

Is DWU monitoring for lead in our drinking water?

In 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule (also referred to as the LCR). The rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. Additionally, our water wells are routinely monitored and must remain in compliance with the action level established by the EPA of 15 parts per billion (ppb). If lead concentrations exceed the action level at any well or in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. The results of our sampling can be found in our Water Quality Report at <http://dwiinc.com/advisory-notice/dwu-water-quality-report/> - hard copies are distributed no later than July of each year and can also be obtained at our main office location.

Situation in the Okaloosa County Water System

As stated in the Northwest Florida Daily News on Thursday, November 9, 2017:

Regulatory guidelines require that water system operators periodically check for the presence of copper and lead in the drinking water, said County Administrator John Hofstad.

In Okaloosa County, samples for years have been taken from 30 randomly selected homes every three years. These samples, prepared by the homeowner, were sealed and sent off for testing.

This year, for the first time, four of the 30 samples exceeded the 15 parts per billion (ppb) guideline set forth by the federal government, triggering the required notification action.

Does this Situation Apply to Destin?

Drinking Water Source

In Destin and most of the surrounding area, our sole drinking water source is groundwater from the Upper Floridan Aquifer- a deep underground limestone aquifer protected from surface water influences by a confining layer. Destin Water Users customers can rest assured that any lead detected in our system is naturally-occurring. Due to the nature of our water source- it is sparsely found.

During the last round of routine source water sampling performed in August 2017, naturally-occurring lead was only detected in two of our six wells in very low levels at 1.2 and 2.9 parts per billion which is less than 20% of the allowable limit.

Like Okaloosa County, DWU also performed random sampling this August at 30 of our customer's homes built before 1986. All of those results were found to be well under the

established guideline. Ranging from undetectable to 4.6 parts per billion, none of our residential results were above the action limit for lead in our drinking water system.

Corrosion Control Methods

No corrosion control treatment is required for our source water because it is not corrosive. The only treatment required for drinking water in Destin is a small dose of chlorine for disinfecting purposes as it travels through the water system to your tap.

DWU was established in 1963, after the time when lead was commonly used to seal joints in water distribution lines. Lead was not used in the construction of our water distribution mains and service connections.

Lead pipes and lead solder were commonly used in home construction until 1986. DWU has identified all homes built within our service area prior to that time and residential sampling is routinely performed at sites randomly selected from those locations and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Should sampling indicate an exceedance at a customer's home, DWU is required by law to provide notice to the affected resident.

Conclusion

DWU is monitoring our water supply for lead as required by state and federal regulations. We report our findings annually in our Water Quality Report and we are proud to report that lead in the water supply is not a threat to public health for the members of DWU.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.