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Lapeer has a long history of quality water supplied through an updated, secure, and safe distribution system. However, water service lines into individual homes and businesses have not been maintained in as consistent a manner. Recently, City of Lapeer Department of Public Works personnel sampled water in homes that still have lead water service lines. These water service lines carry water from the City water system in the street into individual homes. Three of those twenty samples came back having elevated lead particles in the water sample. This lead level exceeded the State of Michigan standard for lead particles in drinking water, so the City immediately replaced those individual service lines.

As a precautionary measure, the State of Michigan, along with the City of Lapeer are offering free water filters to qualifying residents living in Lapeer and Lapeer County. Please check the City of Lapeer website for direction on how and where to receive a free water filter system.

Lead exceeding levels are resulting from stricter water sampling methods put in motion by the State of Michigan following the Flint lead contaminated water catastrophe. As a result of the changes, municipalities are required to test more homes with lead service lines. **It is important to note that the Action Level is not a health-based standard, and the City's exceedance is not a violation of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.**

Releasing the attached public advisory is intended to begin a conversation with all our water customers so they can make educated choices based on factors present in their homes. Our public advisory is not meant to scare our residents. We do not have a drinking water crisis in Lapeer but we do want to work with residents who want to improve water quality in their homes.

Out of 3,461 total service connections, the City estimates two percent (approximately 70 services) may have lead or lead-containing materials. **The City has created a special website link as follows: www.ci.lapeer.mi.us – Public Advisory**, which includes information on how residents can check their water service lines and determine what material it is constructed of. The website also has information on how to identify other potential sources of lead and many useful resources.

Public water systems with lead service lines are supposed to change those service lines at a rate of 7% per year, giving utilities 15 years to fully change out their system under current federal rules. Lead service lines and lead solder was outlawed in 1986. It is the intent of the City of Lapeer to have all lead service lines replaced by the end of 2020.

Under the public water rule changes of 2018, the public water systems are required to do a lead service line inventory by January 1, 2020. If you have not already had a City of Lapeer Department of Public Works employee survey your home or business, please contact us and arrange a water service line survey. We can be reached at 810-664-4711.

The City of Lapeer is not taking this issue lightly. Of the twenty lead service lines that have been tested, only three showed elevated levels of lead. The City of Lapeer immediately replaced those service lines and will plan to replace lead service lines as soon as it possibly can.

Respectfully,


Dale Kerbyson

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