



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

APR 20 2016

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Dave McMillan
Division of Public Water Supplies
Bureau of Water
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794

Dear Mr. McMillan:

This letter summarizes the April 18, 2016 call Acting United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Regional Administrator, Robert Kaplan convened with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director, Lisa Bonnett on the issue of lead in the drinking water of Galesburg, Illinois. Also in attendance were representatives from USEPA and Illinois EPA Water Programs, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Governor's Office.

USEPA is concerned about the elevated blood lead levels in Knox County and the need for alternate water for impacted Galesburg residents. We are also concerned that Galesburg exceeded the lead action level in 2015, especially with their history of action level exceedances.

We believe that Galesburg should:

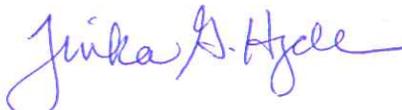
- Provide bottled water or NSF certified point of use lead filtration devices for any homes exceeding the action level now and in the future.
- Conduct regular (at least quarterly) public education, in addition to the public notification recently provided, to inform residents of the risk of lead, including the fact that the lead action level is not a health-based number, and how to reduce exposure to lead.
- Provide consumers with the results of water testing for lead conducted in their homes.
- Offer and pay for additional water testing for lead for all consumers who request it.
- Complete a Corrosion Control Study to minimize the leaching of lead from pipes and plumbing.

We understand from Monday's call that Illinois EPA and the Governor's Office are reaching out to the Galesburg Mayor to urge the provision of bottled water to residents. We hope the State is successful in securing a commitment from the City to provide alternate water or filters to affected residents, otherwise we will consider other options to protect public health. In addition, we renew our request from yesterday's call for the school sampling data.

In response to our offer of technical assistance from USEPA's Office of Research and Development corrosion control experts, you provided us with data for our national experts in lead and distribution systems to review. Once they have reviewed the data we will get back to you with recommendations for Galesburg.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Poy of my staff at (312) 886-5991. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tinka G. Hyde,
Director, Water Division