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To: [Jim Taft](#)
Subject: NDWAC's Recommendations to EPA on Long Term Revisions to the Lead & Copper Rule
Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 9:57:20 AM
Attachments: [NDWAC - Recommendations to the Administrator 121515.pdf](#)
[NDWAC LCR Work Group Report Final 08 24 2015.pdf](#)

Good morning State Drinking Water Administrators –

We wanted to share the final recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) on this subject with you, as summarized in the attached December 15th letter from NDWAC Chair Jill Jonas to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

ABOUT THE NDWAC: As a quick refresher, please recall that the NDWAC is a broadly constituted 15-member advisory body chartered under the Safe Drinking Water Act to “advise, consult with, and make recommendations” to the Agency on “activities, functions, and policies.” State drinking water program members of the Council are currently Sarah Pillsbury (NH) and Jill Jonas (WI). Jill also currently chairs the Council, as noted above.

NDWAC LCR WORKGROUP: If the Council elects to explore topics in significant detail (as they did in the case of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)), they typically convene a workgroup comprised of both Council members and outside experts. State drinking water program representatives who served on the special LCR workgroup were June Swallow (RI) and Derrick Dennis (WA). The LCR workgroup met for over a year, including seven face-to-face meetings as well as numerous conference calls.

NDWAC'S LCR RECOMMENDATIONS: The NDWAC received the LCR Workgroup's recommendations in August (report attached) and deliberated over them at their November 17-19, 2015 meeting. As mentioned in the attached letter, the NDWAC agreed on the workgroup's recommendations, but added a number of enhancements (see pg. 3 of the letter). At the risk of oversimplification, we would point out the following key elements of the NDWAC's recommendations:

- Since there is no safe blood lead level, revisions alone to the LCR are not sufficient. Removing lead requires a comprehensive, shared responsibility among all levels of government as well as water system customers.
- Partial lead service line removal is not recommended as an effective long term means of minimizing exposure to lead; rather, long term efforts should be placed on total removal and replacement of lead service lines as well as leaded plumbing components.
- A national clearinghouse and improved consumer confidence information are important components of the overall approach.
- A health-based household action level should be established that triggers a report to the consumer and the applicable health agency for follow up.
- The requirements for copper should be separate from those for lead, with a focus for copper on locations where water is corrosive to recently installed copper pipe.
- The NDWAC's recommendations should be considered by the Agency as a total package, rather than “cherry-picked” for individual pieces.

NEXT STEPS: So what's next? At this stage, the Agency is expected to initiate, in early 2016, a process for developing a proposed regulation for long term revisions to the LCR; to be followed, ultimately, by a final rule. It's difficult to predict when all of that will occur, but the whole process could take as long as four years (or more). We expect there will be many opportunities for state engagement as this process unfolds. For now, our sincere thanks to Jill, Sarah, June, and Derrick for representing states extremely well and ably throughout this process.

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