

Results of Recent Lead and Copper Sampling

Due to the significant national exposure of the Flint, Michigan lead issues earlier this year, we wish for our customers and the general community to be aware of the results of the most recent testing performed in our waterworks. Without elaborating on the details of the Flint situation, let it suffice to say that the ACSA currently does not have, and never has had, the conditions that existed in that city. We have stable water supplies, and the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority adds a pipe corrosion inhibitor (a phosphate compound) as normal treatment at all of the potable water plants. Historically, the concentrations of lead measured at customer taps have been extremely low, and in most cases below the detection limit of the laboratory equipment.

A total of sixty (60) samples were collected this past summer by residents from inside select, high-risk homes in the Urban (30), Crozet (20) and Scottsville (10) systems following the detailed guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Testing was performed by the Division of Consolidated Laboratories (the “state labs”) in Richmond, which is certified by the EPA.

Only three (3) samples showed lead at or above the laboratory reporting limit of 2 parts per billion (ppb), the highest value of the three being 3.34 ppb. This compares to the current EPA Action Level of 15 ppb for lead. Copper was detected in the water of some 55% of the homes (all homes have older copper pipes), but was well below the copper Action Level in all cases.

The Red Hill community system was sampled in the summer of 2015. One sample of five showed reportable lead at 2.24 ppb, and there were no copper issues.

We are immensely proud of these results, and they confirm what we have seen in our systems for over two decades in our efforts to provide our customers with clean, safe and reliable drinking water.

If you would like additional information on our testing, or wish to discuss lead in drinking water, please contact Tim Brown, Environmental Compliance Specialist, at 434-977-4511, ext. 119, or at tbrown@serviceauthority.org