



EPA Seeking Input from State Stakeholders on Proposed LCR Revisions February 2018

EPA continues work on revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), with a tentative schedule of proposing revisions by August next year and finalizing them in February 2020. In December, EPA's drinking water Chief Peter Grevatt sent a letter to groups representing state and local officials, municipal water utilities, and schools to meet with the agency in January to discuss possible changes to the rule. The meeting served as a forum to obtain input on various options under consideration.

Some possible changes discussed by EPA include:

- Lead – Require systems to inventory lead service lines (LSLs), require proactive full LSL replacement on specified schedules, allow partial LSL replacement only for emergency repair or unwilling/unable customers when conducting infrastructure replacement, and require point of use filter distribution and maintenance by PWS for 3 months following LSL replacement.
- Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) – Require CCT for cities smaller than 50,000 people or in cities of any size with lead service lines, require installation and maintenance of point-of-use treatment devices by PWSs to households with LSLs, require periodic reevaluation of CCT by the state, and require systems to find and fix CCT problems if a tap sample exceeds an action level.
- Public Education and Notice – Provide ongoing targeted outreach to customers with LSLs and require PWSs to provide notification to consumers for exceedance of action levels within 24 hours.
- Sampling – Include sites based on customer requests, require testing in schools, and increase the number of samples collected.
- Copper – Screen for water aggressive to copper and requiring additional monitoring and CCT.

EPA acknowledged that cost is a big hurdle, with LSL replacement costing between \$1,200-\$12,300 per line replaced, on average \$4,700. With plumbed-in point-of-use filter devices estimated to cost \$120 per household annually, ongoing treatment may be more economical.

Comments to EPA are due March 8, 2018. The NCWQA Drinking Water Committee will submit comments to EPA on these and other aspects of EPA's proposal.