



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor**

Commissioner's Office
350 Capitol Street, Room 702
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3712
Telephone: (304) 558-2971 Fax: (304) 558-1035

**Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary**

March 7, 2016

Mr. Joel Beauvais
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mail Code: 4101M
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Beauvais:

On behalf of Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling, I would like to provide a response to your letter dated February 29, 2016, wherein you ask for Secretary Bowling's leadership in taking near-term actions to assure the public that our agencies are working together regarding the risks of lead in drinking water. Below, we have provided West Virginia's actions as it pertains to the following areas that you specifically listed:

1. Confirm that the state's protocols for implementing the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) are fully consistent with the LCR and applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance.
 - West Virginia has adopted the LCR by reference in West Virginia Legislative Rule 64 CSR 3 and follows the federal requirements. If there are any questions or staff is unsure, then contact is made to the EPA for guidance so that the rule can be properly enforced.
2. Use relevant EPA guidance on LCR sampling protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control.
 - West Virginia has been and currently uses EPA guidance on LCR sampling protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control. This information is provided to public water systems and agency drinking water program staff is available for any questions and provide guidance as necessary.
3. Post on your agency's public website all state LCR sampling protocols and guidance for the identification of Tier 1 sites (at which LCR sampling is required to be conducted).
 - West Virginia is working to post this information.

Mr. Joel Beauvais
March 7, 2016
Page 2

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; the materials inventory that systems were required to complete under the LCR, including the location 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.
 - West Virginia will work with public water systems to get this information posted quickly.
5. Enhance efforts to ensure that residents promptly receive lead sampling results from their homes, together with clear information on lead risk and how to abate them and the general public receives prompt information on high lead levels in drinking water systems.
 - West Virginia will emphasize to the public water systems to ensure that residents are promptly notified of results taken as part of the LCR. Information will be provided and available on lead risk and how to abate them.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP
Commissioner and State Health Officer

RG:bt

cc: Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling
Walt Ivey