



## **Statement from EPA On Ongoing Operations in Newark August 16, 2019**

Yesterday, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler had a very productive meeting with Catherine McCabe, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), to discuss the drinking water issues in Newark, New Jersey. EPA continues to work with the City and NJDEP, as all parties work to ensure that the people of Newark are protected from lead in their drinking water.

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), Office of Water, and Regions 2 and 5 continue to meet with Newark and the State on a daily basis to assess and provide advice on Newark's drinking water lead issue.

The EPA scientists involved are internationally recognized experts in lead in drinking water issues. These scientists have helped Newark and the State develop a robust sampling plan that will provide representative results regarding the occurrence of lead in the Pequannock service area of Newark's drinking water system. **The city will begin the first round of sampling according to the plan starting today, Friday, August 16th, building on ongoing sampling efforts already underway.**

The Agency intends to put an additional team of experts on the ground in Newark as early as next week. While there, EPA will continue to guide and advise the City regarding ongoing sampling efforts. The Agency will also acquire samples for analysis by EPA laboratories. These EPA tests will contribute to the Agency's consultation effort as it assists the City in evaluation of household water filter performance. Finally, EPA will continue our ongoing collaboration and consultation with Newark on its drinking water system.

The Agency has been and is prepared to continue to help the City and State evaluate potential solutions to establish long term stability in controlling its lead issues and ensuring that Newark's citizens have the knowledge and confidence that their drinking water meets Federal standards.

For more information on drinking water in Newark, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nj/newark-drinking-water>.