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Lead and Copper Water Sampling

Erda Acres Water Company

2023

**Background.** The US Environmental Protection Agency has established rules requiring water samples be taken from a sample of homes in all public water systems to check lead and copper levels in our tap water. Samples must be taken every 3 years during the summer. For a water system our size we have to have samples from a minimum of 10 homes. The rules further identify criteria for which homes we sample based on a Tier (priority) system. Homes that were built from 1982-88 or homes with known lead service line pipe are in Tier 1 for sampling. We do not have any lead service lines but do have about 20 homes built during target range when the copper pipe and lead solder used were most at risk of getting into the water. The water samples must be taken from a cold water tap in the house where the water has not been run for a minimum of 6 hours so our operator cannot take the samples but must rely on the homeowner to take the sample. We have a sample site plan that guides which homes to use.

**2023 Sampling.** Our last round of sampling was in 2020 so this was our year again. Since our operator was in Maine this summer until the second week of September and samples must be taken by September 30, we needed everyone’s cooperation to get our samples collected and submitted. We selected 14 homes for sampling this year. Our operator spoke with all homeowners prior to sampling and 13 agreed to take samples (one family was away). The sampling procedure was explained, and questions answered. A date for collection was set (September 26) and sample kits were prepared and distributed the night before. All 13 homeowners collected samples which were picked-up the morning of the 26th by the operator, and after completing the submission paperwork, were relayed to the lab. This was a great effort on the part of these homeowners and is the first time we have had 100 percent of the homes with completed samples.

**Results.** The trigger levels for action to be taken by the water company are 15 parts per billion for lead and 1300 parts per billion for copper. Rather than getting into the details of the results and criteria for too much lead and copper, all our samples passed by a wide margin and had very small levels or no lead and copper detected. This is great news. Each homeowner who submitted a sample received a hand delivered letter detailing their results. We also submitted results to the Utah Division of Drinking Water who oversees this sampling for EPA. If anyone has further questions about this lead and copper monitoring, please contact our operator (Alan Clark) at 435-496-3468.