

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Governor:

I am writing to follow up my letter of February 29, 2016, asking that your state work with the EPA to address deficiencies and improve transparency and public information regarding the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR).

Every state has expressly confirmed – either in its initial response to the February 29 letters or in follow-up communications with the EPA – that state protocols and procedures are fully consistent with the LCR and applicable EPA guidance, including protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control, and that the state has already posted or will post state LCR sampling protocols and guidance to their public websites. EPA staff will be following up with every state to ensure that these protocols and procedures are clearly understood and are being properly implemented to address lead and copper issues at individual drinking water systems, and to offer EPA assistance if needed. In addition, we will continue to work with states to ensure that lead action level exceedances and LCR violations are promptly and appropriately addressed. I urge you to continue to support your state's efforts in this area.

I am attaching a letter Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, sent to state environmental and public health commissioners through the Environmental Council of States and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. As noted in this letter, a number of states' responses to EPA's February 29 letters identified practices and policies that enhance the implementation of the LCR and increase public transparency. These include posting individual sampling results on a public website, shortening the reporting and notice timeframes under the LCR, providing the public with information on lead service line locations, and working with drinking water systems, school boards and departments of education to identify and address lead risks at schools. I encourage all states to learn from each other and urge you to support your state agency in implementing best practices that strengthen public health protection and promote transparency.

I want to acknowledge that there is also important work to be done to strengthen the LCR, and that certain systems will need continued assistance and oversight while we work with the states to develop proposed revisions to the rule. In the interim, the EPA will continue to work closely with the states to ensure that the proper steps are being taken to implement the current rule and protect the public from harmful exposures to lead and copper in drinking water.

Again, thank you for your active engagement as we work to strengthen the protection of our nation's drinking water. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may contact Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator for the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at rupp.mark@epa.gov or (202) 564-7178.

Sincerely,

Gina McCarthy

Enclosure