



July 14, 2016

Dr. Walter Willett
Tolland Public Schools
51 Tolland Green
Tolland, CT 06084

RE: Water Lead Testing in Tolland Schools

Dr. Willett:

I'd like to personally thank you for partnering with The Connecticut Water Company to conduct testing for lead in water in the Tolland School buildings. There can be nothing more important than ensuring the safety of our kids.

As you're undoubtedly aware, lead has become a growing issue in water systems due in large part to the situation in Flint, Michigan. We can assure you that Connecticut Water Company is in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule and we are confident that there is no lead in our water supplies or in the water delivered to our customers. Typically lead is leached from the customer's water service line or internal plumbing system, so a special first draw sample is taken under the Lead and Copper Rule. The Rule however limits testing to residential customers, so schools have not been part of the testing to date.

We thought given the growing concern over lead in water and specifically the question of whether there is lead in water in schools, it was important to reach out to schools in our service communities to test and provide our expertise on the results. Getting building specific data will answer the questions you may face – Is there lead in the water in our schools? *and* What can be done to protect students and staff in our buildings?

To that end, testing was done at representative locations in your school buildings. Attached you will find a table with the results of the sampling conducted in the Tolland School system thus far. **As you can see in the table, the results are all below the Action Level (15 parts per billion) established under the Federal EPA residential lead testing program.**

As you can see in the attached table, locations in the Tolland High School and Tolland Primary School building show low lead concentrations in the fully flushed samples that were analyzed. Tolland Intermediate School had no detectable lead in the fully flushed samples and concentration of 1 part per billion at two locations for the first-draw samples. Tolland Middle School had a lead concentration of 1 part per billion in the auditorium; everywhere else lead was not detected in the fully flushed samples.

The concentrations of all samples were below the USEPA action level, but you'll want to pay particular attention to ensure that faucets and fountains are appropriately flushed after long periods of stagnation (weekends, holidays, vacations). Simply running the water for a short period of time will ensure that stagnant water which may have leached lead in the building's service line or fixtures is flushed out, leaving fresh water behind for consumption. Please review the attached handouts with additional information about lead in drinking water.

It's important to note that the samples that were collected are not compliance samples. Rather, they are intended to give you and us the information we need to make decisions about our way forward in dealing with this lead issue.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call. We'd be happy to help you navigate any questions you have regarding the water serving your schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lowry', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul Lowry
Superintendent

Cc: M. Westbrook, C. Patla, D. Connors, R. Fleming

Enclosures



Lead Testing Results Summary Table
Tolland Schools

School Building	Sample Location	Fully Flushed Result	First Draw Result
Tolland Intermediate School	Rm 126	ND	ND
Tolland Intermediate School	Boys Locker	ND	ND
Tolland Intermediate School	Rm 228	ND	1
Tolland Intermediate School	Rm 115	ND	ND
Tolland Intermediate School	Kitchen	ND	1
Tolland Primary School	"A" Hall	3	TBD
Tolland Primary School	E7	3	TBD
Tolland Primary School	Kitchen	ND	TBD
Tolland Primary School	E23	3	TBD
Tolland Primary School	B-12	ND	TBD
Tolland High School	Outside Rm 232	1	TBD
Tolland High School	Across 101	1	TBD
Tolland High School	Team Rm 68	1	TBD
Tolland High School	Outside Rm 201	1	TBD
Tolland High School	Kitchen Prep	2	TBD
Tolland Middle School	Rm 10	ND	TBD
Tolland Middle School	Rm 113	ND	TBD
Tolland Middle School	Rm 205	ND	TBD
Tolland Middle School	Kitchen	ND	TBD
Tolland Middle School	Auditorium	1	TBD

All results are in parts per billion (ppb);
 USEPA action level (AL) is 15 ppb or 0.015 parts per million (ppm)
 State-certified laboratory reports are also attached



Lead and Drinking Water in Schools

With increasing attention on lead levels in drinking water, parents and public officials are looking for information on the safety of the water found in school buildings.

We assure you that the water delivered by Connecticut Water to the schools and facilities in your community meets all state and federal drinking water standards. However, testing for lead in drinking water in school buildings is not currently required by state or federal regulation so it is likely that the water in drinking fountains and the school cafeteria in your schools have not previously been tested.

Given the age of many school buildings, which predate the elimination of lead from solder in plumbing joints and low-lead drinking water fixtures, and the length of time that water may be exposed to those materials, it is possible there maybe detectable levels of lead at fixtures in a school building. We have outlined below information to address some questions we anticipate you may get as the results of voluntary testing in your buildings is made available.

Q: What You Can Do to Protect your Students and Staff?

A: To minimize the risks of exposure from lead leaching into the school's drinking water, we are encouraging all schools to run their drinking water fountains for a minute or two before students arrive for the day so the water that has been stagnant overnight in the plumbing is flushed out of the fountains. That simple step can significantly reduce the levels found in the water being consumed.

Q: Is Lead in the Company's Water System?

A: Lead is rarely found in the groundwater or surface water supply sources used by public water utilities in this part of the country. This is confirmed by annual testing our water for lead at our water treatment plants. There is no detectable level of lead entering the distribution system from our water treatment facilities.

In addition, we have a comprehensive corrosion control program, with treatment to manage the pH of the water to minimize the potential for lead to leach into the water from customers' service lines, plumbing or solder.

Q: Has the Company Tested for Lead in the System?

A: The water utility monitors lead levels in the water it distributes and we have sample results and statistical information about lead levels in customer homes over the last 20 years. The water system has no detectable lead level in the water leaving the treatment plant and is in full compliance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) meaning 90% or more of lead samples at our residential sample sites are below the Action Level of 15 ppb.

Q: Where Does Lead in Drinking Water Come From?

A: Typically, when lead is detected in drinking water it is has leached from the customer’s water service line or internal plumbing system. Buildings constructed prior to 1987, when plumbing regulations restricted the lead content allowed in solder and plumbing fixtures, are most likely to have higher lead concentrations.

Lead leaching into water varies with time. Buildings where the water can sit unused for extended periods of time are likely to see higher “first draw” lead concentrations.

Q: What Can Customers Do to Reduce the Risk of Lead?

A: Without changing plumbing or fixtures, you can reduce the risk of lead in their water by running the water for a short period of time (generally a minute or 2) prior to drinking to allow for turnover of the water that may have been exposed to lead in the plumbing system. Additionally, use only cold water in preparing food or drinks.

Q: Is Lead Regulated in Drinking Water Systems?

A: Since 1991, Public Water Systems have complied with the federal Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), part of the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Rule requires utilities to collect and analyze “first draw” water samples from residential customers’ taps as a means to get a sample that has been sitting in the line for several hours (at least 6 hours) and is more likely to have lead. The sample results are statistically analyzed for both lead and copper concentrations. If more than 10% of the samples collected are above 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead, the utility must conduct public education on lead contamination and how to prevent it as well as implement additional or revised treatment steps to make the water less corrosive.

With consistent compliance with the LCR over time, a utility can reduce the number of samples collected and the frequency of samples collected. Currently, most water systems, including Connecticut Water, collect samples for LCR compliance once every 3 years.

Q: What if Lead is Found in the School’s Water System?

A: If the sample results in the school are found to contain lead we will work with you to try to locate the likely source and identify how you may remedy it. There is specific guidance for schools provided by EPA in the “3 T’s Toolkit and Guidance Material”. If lead levels are found to exceed 20 ppb in a school, the EPA recommends that you discontinue use of drinking water fountains.

Attached is additional information on lead in drinking water or go to:
CT Department of Public Health at
www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/lead.pdf or
EPA at www.epa.gov/safewater/schools