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Testing Shows Flint Lead Limited To Buildings/Faucets

Tests from over 400 individual homes and businesses released by the state today suggest the Flint water lead issue is tied to individual buildings and or water fixtures.

"The results from this data underline the need for water testing at all homes, businesses, schools and other buildings in Flint," said George **KRISZTIAN**, the Flint Action Plan Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). "Problems with lead exposure appear to be localized to individual service lines or plumbing fixtures, and we want to see all families in Flint take advantage of free water testing from the state."

The follow up testing was announced by the state after Gov. Rick **[SNYDER]** and the Legislature appropriated \$6 million in state funds to help pay to switch Flint back to the Detroit Water system. The City had switched from the Detroit water system last year to the Flint River in an effort to save resources. (See "Snyder Signs Funding Bill For Flint Water Switch," 10/15/2015).

The supplemental appropriation bill also included funding for additional testing.

The state conducted extensive testing at Freeman Elementary School, including tests of four samples each from 31 faucets in the building. Of the 31 faucets, nine came back with initially high lead level results.

The nine faucets all involved brass components, which according to the DEQ, when the faucets were operated for several minutes, the lead levels fell significantly, in some cases to non-detectable levels. Testing found that for all but one of the nine fixtures, a three to four minute flushing period each morning would drastically mitigate lead exposure.

The state advised the school to replace the faucets and fountains of concern as a permanent solution.

"The safety and health of our students are our primary concern at Flint Community Schools, so we will start work as soon as possible to replace faucets, aerators and other related components where high lead levels were detected," said Superintendent Bilal **TAWWAB**. "Once those fixes have been made, the DEQ has offered to provide additional testing of the water at Freeman Elementary to ensure the water from every sample is safe for our students."

The free water testing at other homes and businesses showed similar localized results. Of the 381 samples, 75 percent of the samples showed lead results of five parts per billion or less and 91 percent showed 15 parts per billion or less.

"Since it's not easy to predict if an individual home's water is at risk for lead, the best thing all residents can do is get their water tested," said Krisztian. "It's a free test that provides valuable information for families."

The results of additional water testing in Flint schools will be released by the state in the coming days

Sent from my iPhone