

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

SOUTH BLOUNT COUNTY UTILITY DISTRICT WATER SYSTEM HAS LEVELS OF LEAD ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Monitoring results of samples collected in January and June 2009, show lead levels above the action level. The action level for lead is 0.015mg/L. South Blount County Utility District water system test results of 2009, had a calculated 90th percentile for lead of 0.036mg/L.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

You need to do nothing at this time. No alternative water supply is needed. However, if you have specific concerns, consult your doctor. The lead is high in some sites because they have copper plumbing with lead solder; and brass fixtures may contribute lead, too. This value is high enough to require more monitoring.

- Call us at the number below to find out how to test your water for lead.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- Run the water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it cools before drinking or using for cooking, this flushes the standing water from the pipes.
- Do not drink or cook with water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily in hot water
- Don't bother to boil the water to remove lead because it remains when the water evaporates.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

There is no immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Infants and young children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The corrosion control treatment currently used has showed significant improvements in the December 09 testing compared to previous testing year of 2008 in the leaching of lead solder joints in customer's homes that were built prior to 1987. However as we have worked diligently to resolve this matter over this 2 year time frame South Blount County Utility District has received the final draft of a 2 year study done by Virginia Tech of the proposed corrosion control treatment to meet the Lead and Copper Rule. The final draft has been accepted and approved by the State of TN and the Board of Commissioners of South Blount County Utility District as of January 2010. J. J. & G. Engineering Firm has been contracted to do the design of the process and controls for this treatment. With the implementation of this new corrosion control treatment in 2010 the leaching of lead solder joints in the customers plumbing should be below the action level in the December monitoring period of 2011.

For more information, please contact Henry Durant at 865-982-3560

