

CONSUMER NOTICE REGARDING YOUR DRINKING WATER

Our water system did **not** violate a drinking water standard.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. For the sample period ending **9/30/2015** we monitored for **lead and copper** and the results are attached.

The Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A) requires that when we send the sample result for your home we also include the information below regarding lead in drinking water. The result for your home will include a column labeled ACL. This stands for Action Level. Action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. If the combined results for the water system exceed this action level, our water system must take specific actions.

The MCLG or maximum contaminant level goal is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MCLG for lead is zero. Although there are no known or expected risks to health with a zero goal, E.P.A. requires no action be taken unless the result is over the action level. Lead and copper results are measured in milligrams per liter (mg/l) which is equal to 1 part per million. One part per million is equal to one cent out of \$10,000 or one drop of gas in an entire tank of gas.

Please find below the possible health effects of lead and steps that you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. Lead is found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, pewter, and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. A child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination-like dirt and dust that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

To reduce exposure to lead in water, you may follow these steps.

1. **FLUSH YOUR SYSTEM.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one to two gallons of water.
2. **USE ONLY COLD WATER FOR COOKING AND DRINKING.** Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

For more information regarding this information and your sample result, please contact:

Dan Whatley at 325-5830 or dwhatley@physplant.msstate.edu
