



Abril 8, 2016

Joel Beauvais
Deputy Assistant Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear mister Beauvais:

Through letter dated February 29, 2016 the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) recommends to the states to further the reinforcement of the actions that could be undertaken in order to protect public health regarding the exposure to lead and/or copper through the drinking water.

The Drinking Water Division, in its ministerial role of protecting public health from the lead and/or copper exposure through the drinking water, has always made use of the guidance, protocols and requirements established by the Lead and Copper Regulation (LCR) in force and in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency.

In its constant concern of protecting the public health, this Department revises, executes and enforces its magisterial role regarding actions corresponding to the drinking water systems that exceeds the lead and copper action levels. Our duty is to maintain and guide the systems towards the establishment of an optimum corrosion control in the drinking water. Our purpose is to achieve compliance with the Lead and Copper Regulation requirements.

The Department of Health will be unifying efforts with the PR Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) to announce and publish through their web sites educational information on the Lead and Copper Regulation in order to make it accessible to the general public so that the public may consult their doubts directly on-line, with the Regulation. This information will be available at the PRDOH website www.salud.gov.pr and at the PRASA client website www.acueductospr.com. We have requested PRASA to make a prompt action starting with systems with a population of more than 50,000. We will start this effort by requesting each system to include the following information:

- 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 systems, as well as justifications for invalidation of LCR samples.

We understand that in this way both agencies collaborate in their efforts to achieve a major consciousness in the education about the public health, as well as more knowledge on behalf of the public regarding the compliance of the public drinking water systems with the LCR.

A memorandum letter was sent to the USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water in response to the previous letter that was sent on February 29th, 2016 and that discussed the Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures for Purpose of the Lead and Copper Rule. Copy of our response is attached.

Notwithstanding, our Department is in the best disposition of receiving and attending any instruction, communication or amendment EPA sends regarding the LCR.

In case of any doubt of the above stated information, please call Eng. Javier O. Torres, Director of the Drinking Water Division to telephone 787-777-0150.

Cordially,



Ana C. Rius Armendáriz, MD
Secretary
Puerto Rico Department of Health

Attachments

fc: Peter Grevatt, Ph.D. –Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, USEPA
Dr. Carlos Carazo Gilot, Secretariat of Environmental Health
Javier O. Torres, Director, Drinking Water Division
Ms. Sonia Ferrer, Lead & Copper Coordinator, Drinking Water Division