



ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

October 11, 2022

To: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
Peggy A. LaGree, Vice-Chair
Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer

Cc: Terrence D. McCracken, Secretary of the Authority
Russel J. Stoll, Executive Director
Karen A. Prendergast, Chief Financial Officer
Mark S. Carney, Attorney
Leonard Kowalski, Executive Engineer

From: Sabrina A. Figler, Director of Water Quality

Subject: Completion of the 2022 EPA Lead and Copper Monitoring Program
REPORT ATTACHED

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is a United States federal regulation which limits the concentration of lead and copper allowed in public drinking water at the consumer's tap, as well as limiting the permissible amount of pipe corrosion occurring due to the water itself. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first issued the rule in 1991 pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA promulgated the regulations following studies that concluded lead and copper have adverse effects on human health. The LCR sought to limit the levels of these metals in water through improving water treatment, determining lead and copper levels in homes with lead plumbing parts and eliminating the water source as a source of lead and copper. If the lead and copper levels exceed the "action levels", the water supplier is required to educate their consumers as to how to reduce their exposure to lead. The Erie County Water Authority is mandated by EPA to perform the LCR study every three years.

The ECWA began preparing for the 2022 LCR Monitoring Program in December 2021. This study was very comprehensive, thorough, and educational. A considerable amount of thanks goes to my Water Quality staff, to Steve D'Amico, Erica Jankiewicz and the Customer Service Department, Adam Massaro and his crew, and Walt Kline and the IT Department, who all put in considerable time and effort to help complete this project.

The ECWA Final Report submitted to the ECDOH on October 7, 2022 details our extensive public outreach, in-home materials inspections to obtain representative study sites, customer tracking from kit drop off to mailing of letters, laboratory analysis, ECWA's 90th percentile of lead and copper and where ECWA fell relative to EPA's Action Level, and samples of customer letters detailing individual results and educational material on lead, health effects of lead and its

mitigation.

The \$25 billing incentive offered to customers to participate in the program was very successful. We had an 8% response rate and was able to double our number of sampling locations from the previous 2019 monitoring program and build our sampling pool. We completed testing on 50 Tier One lead service line (LSL) Single Family Residences (SFR). In addition, we completed testing on 50 Tier One copper with lead solder (CLS) SFR with a build date of 1984-1985. All customers who participated in the study received letters with their individual results. According to the 90th percentile calculations for lead and copper the ECWA is well below the Action Levels set forth by the EPA. This means the corrosion control program we currently have in place is effective in minimizing the leaching of these metals into the drinking water and in turn minimizing human exposure.

We continuing to locate and record the location of lead service lines. Water Quality will be collecting samples for lead and copper testing from those residences categorized as Tier One CLS SFR, date of build 1931-1940 to continue to identify lead service lines and build our sampling pool as required by the EPA under the current Lead and Copper Rule.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I will be present at the October 20th meeting to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Sabrina A. Figler

