



MEMORANDUM

Action
 Discussion
 Information

DATE: January 16, 2020

TO: Environmental Services Commission

FROM: Michael Pan, Water Quality Sr. Engineering Tech
John Sizemore, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor
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SUBJECT: US EPA Lead and Copper Rule Long-Term Revision

Action Required

No action by the Commission is required at this time. This is an informational briefing.

Background

Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful to human health, and it may be present in paint, dust, soil, air, food, as well as drinking water. US EPA (EPA) estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is persistent, and it can bioaccumulate in the body over time. Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels in children than in adults. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells. Copper, also, is a metal that affects human health. Acute copper exposure causes gastrointestinal distress, liver damage, neurological, and/or psychiatric symptoms.

To control the exposure to lead and copper through drinking water, EPA established Lead and Copper Rule in 1991. The rule has undergone three revisions since then, and a fourth revision was proposed in October 2019. Under the current rule, the water quality monitoring is targeted towards homes built in the early 1980's where copper plumbing and lead solder were used.

Purpose

Staff will be providing a short presentation on the Lead and Copper Rule as well as proposed changes and the effects to staff workloads and our customers. The proposed revision broadens the scope to require monitoring at schools and child daycare centers, as well as replacing lead service lines, to prevent crisis such as that of Flint, Michigan from occurring. Bellevue has no known lead service lines.

Bellevue's drinking water quality has been and is expected to be in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule including the current revision.