

January 5, 2009

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
PWSID CLASS

PLEASE READ!

**THIS LETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CHANGES TO PUBLIC
WATER SUPPLY REGULATIONS**

Dear owner/operator:

The Federal Government has made changes to the Lead and Copper Rule. The Lead and Copper Rule Short Term Revisions (LCRSTR) were published in the Federal Register on October 10, 2007 and became law on December 10, 2007. In Montana, the LCRSTR became effective on December 25, 2008.

MONITORING

The LCRSTR specifies that triennial samples must be collected no later than every third calendar year. That means that public water supply systems must not allow more than three calendar years to pass between monitoring periods. *Example: if you last collected lead and copper samples on June 30, 2006, you must collect samples between June 1 and September 30, 2009.* Public water supply systems on reduced monitoring (yearly, triennially or nine years) must collect lead and copper samples between June – September unless otherwise approved in writing by the DEQ. Monitoring schedule is available online at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/pws/reports.asp>.

CONSUMER NOTIFICATION

The EPA amended the public education requirements and added a new notification requirement to 40 CFR 141.85(d) adopted by reference in ARM 17.38.239(3) that requires **all** Public Water Supplies (PWSs) to provide customers who occupy homes or buildings that are part of the PWS's monitoring program with results with their drinking water is tested for lead (including those who do not receive water bills). These results will help occupants determine what actions to take to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water. This is required even if the PWSs do not exceed the action level for lead.

- PWSs are required to provide the notification to the consumer within **30 days** of when the system receives the results.
- PWSs are required to include an explanation of the health effects of lead, steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, contact information for the PWS, the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) and the action level for lead, and the definitions for these two terms.

- ☑ PWSs are required to send the lead consumer notices by mail or other DEQ approved method (e.g., NTNC systems can post the results on a bulletin board in the tested facility).
- ☑ PWSs are required to submit a copy of the notification and a certification that the system met the delivery requirements to the DEQ within **3 months** following the end of the monitoring period.

To assist you in meeting these new requirements, please find enclosed a results notification letter which contains a fact sheet on lead and copper in drinking water and a certification form for you to fill out and return to the DEQ. Additional copies are available on-line at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/pws/leadcopper.asp> or by contacting me at the telephone number or e-mail address below.

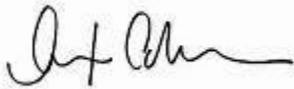
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS (CCR) REQUIREMENTS:

The LCRSTR revised the requirements of the CCR Rule, and now all Community PWSs are required to provide information in their CCRs on lead in drinking water irrespective of whether the system detected lead in any of its samples. This short informational statement will help to ensure that all vulnerable populations or their caregivers receive information on how to reduce their risk to lead in drinking water. PWSs may modify the educational statement, but only if approved by the DEQ.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. [NAME OF UTILITY] is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The LCRSTR provisions changed several aspects of the Lead and Copper Rule that are not included in this letter. Please check on-line at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/pws/leadcopper.asp> for a description of the LCRSTR. If you have any questions, please contact at the telephone number below.

Sincerely,



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