

Stockton Borough Water Department

June, 2020

RE: Update corrosion control study on lead/copper.

The Njdep is currently reviewing the Boroughs proposal to improve the existing corrosion control system.

This an update to public notification sent in December 2019 regarding high levels of lead in the drinking water. A copy of the notice sent out to customers in December 2019 is included.

The Borough of Stockton recently engaged CDM Smith Inc. (engineering) to complete a corrosion control treatment evaluation. The study evaluated copper and lead solubility based on the last 3 years of water quality data and 10 rounds of Lead and Copper Compliance Sampling.

The technical memorandum recommends a two-phased approach to optimize corrosion control treatment in Stockton's distribution system. The first phase includes flow-pacing of the orthophosphate chemical metering pumps to maintain a consistent dose between 2.5 and 3.0 mg/L as PO₄. Phase 1 also includes some additional system adjustments, such as sampling off the discharge pipe rather than the tank for improved monitoring of the water quality entering the distribution system. Copper solubility has been shown to reduce significantly in the presence of a consistent orthophosphate residual of 2.0 mg/L as PO₄ or greater with a pH of 7.0 (or even less) and a DIC between 25 and 28 C/L. In the enclosed memorandum, this is demonstrated both with theoretical solubility modeling and empirical data from previous testing in other systems.

Phase 2 would only be required if Phase 1 phase does not provide consistent compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. The second phase includes increasing pH to between 7.2 and 7.5 using sodium hydroxide, while continuing to dose orthophosphate between 2.5 and 3.0 mg/L as PO₄.

The Borough tests 30 homes for lead and copper every six months. The first ALE (action level exceedance) for lead occurred in 2015. This sample was taken from a faucet that had been recently installed just prior to testing. This unit contained lead solder. The second ALE was for copper in 2018. At this testing site the existing iron pipe was replaced with new copper plumbing just prior to testing. In these two cases the CCT (corrosion control treatment) did not have enough time to produce a protective coating.

Lead and copper does not come from the water source. It leaches into the drinking water from the use of lead solder in the plumbing. Lead solder has been banned for use in the plumbing industry since 1983. The water is safe to drink. NJDEP's recommendation is to flush the pipes for 15-30 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking.

Original notice sent out in December 2019/ Update June 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Stockton Borough Water Contains High Levels of Lead

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead. The tests show lead levels in the water above the limit, or "action level," so we are required to install corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent lead in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by October 31, 2019, but installation is incomplete.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- **Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.**
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove lead.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead more concentrated – the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. However, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

**Infants and children who drink water containing lead more than the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. **

What is being done? (See updated information 6/2020)

The Borough has retained an engineering company that specializes in water chemistry to review the laboratory testing results and recommend an appropriate course of action and/or treatment system.

For more information, please contact The Stockton Borough @ 609-397-0070 or email wateroperator@stocktonboronj.us

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

This notice is being sent to you by Stockton Borough. State Water System #:102300.
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