

Upcoming Lead Testing in Drinking Water



A Joint Statement by the Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) and the City of Charlottesville (City)

July 1, 2016

The ACSA and City will be conducting lead and copper testing in the drinking water of select households this summer in accordance with the guidelines of the EPA Lead and Copper Rule, as managed by the Virginia Department of Health. Testing by each entity has been on a triennial schedule (every three years) since 2001 as test results have consistently shown low concentrations of these metals. There has been no change in the frequency of testing, the number of samples to be collected, or sample locations, as a result of the recent national incidents regarding lead content in drinking water. Analyses will be performed by the State Labs in Richmond.

Additional news reports have documented various testing methods that have been used in several major U.S. cities to possibly result in lower lead levels. These methods include sampling in homes that are not in the highest risk category, flushing customer pipes before the water sits overnight prior to sampling, removing aerator screens from the faucets used to collect a sample, and filling sample bottles slowly.

The ACSA and City receive samples collected by the homeowners only at households that are in the highest risk category (copper pipes with leaded solder of a certain age), and have never asked customers to use any of the collection methods mentioned above that might reduce the amount of lead in the sample.

On February 29, 2016, the EPA clarified the proper sampling techniques related to the Lead and Copper Rule. The ACSA and City guidelines have always followed these proper techniques. Minor additional language in the customer instructions this year will specifically address what the customer is, and is not, to do to collect a proper water sample.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

- ACSA – Tim Brown, Environmental Compliance, tbrown@serviceauthority.org
- City – Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Utilities, hildebrand@charlottesville.org

Thank you.

