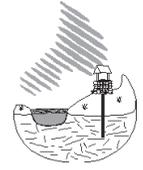




SUPPLY LINES WITH THE SOURCE



Newsletter of the NHDES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau
on the web at www.des.nh.gov

Summer 2016

DWGB's Multi-Pronged Approach to Lead

The crisis in Flint, Michigan makes us all keenly aware that more needs to be done to minimize exposure to lead in drinking water. DWGB and EPA are pursuing a multi-pronged approach to address the situation.

The reason this is so important is that technical compliance with the current Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) may not be enough to sufficiently protect public health, since there is no safe level of lead in drinking water, especially for children. At even very low levels of exposure, fetuses, infants and children can experience permanent neurological impairment that translates to lower IQ scores and lifelong behavioral impacts.

There are many factors that can cause the release of lead in aging water distribution systems. Chief among them are lead service lines, changes in water chemistry that may result from a change in source or treatment, and failure to maintain adequate corrosion control to limit leaching from the system's lead components and on-premise plumbing.

EPA and DWGB are pursuing several avenues to address the lead issue. First, EPA and the States are formulating proposed changes to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). DWGB anticipates that the revised LCR will focus on removal of lead in the distribution system, including the portion of a lead service line on customer property. This "get the lead out" strategy is a substantial departure from the current approach, which relies mainly on corrosion control, monitoring and limiting the amount of lead in new fixtures.

Second, DWGB is asking water systems to voluntarily take steps without waiting for the LCR to be revised. These steps include following a revised sampling protocol, addressing any elevated levels of lead, performing public notice and education more promptly than required,

and re-evaluating whether sampling is being conducted where the presence of lead is likely. To get an early start on the new strategy to "get the lead out" of water systems, we are also asking water systems to work on identifying all remaining lead components in their systems.

Third, for schools and child care centers, whether served by public water systems or private wells, DWGB is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and municipal water suppliers to encourage water sampling and evaluation of lead components.



In New Hampshire, public water systems are generally in compliance with the current LCR, but they are only half of the picture. All but 23 of our 1,140 Public Water Systems (PWS) subject to the LCR are currently (as we go to press) in compliance, and the rest are working toward demonstrating adequate lead reduction. But there are nearly as many people relying on private wells for their drinking water as there are those who rely on community systems. DWGB strongly encourages testing of private wells, particularly for older homes. Sam-

pling water periodically to test for lead and other, more common contaminants such as arsenic and radon, is the only way to know what is in the water. The test results can be used to determine whether removing lead components or treating water, or both, would be appropriate. A list of accredited laboratories and other guidance can be found by searching the web for "NHDES Private Well Testing."

Regardless of one's source of drinking water, everyone is encouraged to run their water first thing in the morning for a few minutes or until it gets cold, to flush water that has sat stagnant overnight and may contain lead or copper leached from home plumbing fixtures, pipe or solder. Drinking and cooking with water only from the cold water

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tap is also very important. We also encourage periodic removal and cleaning of aerators and filters that may trap sediment that could leach lead.

Please contact Cynthia Klevens at cynthia.klevens@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3108 with any questions on lead and copper issues. ♦

Check out the new NHDES Lead in Drinking Water web page at
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-drinking-water.htm>

NHDES & USGS Overhaul Online Mapping Tools

NHDES' updated OneStop Web Geographic Information System (GIS) now makes it easier to display key environmental information needed for permit applications and to print high-quality resource maps for a variety of environmental management purposes. The GIS viewer or OneStop Data Mapper will now be part of the NH GRANIT Project, the State's GIS spatial data warehouse hosted by the University of New Hampshire. The OneStop Data Mapper allows the public to view and download non-secure NHDES GIS datasets. Users can also view and download sensitive data, including public water supply well and intake locations and their associated protection areas, after registering with NHDES and passing a brief security review. DWGB has made a concerted effort over the past three years to confirm and improve the locational data for over 1,000 public water supply sources and related infrastructure through on-site visits to verify locations using GPS units. Check out the new and improved NHDES OneStop Data Mapper at <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/gis/onestop/>.



Don't get caught grasping at straws!

Odd and even watering days are proven to minimize peak usage, while still keeping grass green and gardens growing.



The U.S. Geological Survey's StreamStats web application for New Hampshire has also undergone major enhancements to add capabilities similar to those provided by the retired NH Watershed Tool. StreamStats incorporates GIS data into analytical tools that are useful for water resources planning and management and for engineering and design purposes. The enhanced version can delineate watersheds, compute drainage basin characteristics, estimate flood-peak and low-flow streamflow statistics and groundwater recharge for user-selected sites. Check out StreamStats Version 3 for New Hampshire at http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/new_hampshire.html.

Are you new to GIS? No- and low-cost training resources are available through the UNH Cooperative Extension Geospatial Technologies Training Center at <http://extension.unh.edu/Natural-Resources/Geospatial-Technologies-Training-Center>. ♦

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Harmful Algae Blooms – New England Update

For an update on cyanobacteria issues in the Northeast, see "A Study in Cyan," in the March 2016 issue of Interstate Water Report, published by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) at <http://www.neiwpc.org/iwr/>. The article covers EPA's health advisory levels for cyanotoxins and proposed monitoring requirements for cyanotoxins under the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule. It also touches on the many unanswered questions about monitoring protocols and costs, responses to cyanobacteria blooms, and monitoring planned by some Northeast states this year. Finally, the article describes work by NEIWPC's Harmful Algal Bloom Workgroup, which is compiling information about cyanobacteria management measures. A short article about recent guidance for water systems ran in the Fall 2015 issue of Supply Lines with The Source. ♦

NHDES Presents 2016 Awards for Source Water Protection and Sustainability

On May 11, at NHDES' Annual Drinking Water Source Protection Conference in Concord, NHDES Assistant Commissioner Clark Freise presented the City of Concord with the 2016 Source Water Sustainability Award for outstanding efforts to maintain the sustainability of the city's primary source of drinking water, Lake Penacook. The City is currently implementing a leak detection program that includes surveying nearly 200 miles of water pipe and is conducting quarterly water audits. In addition, in 2014, Concord became an EPA WaterSense partner, promoting a variety of options for residents to conserve drinking water resources.

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DWGB Calendar of Events & Deadlines: June-December 2016

June 30	Annual Permit to Operate (PTO) applications and fees due http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/permit_pws_pto.htm
July	Leak Detection Grant applications due http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/
July 1	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) pre-applications due, contact Johnna McKenna at (603) 271-7017 or johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov
July 1	Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) due http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/capacity/consumer.htm
July 10	Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Certifications due http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/capacity/consumer.htm
July 21	Treatment, distribution & combined grade 1A drinking water operator exam, contact Wade Pelham at (603) 271-2410 or wade.pelham@des.nh.gov
August 4	DWSRF Public Hearing on 2016 Projects, NHDES Auditorium http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/capacity/dwsrf.htm
September 14-15	Leadership, Decision-Making and Communication for Water Systems, contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or luis.adorno@des.nh.gov or see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/index.htm
October 20	Treatment, distribution & combined grade 1A drinking water operator exam, contact Wade Pelham at (603) 271-2410 or wade.pelham@des.nh.gov
November 1	Local Source Water Protection Grant applications due, contact Amy Hudnor at (603) 271-2950 or amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov or see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm
December 1	Asset Management: The Next Dimension, 3rd Annual Asset Management workshop, contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or luis.adorno@des.nh.gov or see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/index.htm
December 16	Asset Management Grant applications due, contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or luis.adorno@des.nh.gov or see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/index.htm
Anytime	Record Drawing Grant applications accepted http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/capacity/documents/record-drawing-grant-app.doc

To see event calendars for additional opportunities please visit:

Granite State Rural Water Association at <http://www.granitestatewater.org>

New England Water Works Association at <http://www.newwa.org>

New Hampshire Water Works Association at <http://www.nhwwa.org>

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NHDES' Source Water Protection Award was presented to Donald Ware, Vice President of Pennichuck Water Works for his long-term efforts to protect source water in the Nashua region. Over the last 25 years, Don has worked with many stakeholders to conduct comprehensive watershed planning, improve stormwater management, amend local zoning regulations, conserve land and expand public education efforts to protect Pennichuck Brook and the Merrimack River, primary sources for the City of Nashua and surrounding communities.

Congratulations to the City of Concord and Don Ware for their outstanding efforts! ♦

Water on Planet Granite

New Hampshire Public Television (NHPTV) has produced two new one-minute videos about private well testing in its "Planet Granite" series. "Healthy Water" and "Test It" address the need for well testing and the process, and can be used to promote private well testing in your community.

Visit the NHPTV website to check out "Healthy Water" (<http://video.nhptv.org/video/2365680555>) and "Test It" (<http://video.nhptv.org/video/2365680549/>). ♦

24th Annual Drinking Water Festival & 4th Grade State Science Fair

For full article, see <http://www.fosters.com/article/20160504/NEWS/160509692/0/SEARCH>



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