



## **WATER & SEWER DIVISION**

### **Lead and Copper Sampling Update**

The City of Norton Shores has complied with the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (D.E.Q.) requirements since the Lead and Copper rule was enacted 1992. The first five rounds of sampling (1992 through 1996) indicated that the City's water supply was NOT corrosive enough to leach lead and copper out of the water supply system or residents homes at levels that were deemed actionable system wide (defined by the E.P.A. as the Action Level (A.L.) of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of all samples). The City was then placed on a reduced monitoring schedule that requires lead and copper testing every three years. A minimum of 30 properties are required per sampling round. Sampling was completed in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014 with zero sample results approaching the M.C.L.G. for copper. Since the reduced monitoring started in 1999, lead sample results have returned five of the 213 total samples that have reached or exceeded the A.L. individually. These results have come from five different properties during different sampling periods.

In light of the recent emergency with the Flint water supply and because of the City's recent water supply change to the City of Muskegon, the D.E.Q. has decided to require two rounds of lead and copper sampling during the 2016 calendar year instead of continuing with the regularly scheduled 2017 sampling. The City conducted the first round in March and conducted the second round in October.

The City and D.E.Q. did consider the potential for water quality changes prior to the switch over of the supply from the City of Muskegon Heights to the City of Muskegon; however, it was determined then and is evident now by all sampling results since the switch over, that the water quality is nearly and practically identical with no effect on lead and copper levels.

#### **March 2016 Results**

The results of the March 2016 Lead and Copper sampling showed no significant change in results. One site did reach the A.L. of 15 parts per billion. This site has historically returned higher than average lead results and the City is currently working with that site to educate the property owner on how to reduce the exposure to lead in their water. The sample results are attached.

#### **October 2016 Results**

The results of the October 2016 Lead and Copper sampling showed no significant change in results. One site did exceed the A.L. with 32 part per billion. This site has not historically returned higher than average lead results and the City is currently working with that site to educate the property owner on how to reduce the exposure to lead in water. The sample results are attached.

#### **How Does Lead and Copper Get Into Our Water?**

Lead and copper is not found in the water supply when it enters or leaves the water filtration plant and the City's distribution system does not contain any known lead services. The City has historically used brass fittings that do contain small amounts of lead. These fittings historically do not contribute any lead into the water that is delivered to homes. The main contributor to lead in drinking water in Norton Shores is the interior plumbing and fixtures in homes.

If you are concerned about your plumbing leaching lead into your water, you can run the water for a short time – 30 seconds to 2 minutes. This will flush old water out of the plumbing and reintroduce fresh City water back into the system before use for consumption.

If you would like more information on lead in drinking water, please visit the E.P.A. website <https://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>



## October 2016 Lead & Copper Sample Results

Site #	Lead	Copper
1	0	0
2	0	24
3	14	36
4	0	14
5	6	48
6	0	0
7	0	24
8	0	14
9	0	22
10	0	22
11	0	32
12	11	12
13	0	0
14	7	43
15	0	11
16	0	14
17	0	10
18	0	19
19	0	11
20	0	0
21	0	85
22	0	29
23	0	0
24	32	133
25	0	17
26	0	28
27	0	105
28	0	0
29		
30	0	14
31		
32	5	17
33	0	0
A.L.	15	1300
M.C.L.G.	0	1300

Action Level (A.L.)

Maximum Contaminate Level Goal (M.C.L.G.)

Results in Parts Per Billion

Oct-16

Site # 29 was not available to be sampled during this period

Site # 31 was not sampled due to previous sampling errors by the property owner