## Consumer Notice of Tap Water Results for Lead

Sample Location: _____
Date Collected: _____

Dear _____,

We would like to thank you for your participation in the lead tap monitoring program. Below is the lead result for the sample location listed above. Additional general information concerning lead in drinking water follows. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit USEPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead**, the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider or local health department.

If you need more information concerning this result, please call the _____community water supply at _____ and ask for _____.

**ONLY the statement that is checked below is applicable to your sample location.**
_____ Lead was NOT DETECTED at this sample location.

_____ Lead was detected at _____ parts per billion (ppb). This result is BELOW the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.

_____ Lead was detected at _____ parts per billion (ppb). This result is **ABOVE** the lead action level of 15 parts per billion.

The 90 percentile value for our community water supply was _____ parts per billion (ppb).

**What Does This Mean?**
Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, USEPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the homes sampled (90th percentile value). *The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow*. If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. *The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

If detected, your lead level may be due to conditions unique to your home, such as the presence of lead solder or brass faucets, fittings and valves that may contain lead. Our system works to keep the corrosivity of our water as low as possible (corrosive water can cause lead to leach from plumbing materials that contain lead) and there are actions you can take to reduce exposure. We **strongly urge** you to take the steps below to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water. If the current, or a future, lead 90 percentile for the community water supply exceed the lead action level, you can rest assured that we are taking a number of steps to correct the problem. Such steps will or would include; monitor our source water, initiate controls to reduce the corrosivity of our water (corrosive water can cause lead to leach from plumbing materials that contain lead) and initiate lead service line replacement if needed.

**What Are The Health Effects of Lead?**
*Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood*

*cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants (particularly if they drink formula prepared with water containing elevated levels of lead), young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.*

**What Are The Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. **Infants that drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water are at a greater risk because of the large volume of water they drink relative to their body size**. Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder.

**What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?**

**If the level of lead found in your drinking water is above 15 ppb or** if you are concerned about the lead levels at your location, there are several things you can do:

- ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water from your kitchen tap or whatever tap you use for drinking and cooking for **at least 3 minutes** and it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. This will help flush lead-containing water from the pipes. In order to conserve water, you can fill multiple containers after flushing for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.

- ***Bottled drinking water should be used by pregnant women, breast-feeding women, young children, and formula-fed infants at homes where lead has been detected at levels greater than 15 ppb.***

- ***Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.*** **Do not** cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. **Do not** use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

- ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

- ***Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.***

- ***Test your water for lead.*** Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

- ***Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.*** New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. As of June 19, 1986, new or replaced water serviced lines and new household plumbing materials could not contain more than 8% lead. Lead content was further reduced on January 4, 2014, when plumbing materials must now be certified as "lead-free" to be used (weighted average of wetted surface cannot be more than 0.25% lead). Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.