

Jim Nash

March 7, 2016

To the People of Oakland County,

Oakland County residents and visitors receive drinking water from several different sources. Those sources range from wholesale purchases from the Great Lakes Water Authority, community well water systems and individual private wells. Because of the extensive media attention to the Flint water crisis related to increased lead levels in its drinking water, as your Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, I'd like to offer the following information about Oakland County's drinking water.

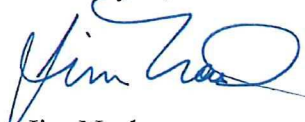
In 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Lead and Copper Rule. It requires all public drinking water systems to regularly test a sample set of high-risk homes for lead at the customers' drinking water tap. This program is regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. If more than 10 percent of homes tested have lead concentrations greater than 15 parts per billion, the so-called "action level," individual water utilities are required to notify residents. If lead levels continue to exceed this action level, the water supplier must take action to control corrosion.

When lead enters drinking water, it is the result of the source water interacting with lead supply lines that extend from the watermain at the road to the water meter in a home or business. This interaction also can occur within internal plumbing systems. This is known as "leaching" and typically occurs when water has been stagnant for a significant period of time. The leaching of lead increases with a corrosive water supply that does not contain a corrosion control agent. Adding a corrosion control agent during the water treatment process provides a protective coating on the plumbing which reduces the ability of any lead pipes, solder or fixtures to leach into the drinking water.

Although my office does not own, operate or maintain all public water supply systems within Oakland County, I am proud to say that every system that is operated and maintained by my office fully complies with all Safe Drinking Water Act standards and testing requirements. If you'd like to review the latest versions of the Consumer Confidence Reports for these water systems, it is available on this website at:

www.oakgov.com/water/Pages/publications/cons_conf_wat.aspx.

Thank you,



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