



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 16 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

Re: Notification of Consultation and Coordination on the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper.

Dear Honorable Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is initiating consultation and coordination with federally-recognized Indian tribes to obtain input on forthcoming proposed regulatory revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The EPA is evaluating potential revisions to the LCR to improve public health protection while ensuring effective implementation.

The LCR applies to all public water systems except those that do not regularly serve at least 25 of the same people at least 6 months of the year. Revisions to the LCR would impact owners and operators of public water systems that must comply with the LCR and primacy agencies that enforce drinking water regulations in their jurisdiction. The agency established the LCR in 1991 to reduce exposure to lead through drinking water. The primary contribution of lead and copper to drinking water is corrosion from service lines and in-home plumbing materials. The LCR requires water systems to sample households served by their system and requires systems to take actions to reduce exposure to lead and copper from drinking water. The actions triggered by the LCR monitoring results may include treatment to control lead and copper corrosion, the replacement of lead service lines, and the dissemination of educational materials to customers.

The LCR established a non-enforceable maximum contaminant level goal of zero for lead. The MCLG for lead is zero because there is no level of exposure to lead that is without risk. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the agency developed the LCR to reduce concentrations of lead and copper in drinking water to levels that are as close as feasible to this MCLG.

The agency is currently in the process of evaluating potential regulatory changes to the existing LCR in the areas of tap sampling, corrosion control treatment, transparency and public education, full lead service line replacement and copper. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>.

This consultation and coordination process will be conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* (<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/forms/consultation-and-coordination-tribes>). The agency invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process. EPA's anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination period is expected to extend from January 16 to March 16, 2018.

Enclosed is background information and a consultation and coordination plan for this action, including a timeline for the consultation and coordination period and information on how you can provide input on this action. This information is also available on *EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS)* at <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

EPA's contact person for this consultation and coordination process is Bob Rose, U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Water Policy Staff. Please do not hesitate to contact Bob by phone at 202-564-0322, or via email at LCRConsultation@epa.gov, should you have any questions or if you would like to request alternate arrangements to the process outlined in the attached consultation and coordination plan.

Whether or not you participate in this consultation process, you will still have the opportunity to provide input on this regulatory action during the public comment period following publication. The proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* and accessible at <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Grevatt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Grevatt, Director
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

Attachments

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10