



USEPA Releases Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

On November 30, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced the details of the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The LCRI is an additional update to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) and Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). EPA intends to promulgate the LCRI prior to the LCRR compliance date of October 16, 2024.

EPA invited the public to provide written comments on the LCRI and held a public hearing on January 16, 2024. The hearing agenda, commenter list, and presentation can be found at the USEPA rule summary website linked below.

Key Highlights of the LCRI:

- 100% lead service line replacement within 10 years (see detailed summary for exceptions)
- Annually update water service line inventory and create a publicly available lead service line replacement plan.
- Updated tap sampling protocol requires the use of the higher of the first or fifth-liter samples at sites with LSLs to be used when calculating the system's 90th percentile.
- Lead action level lowered from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L (eliminates the trigger level)
 - When a water system's lead sampling exceeds the action level, the system would be required to inform the public and take action to reduce lead exposure (e.g., install or adjust corrosion control treatment)
- Water systems with 3 or more lead action level exceedances in a five-year period will require additional outreach to customers and making filters available to all customers.
- Increased communication with customers:
 - Water systems will be required to communicate more frequently and proactively about lead service lines and the system's plans for lead service line replacement.
 - Revise Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) language regarding the health effects of lead and the system's lead service line replacement plan.
 - Systems would be required to notify the public within 24 hours if systemwide lead levels exceed 10 µg/L and collect follow-up samples at sites with higher levels of lead.
- Full lead service line replacement is encouraged, but cost sharing between the municipality and the property owner is not prohibited.

EEI has created a detailed summary of the LCRI which can be found here: [EEI Detailed Summary](#)

The USEPA's rule summary and supplementary LCRI materials can be found on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/proposed-lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>

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