



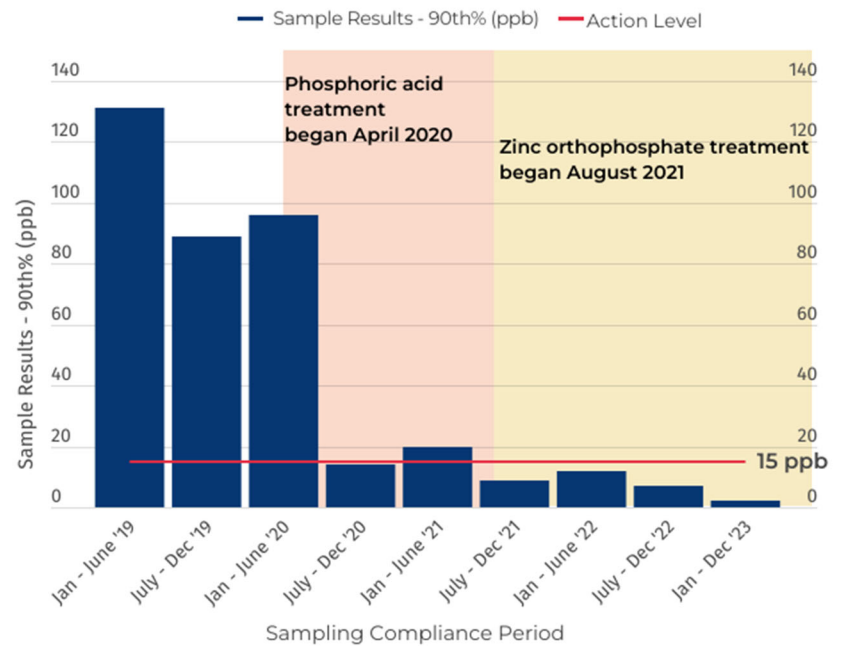
CONSENT ORDER SUMMARY

Background

In 2017, Aqua Illinois, Inc. (Aqua) switched the source of drinking water for its Village of University Park Public Water System (Public Water System) from groundwater wells to the Kankakee River. Because of the switch, Aqua was required by State drinking water regulations to conduct lead compliance sampling every six months. In June 2019, sample results showed elevated levels of lead in the Public Water System’s drinking water.

In August 2019, the State of Illinois and Will County initiated a lawsuit against Aqua to address the elevated levels of lead in the drinking water. In November 2019, the parties entered into an Agreed Interim Order which required Aqua to undertake numerous actions above and beyond applicable State drinking water regulations, including providing free bottled water and home faucet filter devices to impacted residential customers. Aqua was also required to conduct corrosion control studies to determine the necessary treatment to prevent lead from leaching into the drinking water. In August 2022, Illinois EPA approved Aqua's recommendation to designate zinc orthophosphate as the optimal corrosion control treatment.

Aqua University Park
Lead Compliance Sampling Results (2019 - Present)



Since July 2021, Aqua has consistently complied with the regulatory lead action level.

Because Aqua’s compliance sampling data (see graph) has met the regulatory lead action level and has demonstrated the ongoing effectiveness of the zinc orthophosphate corrosion control treatment, the State and Will County negotiated a Consent Order with Aqua which was entered on July 10, 2024. The entry of the Consent Order and an accompanying order by the Court resolved the ongoing enforcement action.

Under the Consent Order, Aqua is required to take additional steps to ensure that its customers are being provided with drinking water that meets the State drinking water regulations.

Consent Order Provisions

The Consent Order is the negotiated agreement between the State of Illinois, Will County, and Aqua, which resolves the lawsuit filed in 2019. The Consent Order contains the following significant terms and requirements, which are above and beyond applicable State drinking water regulations. The Consent Order establishes the Customer Resources Area, which was previously known as the Lead Advisory Area under the Agreed Interim Order; provides for customer-requested sampling for additional 180 days; creates and funds the Technical Assistance Program; requires Aqua to pay a penalty if funds remain; and allows for discontinuation of bottled water and faucet filters to residents in most circumstances.

CUSTOMER-REQUESTED SAMPLING

Upon entry of the Consent Order and continuing through January 6, 2025, any customer of Aqua's Public Water System (not just customers within the Customer Resources Area) may request that Aqua collect a sample from a customer's kitchen tap and analyze that sample for lead. Such customer-requested samples shall be collected and analyzed by Aqua free of charge and may be requested as often as once per month.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

If funds remain after the TAP kitchen faucet plumbing remediation work has been completed, Aqua will make financial contributions for lead in drinking water sampling, remediation and/or other related work to the Crete-Monee School District 201-U (for the benefit of Crete-Monee Middle School and Coretta Scott King Magnet School) and to PK's Christian Learning Site.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The TAP is available to residential customers within the Customer Resources Area that sign up to participate in the program before March 7, 2024. Aqua will contact all households located in the Customer Resources Area to provide information on the TAP. The TAP will continue through July 10, 2025. The Consent Order requires Aqua to fund the TAP, including up to \$900,000 for kitchen faucet plumbing remediation work, as necessary.

Under the TAP, residential customers in the Customer Resources Area who sign up to participate in the program before March 7, 2025, are eligible to receive the following services, **free of charge**:

- Collection of an initial tap water sample from the residential customer's kitchen cold water faucet;
- If the result of the initial tap water sample is above 15 ppb for lead, the residential customer will be eligible for free filter devices, an in-home inspection of the visible plumbing for the residential customer's kitchen faucet, and completion of initial corrective actions;
- If an in-residence inspection is performed, Aqua will schedule the collection of a post-inspection sample of the kitchen cold water tap with the residential customer to be analyzed for lead. The post-inspection sample will be collected at least 14 days after Aqua's completion of the in-residence inspection.
- If the post-inspection tap water sample result is also above 15 ppb for lead, the residential customer will continue to be eligible for free filter devices. Aqua will connect the residential customer with an Illinois-licensed third-party plumber who will further inspect and remediate visible lead solder and/or lead-containing fixtures corresponding to the residential customer's kitchen faucet. This work will be paid directly by Aqua up to a cost of \$3,500.00.
- No earlier than 75 days from the completion of the kitchen faucet plumbing remediation work, the residential customer may contact Aqua to collect another tap sample from their kitchen faucet. If that sample is above 15 ppb for lead, the residential customer will continue to be eligible for free filter devices from Aqua until the respective sampling results do not exceed 15 ppb for two consecutive sampling events, with at least 30 days between each sampling event.

Aqua is required to complete all activities under the TAP for each residential customer that is still in-progress as of the one-year termination date, to the extent funding remains available.

DISCONTINUATION OF BOTTLED WATER

No earlier than August 9, 2024, Aqua may stop the distribution of free bottled water to customers within the Customer Resources Area after written notice to those customers. However, Aqua will provide bottled water free of charge to any customer located within the Customer Resources Area with a lead sampling result of 100 ppb or higher, until the lead sampling results for that customer do not exceed 100 ppb for two consecutive sampling events with at least 30 days between each sampling event.

DISCONTINUATION OF FILTER DEVICES

No earlier than September 8, 2024, Aqua may stop distribution of free filter devices and replacement cartridges to customers within the Customer Resources Area upon written notice to those customers. However, Aqua will provide free filter devices and replacement cartridges free of charge to any customer located within the Customer Resources Area with a lead sampling result of 15 ppb or higher, until the lead sampling results for that customer do not exceed 15 ppb for two consecutive sampling events with at least 30 days between each sampling event.

Contacts

Aqua’s Website:

Upon entry of the Consent Order and continuing until the Consent Order terminates, Aqua is required to maintain its dedicated website, WaterFactsIL.com

Residents that want to participate in the above programs should contact Aqua.

Illinois EPA

EPA.SafeWater@illinois.gov

or

Barb Lieberoff, 217/524-3038



«First» «middle» «last»
«street_no» «dir» «street» «st_code»
«unit_code» «unit_no»
«city» «state» «zip»