IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Required Information by the EPA and NJDEP

What happened?

The supplied information is being sent out as required by the NJDEP and EPA due to some individual test results from our Lead and Copper testing program. During our second round of testing in 2020, 8 out of 63 sampled houses exceeded the Federal Action Level for lead, resulting in elevating our average above the "Action Level". Due to this, the Lake Mohawk water system was required to implement corrosion control across the entire system. However, historical results, follow up results, and results since this time have all yielded significantly lower results below the Federal Action Level and compliance with NJDEP and EPA regulations.

Why is this notice being sent?

This is a requirement from the NJDEP, and the attached informational template is provided by the EPA and cannot be changed. We understand that this notice may be confusing or frustrating, so we've included additional information to help answer questions you may have. While the water system does not have any lead service lines, there some galvanized service lines that fall under the "lead" category for the purpose of this notification. In addition to Utility-owned galvanized service lines, homeowners may have galvanized service lines, internal plumbing with lead-based solder, as well as older brass fittings and fixtures that are not "lead-free".

What has been done to correct this?

Immediately after learning of the results, resamples were taken and additional testing was implemented. The resampled results came back at their historical averages, which was below the "Action Level". However, since there was an "Action Level Exceedance", we are required to implement measures to reduce possible corrosion, therefore our system had opted to install corrosion control to make sure that the water remains in compliance for the foreseeable future. While we are making progress on this upgrade, we were not able to complete it in the required timeframe.

What should I do as a homeowner?

- **Determine if you have lead service line or interior lead plumbing or solder.** If you do not have a lead or galvanized service line, solder joints are lead-free, and you have brass plumbing fixtures that were manufactured after January4, 2014, there is nothing you need to do.
- **Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead**. If there is a lead service line, replace it in full, from main to home. Contact your water system prior to replacing the lead service line on your property.
- **Run the cold water to flush out lead**.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula**.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead**. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Use alternative sources or treatment of water**
- **Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.
- **Test your water for lead.** Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. The NJDEP DataMiner Tool can be used for assistance in locating a certified laboratory for drinking water lead analysis.
- **Have an electrician check your wiring**. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
- **Maintain Water softeners and reverse osmosis units**. These softeners and units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

LAKE MOHAWK WATER SYSTEM NJDEP PWSID # NJ1918004

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Lake Mohawk Water System Lead Level Exceedance

Dear Customer:

The NJDEP requires that water systems test for a variety of occurring substances in drinking water such as Coliforms, Lead, Copper, and Chlorine. In June of 2020, during the required round of Lead monitoring sampling, some test results for Lead yielded results exceeding the EPA Federal Action Level. The exceedance of the Federal Action Level for lead **was not and is currently not an emergency,** however it was a drinking water requirement violation. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did and are doing to correct this situation. All subsequent lead testing results to date have been below the Federal Action Level.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for lead in accordance with our required NJDEP monitoring schedule. The above referenced 2020 testing yielded lead levels in the water above the limit, or "action level". Although the system has been continuously in compliance since June 2020, we are required to install corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent lead that may be present in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by July 13th, 2023; however, installation is incomplete. The Sparta Water Utility is currently working with the NJDEP to obtain the required Corrosion control treatment installation permitting for the Lake Mohawk Water System. We anticipate Corrosion control measures to be installed and operating by December of 2024.

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. 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, galvanized, 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 in excess of 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?

We are in the process of installing corrosion control, and it is expected to be in place by December 2024.

For more information, please contact the Sparta Utility Department at (973) 729-7133.

> **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 Lake Mohawk Water System. State Water System ID#: NJ1918004.
Date distributed: January 11, 2024 .