b>  <b>116 are between 1.8-5 ppb (parts per billion) (16.8%)</b>  <b>84 between 5.1 and 10 ppb (12.2%)</b>  <b>51 between 10.1-15 ppb (7.4%)</b>  <b>44 over 15 ppb (6.4%)</b></p>
<p><b>2. Conduct mandatory lead and copper testing during two periods in 2016 on eligible residential properties and report in mid-July and mid-January, 2017. Eligible properties include those that are known to have lead service lines or are of an age where lead service lines were likely installed.</b></p>	<p><b>The first round of testing was completed on schedule and certified to the DEP on schedule. The results were as follows:</b>  <b>45 at non-detect for lead</b>  <b>15 between 2.1 and 4.6 ppb</b>  <b>7 between 5 and 9.8 ppb</b>  <b>16 between 10-14 ppb</b>  <b>6 between 16 and 19 ppb</b>  <b>7 between 22 and 38 ppb</b>  <b>4 between 50 and 75 ppb</b></p> <p><b>17 of the samples exceeded the 15 ppb EPA allowable measure with a designated sample number of 22. This is not a violation of a regulation but a lead “exceedance” that requires a water provider to take certain actions involving expanded public education on lead, additional testing and corrosion control optimization.</b></p>

<p><b>3. Conduct corrosion control study (referred to as pipe loop studies) where in various chemical treatments for lead corrosion are flushed through lead pipes for a period of time to determine which may be more effective for the Pittsburgh system. This includes the current agent, soda ash.</b></p>	<p>The study plan has been approved and with assistance from volunteers from the plumbers and carpenters union, the platforms are being constructed. Testing should begin in September</p>
<p><b>4. Create a Water Quality Advisory Board to advise and how to improve our overall program.</b></p>	<p>Initial orientation meeting was held August 1, 2016.</p>
<p><b>5. Reorganize water quality and production functions within PWSA.</b></p>	<p>Appointed Acting Deputy Director of Water Production and Acting Chief Water Quality Officer; positions posted for recruitment.</p>
<p><b>6. Adoption of revised policy on lead service line replacement to make it as affordable as possible to customers that choose that option.</b></p>	<p>Policy adopted by PWSA Board at May meeting. The Upper Lawrenceville water line replacement project is being used as a demonstration project. As PWSA digs up streets and sidewalks in this area, we are alerting customers to the existence of lead service lines and offering them the opportunity to replace those lines during the project. PWSA will then do the restoration as part of the overall project budget, saving the customer additional costs.</p>
<p><b>7. Identification of lead services, including cataloguing and digitizing lead service line population.</b></p>	<p>Staff is examining paper records inherited from the city; while some of the information is valuable, there are challenges with accuracy and readability. Due to lead exceedance, Authority is developing a way to estimate lead services for review with DEP. It is anticipated that a pilot service line replacement program will be implemented</p>

<p><b>8. Continue customer education efforts and respond to requests for technical assistance from other institutions.</b></p>	<p><b>As a result of the lead exceedance, the PWSA has developed a public education program on lead. The plan was approved by DEP in late August and is in the process of being implemented. It includes publication of an informational brochure, posters and public service announcements as well as social media efforts. In addition to required annual drinking water quality report (published June 1, 2016) the Authority examined and updated its web based resources, provided bill inserts on the subject, and has participated in meetings and webinars with other water providers dealing with water quality issues. PWSA will continue to provide customers with latest information on all aspects of this issue, including updates such as this.</b></p>
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