

LEAD AND DRINKING WATER

Metropolitan Washington Update

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Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Water Security and Source Water

- Regional Coordination and Collaboration
 - Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)
 - COG Water Security Work Group
 - Potomac River Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership
 - Local and state health, environmental and emergency management agencies
- Actions
 - Drought planning and response
 - Drinking water quality monitoring
 - Water supply forecast and Potomac Basin flow model
 - Public information coordination – One message, many voices
 - Issue management
 - Community Engagement Campaign



Lead in Drinking Water

- Lead in water – long recognized as a serious health threat
- Flint water crisis
 - Lead in drinking water back in the spotlight
 - Four primary issues
 - Community health
 - Lead levels in water
 - Lead service lines
 - Lead in building pipes and fixtures
- DC WASA/DC Water lead exceedance (2002-2005)
 - Follow-up (2006-present)
- Renewed concern & awareness prompted regional drinking water utilities to review actions and communications



History

Year	EPA	Region	Flint
1991	Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) implemented under the Safe Drinking Water Act	Region in compliance with LCR	
2000		Aqueduct changes disinfection	
2002	EPA updates LCR	DC Water testing shows exceedance of LCR lead action level, all other regional water utilities in compliance	
2003		Investigation, consultation with EPA, Aqueduct, DC WASA and outside experts, Public Education	
2004		Aqueduct/DC WASA implement corrosion control Lead service line replacement initiated	
2005		Lead service line research	
		DC and all regional drinking water in compliance with LCR	
2007	EPA updates LCR		
2008		DC Water improves LSR program	
2013	EPA releases school/daycare guidance		
2014	Lead-free fixture rule implemented		Source water changed to Flint River
2015	New proposed LCR revisions released with household action level		Water quality changes recognized Lead exceedance, increased blood lead levels identified
2016		Renewed awareness	State of emergency declared by state and federal governments Mitigation/Lead service line replacement initiated



Regional System Status & Actions

- All systems implement corrosion control
- Continuously monitor corrosion parameters to maintain good water quality
- Customer Testing
 - All systems complete required testing – new protocol in use
 - DC Water will test customers' water at no charge
 - WSSC provides water testing at cost
 - Other systems assist customers with testing by a certified lab
- Communication & Collaboration
 - Customer health & safety focus
 - Shared responsibility – utility & customer
 - Health Officials
 - School Districts



Regional System Status & Actions

All regional water utilities are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Lead and Copper Rule

- Lead service lines audited
- Source water & treatment remain consistent
- Sampling protocols & guidance followed
- Oversight by EPA, MDE, VDH

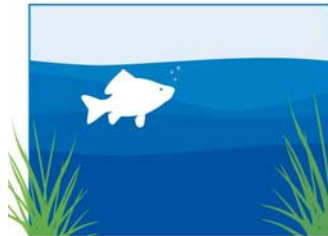
2013 EPA National Public Water System Compliance Report

	Type	Violations	(n) PWS
District of Columbia	None	0	0
Maryland			
COG Jurisdictions	None	0	0
State	Treatment	19	19
	Monitoring	130	128
Virginia			
COG Jurisdictions	None	0	0
State	Treatment	5	5
	Monitoring	115	82



Drinking Water Systems

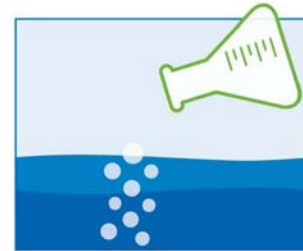
1 WHERE DOES DRINKING WATER COME FROM?



ESSENTIALLY NO LEAD FOUND

The District of Columbia's drinking water is drawn from the Potomac River by the Washington Aqueduct, a federal agency.

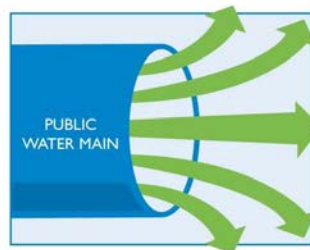
2 WHO TREATS DRINKING WATER?



ESSENTIALLY NO LEAD FOUND

The Washington Aqueduct is responsible for water treatment and adds orthophosphate (a food-grade chemical) to minimize the release of lead from service pipes and household plumbing.

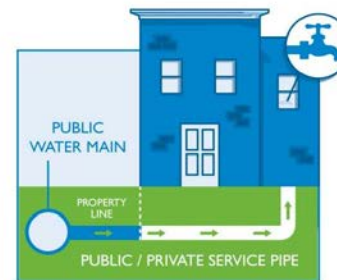
3 WHO DISTRIBUTES THE WATER?



ESSENTIALLY NO LEAD FOUND

DC Water distributes the water to homes and businesses through 1,300 miles of pipes in the District.

4 WHERE CAN LEAD BE FOUND?



POSSIBLE LEAD

Lead can enter your water if you have a lead service pipe or household plumbing with lead. Orthophosphate can reduce lead release from these sources.



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