

Lead, Copper and Safe Drinking Water

With the ongoing drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, we felt it necessary to share a little of the background regarding lead and copper testing in drinking water, and to make more of an effort to explain the testing procedure. While the sampling results of all routine testing are available through the OneStop feature on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services website, we've provided our results for the most recent lead and copper testing below.

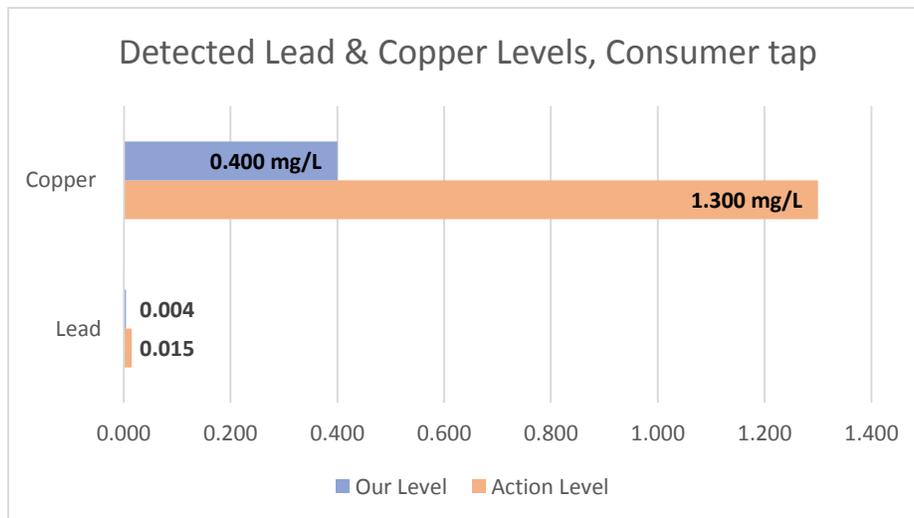
SWDA

The Safe Water Drinking Act of 1986 established specific guidelines for the treatment and monitoring of drinking water. Under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency, in 1991 the Lead and Copper rule went into effect, which outlined monitoring requirements and treatment techniques for lead and copper, as well as establishing Action Levels and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). Action Levels determine at what point a water utility must take additional steps to control the presence of organic and inorganic materials found in the water supply. The current Action Level for lead is .015mg/L, and 1.3mg/L for copper.

New Hampshire DES requires public water systems (PWS) to routinely test specific sites for lead and copper. The size of the PWS determines the number of sites that must be sampled. In addition, any PWS that demonstrates optimal corrosion control may be approved by DES to perform sampling every three years rather than annually. The Village District of Eastman is a small- to medium-sized PWS, and because of our sampling history and treatment processes, we are required to test for lead and copper once every three years using 10 site parameters that are preset by DES.

Calculating Results

There are specific guidelines for obtaining a sample, including location and time of day. Water that has remained in pipes overnight, for example, has a higher probability of containing lead than water that is constantly flowing. The VDE completed the required sampling for 2015 this past summer; all of our samples were below the Action Level for both lead and copper. Action levels are defined as the value measured in the 90th percentile at the consumer's tap: when arranged in a list from lowest to highest, the 9th value from the lowest number in the list is used to determine compliance with the action level. Based on that formulary, our results are shown here:



Additional information regarding the Lead and Copper Rule can be found on the NH DES website, as well as information regarding the SWDA. As always, we are more than happy to talk about our drinking water, and welcome any questions.