



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

August 2019

The Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council (DWAC) would like to take this opportunity to provide a brief update of the Council's activities. The DWAC was formed in 2018 in conjunction with the new Lead and Copper Rule and has been meeting regularly since November of that year. Summarizing the legislation that established the DWAC, our primary objectives are to develop plans for continuing public awareness about lead in drinking water and to advise and consult with the water system advisory councils (Municipal Councils). We are pleased to say we are beginning to formulate a strategy that we hope will assist both the general public and the water system advisory councils who must inform and educate their residents on the often complex issues of lead in drinking water. The following summarizes some of our recent activities and immediate plans for the future:

Water Supply Council Survey

As you are probably aware, in June the DWAC distributed a survey to the 27 Municipal Councils that have formed across the state. In the survey, we were most interested in what kind of information and resources you need to execute your respective charge under the new Lead and Copper Rule. One overwhelming response from many is the hope and expectation that the DWAC will provide resources that can create clear and accurate messaging for water users. We are currently reviewing all responses to our survey questions as well as the many comments that were submitted and creating a prioritized list of needs.

Reviewing Existing Information and Resources

There is a wide range of existing documents, flyers, pamphlets, and web sources on the topic of lead in drinking water that have been developed by a number of agencies and groups. It is our opinion that we need to start by taking advantage of these existing resources rather than investing the time and effort to create our own. Unfortunately, these resources are not centrally referenced for ease of access. Our hope is to begin compiling and vetting these resources and placing them on the MI Lead Safe (Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe) or Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (Michigan.gov/EGLE) websites for the Municipal Councils to access. We understand that several Municipal Councils have created material that could also be shared with others.

Informational Webinar

The DWAC is planning to hold a webinar later this year to better acquaint the Municipal Councils with the DWAC and to provide an opportunity to share experiences and learn about what other suppliers are doing in response to the Lead and Copper Rule. Stay tuned for details.

Other Pertinent Developments

A lawsuit by a number of communities challenging the state's revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule was recently dismissed.

We plan to support the digital sites MI Lead Safe (Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe) and EGLE's Lead and Copper Rule (Michigan.gov/LCR).

There is a good chance that the DWAC will need assistance in carrying out some of the functions we have been charged with, so we may be looking for volunteers. Please feel free to contact the Council at EGLE-DWMAD-DWCouncil@Michigan.gov if you are interested.

Remember, our meetings are open to the public, so anyone is welcome to attend.

Many thanks to Ms. Angie Goodman of Lansing Board of Water & Light and Mr. Wayne Jernberg of the city of Grand Rapids for your help.