2/1/16

Dear Marysville Residents,

In light of the recent water crisis in Flint, there have been many confusing statements regarding the water quality of municipalities across the U.S. I am sending you this letter as an educational outreach regarding our water and the homes we test for the Lead and Copper Rule.

First and foremost, I want to clarify that the City of Marysville has not detected lead in the water we produce and send to the distribution system and our water is safe to drink. The fact is that lead is introduced into drinking water in one of three ways: as it enters lead based individual service lines between the water main and a home; as it enters the interior plumbing of homes that are constructed of lead; or it enters the interior plumbing of homes that are constructed with lead solder joints in copper plumbing. Lead service lines and inside plumbing are normally found in older homes (typically 1910-1950) and lead solder can be found in copper plumbing that was installed before 1988 (lead solder was banned in Michigan in June 1988).

There are two different lead testing requirements we must follow. One of our requirements is a lead test which is performed separately on our production water. This requirement is intended to ensure there is no lead in the water we produce and send into our distribution system. This testing has shown our results are non-detectable for lead. The second requirement is mandated by the Lead and Copper Rule. The Lead and Copper Rule testing is not intended to indicate the amount of lead that is in our water, rather it is designed to test the amount of lead that can leach into the water of homes with lead-based services and plumbing. The Lead and Copper Rule requires us to test the water in 20 homes in a prioritized structure, with a lead service line home being one of the top priorities. All of the 20 homes we tested have records indicating they still have lead service lines. The results of the testing are placed against an “Action Level” standard issued by the EPA and enforced through MDEQ. The EPA has set an Action Level for lead of 15 ppb at the 90th percentile home. Our 90th percentile home was 12 ppb, which means these lead-based homes are 3 ppb below the EPA Action Level for lead. Out of the 20 homes tested eight of them had non-detectable lead results.

A copy of the City of Marysville’s Water Quality Report (which includes results from the Lead and Copper Rule) is mailed annually in June to all residents and it can also be found on our website (www.cityofmarysvillemi.com). Our website also includes a laboratory report of our production water which includes our non-detectable lead results along with many other regulated parameters that were tested. For concerned parents, I would like to point out that according to the 2014 annual data from the St. Clair County Health Department, not one child from Marysville tested above the lowest level of concern for lead (all were <5.0 ug/dL). More information on lead can be obtained from the St. Clair County Health Department at (810) 987-5300.

If you have any further questions or concerns or would like more information on how to get your water tested for lead, please feel free to contact me using the information in my signature address.

Sincerely,

Bari J. Wrubel
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Marysville... a nice place to visit, a better place to live