



Dear Deputy Assistant Administrator Beauvais:

Thank you for your letter on implementing the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department) places the highest priority on protecting public health and ensuring the safety of drinking water. This agency is closely watching the events in Flint, MI. I welcome our agencies' joint efforts in reviewing LCR data and implementation processes. I share your commitment in strengthening safe drinking water programs. Additionally, I encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to quickly develop comprehensive and clear information and consistent tailored resources that public water systems and states may use to help all people understand lead risks and how to abate them.

In specific response to your near-term action requests:

1. *"Confirm that the state's protocols and procedures for implementing the LCR are fully consistent with the LCR and applicable EPA guidance."*

The department's implementation of the LCR is consistent with EPA regulations and applicable guidance documents. More detailed information was provided on March 8, 2016 to Tom Poy, EPA Region 5 Branch Chief.

2. *"Use relevant EPA guidance on LCR sampling protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control."*

The department follows relevant guidance and federal regulations. For example, the department's sampling protocol does not allow pre-stagnation flushing or removing or cleaning of faucet aerators prior to sampling. Know that the department will consider the additional suggestions you provided in your attachment.

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)."*

The department sends public water supply owners the sampling protocols and guidance for identification of Tier 1 sites with their annual monitoring schedules. The department will post this information on its website.

4. *"Work with public water systems – with a priority and 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:*
 - *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*
 - *LCR compliance sampling results collected by the system, as well as justification for invalidation of LCR samples."*

With recognition to any security, privacy or regulatory requirements, the department will encourage these large public water systems to make appropriate information (i.e. materials inventory, sampling,

invalidations, etc.) available on their websites. The department already has LCR compliance sampling results available on its website.

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.”*

The department requires lead consumer notices, and includes a template of information on how to abate lead exposures. When a system exceeds the lead action level, the department requires public information and consumer education. The department tracks completion of follow-up requirements with automations on its DWS database.

The department is prepared to further engage with the EPA to enhance efforts and improve implementation of the current LCR. Please contact Jill Jonas, Director of the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater (Jill.Jonas@Wisconsin.gov, 608-267-7545) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp
Secretary

cc: Peter Gravatt, USEPA
Jill Jonas, WI DNR