Re: Lead and Copper Samples due for the Water System, 2022.

Dear Administrative Contact:

Your water system is due to collect lead and copper samples. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) records indicate that your water system is due to collect lead and copper in tap water samples between June 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022. The water system must appropriately collect the required number of lead and copper in tap water samples to achieve compliance with lead and copper monitoring regulations. If samples have already been collected during the specified monitoring period, disregard this letter.

The DWB recommends that the currently identified sample locations be reviewed and verified prior to distribution of the sample bottles or sample collection. If changes need to be made to sites listed in the sample plan, please submit an e-mail or a letter to the Lead and Copper Rule Administrator detailing the current site, the future site, and the reason for the change sample location.

Once sample site updates have been reviewed by the DWB Lead and Copper Rule Administrator, update the sampling plan (DSSP) and submit a copy of the updated plan to your assigned compliance officer. Inquiries specific to the LCR may be submitted by email to lcr.manager@state.nm.us.

Respectfully,

Naima Khan
Lead and Copper Rule Administrator
Drinking Water Bureau
Water Protection Division

Enclosures: Suggested Directions for Homeowner Tap Sample Collection Procedures
Maintaining Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule
Consumer Notice of Tap Water Result (2 pages)
Verification of Lead Consumer Notice Issuance

Maintaining Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule:

Considerations to achieving compliance for monitoring and reporting requirements

Water systems that are required to collect lead and copper samples

Water systems identified as community or non-transient non-community water systems are required to conduct periodic monitoring for lead and copper in tap water. Water system compliance is overseen by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB). To achieve compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) monitoring and reporting requirements, water systems must ensure that:

- ☐ Samples sites are properly identified
- ☐ Sample location changes are reported to DWB
- ☐ Samples are properly collected, even though residents are allowed to collect the samples
- ☐ Samples results are reported to DWB
- ☐ Individual locations that exceed the action level for lead or copper are investigated and findings are reported to DWB
- ☐ Residents that participated in the monitoring event receive a Lead Consumer Notice for their location
- ☐ Lead Consumer Notices and the certification form are submitted to DWB

How many samples do I have to collect?

The number of samples is determined by your population:

Population	Standard Schedule	Reduced Schedule
>100,000	100	50
10,001 to 100,000	60	30
3,301 to 10,000	40	20
501 to 3,300	20	10
101 to 500	10	5
≤100	5	5

If you have questions regarding the population determination for your water system, contact your general compliance officer. If you have questions related to the Lead and Copper Rule, contact the NMED DWB LCR Administrator at lcr.manager@state.nm.us.

How do I prepare for the monitoring event?

Prior to collecting the monitoring event you should:

☐ **Verify your current sampling schedule.** The water system is responsible for ensuring samples are collected during the required monitoring period. Check the Drinking Water Watch (https://dww.water.net.env.nm.gov/NMDWW/) to verify the current sampling schedule assigned to your water system.

- ***Six-month (standard) sample schedule:*** Samples must be collected for two consecutive six-month monitoring periods prior to being considered for a reduced schedule. Monitoring periods are January 1 through June 30 and July 1 through December 31.
- ***Annual (reduced) sample schedule:*** Samples must be collected for three consecutive monitoring periods prior to being considered for a triennial schedule. The monitoring period is June 1 through September 30.
- ***Triennial (reduced) sample schedule:*** If you water system is assigned a triennial sampling schedule; the samples should be collected three years from the last sampling event. If samples were last collected in 2018, samples will be due for collection in 2022. The monitoring period is June 1 through September 30.

☐ **Verify the current sample locations.** The water system is responsible for ensuring samples are collected from valid sample sites. Contact the residents to verify willingness to collect the samples. Verify the locations listed in your current distribution sample siting plan (DSSP). When reviewing the sites, choose locations of the highest possible tier:

- ***Tier 1:*** Single Family structures that are served by a lead service line or contain copper pipes with lead solder installed after 1982.
- ***Tier 2:*** Buildings, including multi-family structures the that are served by a lead service line or contain copper pipes with lead solder installed after 1982. Choose Tier 2 sites only if there are not enough Tier 1 sites.

- ***Tier 3:*** Single family structures that that are served by a lead service line or contain copper pipes with lead solder installed before 1983. Choose Tier 3 sites only if there are no Tier 1 or Tier 2 sites available.

When verifying the sample sites, choose another site if the building is vacant or has a or point-of-entry (POE) treatment device designed to remove inorganic contaminants. If the site has a point-of-use (POU) treatment device installed on a sample tap, another tap without a POU device may be used. If changes need to be made to the existing sample listing, submit an e-mail or a letter to the Lead and Copper Rule Administrator detailing the current site, the future site, and the reason for the change sample location. Public buildings and schools are generally not acceptable as sample locations (town hall, library, community centers, fire stations).

☐ ***Order your sample bottles.*** The water system is responsible for obtaining sample containers from a laboratory certified by NMED DWB. To obtain lead and copper sample containers and sample identification numbers, the water system should contact a laboratory certified to process lead and copper samples. The following local area labs have been certified by NMED, and are able to accept lead and copper samples for compliance:

Cardinal Laboratories
(Contracts to Green Analytical)
101 E. Marland
Hobbs, NM 88240
(575) 393-2326
cardinallabsnm.com

Green Analytical
75 Suttle St
Durango, CO 81303
(970) 247-4220
greenanalytical.com

Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD)
State of New Mexico Department of Health
1101 Camino de Salud NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 383-9000
https://nmhealth.org/about/sld/

Hall Environmental Analysis Laboratory
4901 Hawkins NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 345-3975
www.hallenvironmental.com

To view a complete listing of laboratories currently certified that may be used complete analysis of compliance samples in New Mexico can be found at https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/certified-labs/ . Analytical request forms may be generated from the Drinking Water Sample Collection application available at https://sep.net.env.nm.gov/sep/login-form. Please note that registration is required to use this application and that instructions for registration are available at the above reference link.

Conducting the monitoring event

When you are ready to distribute the bottles, you should:

☐ ***Inform each participating resident of when the sample bottle and sample collection instructions will be dropped off and picked up.*** Be sure the resident can follow instructions to correctly collect a "first draw" lead and copper sample.

☐ ***Collect the containers and sample collection instruction forms.*** When samples are picked up from each resident verify that:

- The resident filled in the bottom of the sample collection instructions form at the time of sample collection.
- The sample was collected from an interior tap used for consumption (kitchen or bathroom sink).

Please note that samples collected at sampling locations that do not meet lead and copper sample site selection criteria will be invalidated by DWB and the water system will be financially responsible for invalidated samples.

Return the bottles to the lab

Bottles must be received by the laboratory within 14 days of sample collection. When preparing to return the bottles to the lab, be sure to check that:

☐ A completed analytical request form is submitted to the laboratory with each lead and copper sample.

☐ The address and location of the sample collection site (example: 123 Main Street, kitchen faucet) is listed in the Field Remarks section of the analytical request form.

Retain a copy of one set of all completed forms for your files. Submit a copy of all the completed analytical request forms and instructions to DWB. Lead and Copper records must be retained for 12 years

Once you have received the analytical results

The water system must notify persons at the sample locations of their individual lead results, by distributing a Lead Consumer Notice to each residence or location that participated in the sampling event. Be sure to:

- ☐ Verify the lead 90th percentile.
- ☐ Include the sample location address.
- ☐ Convert the lead concentration values to microgram per liters (ug/L)
- ☐ Complete the Lead Consumer Notice. Each notice must include lead results, an explanation of the health effects of lead, actions consumers can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, water system contact information, the action level of lead, and its definition.
- ☐ Distribute the Lead Consumer Notices with the explanation of health effects within 30 days of receiving the analytical results.
- ☐ Keep copies of the analytical results and each Lead Consumer Notice for your records.
- ☐ A copy of each Lead Consumer Notice form and the completed verification form must be provided to NMED DWB within three (3) months following the end of the lead and copper monitoring period in which the samples were collected.

Returning to compliance

The water system can return to compliance when out of compliance with the LCR if:

- ☐ **Samples were not properly collected.** If samples are rejected by the lab, collect again before the end of the monitoring period.
- ☐ **Samples were not collected during the assigned compliance period.** (1) Post the public included in the notice of violation sent to the system. (2) Collect samples in the next monitoring period, or as directed by the LCR Administrator.
- ☐ **Lead Consumer Notices were not distributed to consumer at locations where samples were collected.** (1) Complete and submit Lead Consumer Notices to LCR Administrator for review as soon as possible. (2) Distribute notices to participants. (3) Submit a copy of notices and certification form to LCR Administrator.
- ☐ **Lead Consumer Notices were not submitted to DWB.** Submit a copy of notices and certification form to LCR Administrator.
- ☐ **The 90th percentile for Lead or copper exceed the Action Level.** Follow instructions in ALE letter from LCR Administrator.

Contact the LCR Administrator for clarification or further instruction in returning to compliance. Inquiries may be submitted to lcr.manager@state.nm.us. Documents may be submitted electronically or by regular post. For more information about the Lead and Copper Rule visit www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/lead-and-copper-rule/.

Contact information:

Documents may be submitted electronically or by regular post. Please note there may be a delay in review and approval of documents sent via regular post. Electronic submittal is preferred.

E-mail: lcr.manager@state.nm.us

Mail: LCR Administrator
121 Tijeras Ave NE, Suite 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Suggested Directions for
Homeowner Tap Sample Collection Procedures

These samples are being collected to determine the lead and copper levels in your tap water. This sampling effort is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and your state and is being accomplished through the cooperation of homeowners and residents and the «System_Name» water system.

A sample is to be collected after water has been sitting in the pipes for an extended period of time (i.e., no water use during this period). Due to this requirement, either early mornings or evenings upon returning from work are the best times for collecting samples. The collection procedure is described in more detail below.

1. Prior arrangements will be made with the customer to coordinate the sample collection event. Dates will be set for sample kit delivery and pick-up by water department staff.
2. **Water must be allowed to sit undisturbed in the pipes for a minimum of 6 consecutive hours during which there is no water use throughout the house.** This sample should be a "first draw" sample (i.e. the sample consists of the first water drawn from the piping after the period of no usage). The water department recommends that either early mornings or evenings upon returning home are the best sampling times to ensure that the necessary stagnant water conditions exist.
3. A **kitchen** or **bathroom cold-water faucet** is to be used for sampling.
4. If using of a cubitainer: Blow up the sample container. This can be done by placing your mouth over the opening of the cubitainer and blowing into it, before filling with tap water.
5. Place the sample container below the faucet and gently open the cold-water tap**.** Fill the sample container to the lip of the bottle just below the bottle opening and turn off the water.
6. Tightly cap the sample cubitainer and place in the sample kit. Please fill out the information below and make sure it is correct.
7. Place the sample kit outside of the residence in the same location the kit was delivered so that water system staff may pick up the sample kit.

If you have questions contact us at _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY RESIDENT

Sample was collected at the: ☐ Kitchen Cold Water Tap ☐ Bathroom Cold Water Tap

Water was last used: Time: _____ Date: _____

Sample was collected: Time: _____ Date: _____

Do you have a water softener: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a point of use device to remove Inorganic Contaminants? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have plumbing repairs or replacements taken place in your home in the last 3 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

_____

I have read the above directions and have taken a tap sample in accordance with these directions.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Water System Name:

Consumer Notice of Tap Water Result

Water System Name _____, PWSID: NM35_____

Dear Consumer,

Thank you for participating in the lead and copper tap monitoring program. This notice is to inform you of the lead monitoring results for a drinking water sample collected at this location.

Sample collection date and location	
Consumer address:	
Sample collection date:	
Sample was collected at the:	☐ Kitchen Tap ☐ Bathroom Sink ☐ Other _____
Amount of Lead found in the water at this sample location. ***Results are listed in micrograms per liter (ug/L)***	
☐ *Lead was not detected at this sample location.*	
☐ *Lead was detected at _____ug/L. The concentration of lead is equal to or less than the action level of 15 ug/L.*	
☐ *Lead was detected at _____ug/L. The concentration of lead is greater than the action level of 15 ug/L.*	
The 90th percent of sites samples had lead concentrations equal to or less than _____ug/L.	

What does this mean?

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ug/L. This means PWSs must ensure that water from taps used for human consumption does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90 percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a PWS must follow. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the U.S. EPA established a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

What are the health effects of lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

What can I do to reduce exposure to lead if found in my drinking water?

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water has not been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the water is noticeable cooler, before using it for drinking or cooking. This helps flush any water that may have lead leached from the plumbing.
2. ***Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.*** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Do not use hot water from the tap to make formula.
3. ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead and consider replacing them when appropriate.

For more information contact our water system at _____; visit US EPA's website www.epa.gov/lead; call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Verification of Lead Consumer Notice Issuance

Submit to NMED-DWB within 90 days following end of monitoring period

Public Water System Name: _____

Public Water System ID Number: _____

Monitoring Period: June 1 – September 30, 2022

System Type	Method of Delivery	Date(s) of Delivery
Community Systems	Mail or hand delivery to location where samples were collected.	Date(s) of ( ) mail ( ) hand delivery: _____ _____ _____
Nontransient Noncommunity (NTNC) or Certain Small Community Systems (e.g., Correctional Institutions or Nursing Homes)	Post near locations where samples were collected.	Date notices posted: _____
Additional Requirements for **Schools, Day Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, and Juvenile Correctional Institutions**	Notify parents, legal guardians or power of attorney of postings. (e.g., by newsletter, e-mail, or other method accepted by NMED-DWB)	( ) Newsletter ( ) e-mail ( ) Other Method:_____ _____ Date(s): _____

I hereby certify that the Consumer Notice was issued to all locations that were sampled within 30 days of receiving sample results. Issuance was made by the method(s) indicated above in accordance with 40 CFR 141.85 and the attached sample is representative of what was issued.

_____ _____

Signature of Responsible Official Date

_____ _____

Printed Name Title of Responsible Official

Please return the completed Verification of Lead Consumer Notice Issuance form and copies of all public notices distributed to:

E-mail: lcr.manager@state.nm.us

or

Mail: 121 Tijeras Ave NE Suite 1000, Albuquerque, NM 87102