
From: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:57 PM
To: Busch, Stephen (DEQ);Prysby, Mike (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Flint Task Force comments -- MDEQ Draft Sampling Document
Attachments: EPA Comments on MDEQ Draft Sampling 10-21-15 (FTF 15-1).pdf

FYI

From: Kaplan, Robert [<mailto:kaplan.robert@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:47 PM
To: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Subject: Flint Task Force comments -- MDEQ Draft Sampling Document

Hello Jim,

As we discussed, attached please find the EPA Flint Task Force comments on the MDEQ Draft Sampling Document.

- Bob

Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force (FTF 15-1)

Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force Comments on MDEQ Draft Protocol for Collecting Water Samples at Schools for Lead Analysis

EPA received the latest draft of MDEQ's "Protocol for Collecting Water Samples at Schools for Lead Analysis" for comment from Liane Shekter-Smith on October 19, 2015. Below are comments from EPA's Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force.

General

There is an understandable urgency to assess the situation in schools, but an equally important consideration should be the ability to assess whether progress is being made over time as treatment is introduced and monitored. It is critically important that everyone understand how to collect samples from the different types of outlets, how to interpret the sample results (i.e., what the results mean and what they don't mean) and how to effectively communicate the results to the public.

Additionally, there is always confusion over what threshold lead levels should be used and what the numerical sampling results mean. It is very important that everyone involved in the sampling and communication have proper training so that accurate information is provided to the public from the beginning. EPA's recommendation is that training be provided by ORD as soon as possible to the health department and others that are involved before the school sampling begins. It would also be good to provide the same entities an overview on corrosion and corrosion control so that the objectives of the sampling and capabilities/limitations of the treatment are properly understood by all.

Sampling protocol

The proposed end-point sampling is useful and can provide information on whether end-point devices should be replaced. Relying solely on the proposed sampling to evaluate the safety of the water in the plumbing overall is not possible. It is essential to have proper baseline data from throughout the school plumbing, not just the endpoints, to assess the risk as well as the progress of treatment. The best sampling protocol for that would be sequential sampling conducted at 2 or 3 locations in each school. The sequential sampling results would enable an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of treatment throughout the plumbing network over time. This type of an assessment is not possible to do with single samples. Certainty is very important at this stage.

Timing of Sample Collection

If the purpose of the sampling is to identify the sources of lead in the plumbing system and also to identify potential exposure, the timing of the sample collection is important. Do the schools have a program to flush all drinking water consumption taps and coolers and bubblers on the first day back in school after weekends, vacations, etc.? If they do not, the sampling will miss the worst potential exposure for the first few kids drinking the water.

The proposed timing in the protocol indicates that samples should not be collected followed an extended stagnation, such as a weekend. This limitation is more appropriate for samples collected from residences as this does not reflect normal household use. MDEQ should consider collecting samples on different days of the week to get an idea of the conditions throughout the