

11/16/17 email from Alan Roberson, State Drinking Water Administrators

Subject: EPA's Most Recent Statements on the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)

Good morning State Administrators, below are EPA's most recent statements on the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) that were sent to me earlier in the week. These aren't available anywhere on EPA's website - it's what they have been using recently when called by stakeholders, reporters, Congressional staff, etc.

So take a look at them - I have read and reread them a couple of times and so am willing to offer my thoughts after reading between the lines a bit. EPA will likely schedule the interaction with the states for early 2018, but I have no idea of any potential dates yet but will keep everyone posted. It's interesting to note that EPA is making no firm time commitment for getting the proposed Long-Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule completed and published. The modeling effort is turning out to be more complicated than expected, and that's certainly one reason for the delay. This is just my opinion, but I think it's highly unlikely that the proposal will be published in 2018 and it's a coin flip whether it comes out at all in 2019 or 2020.

Timing Statement

EPA continues to work on possible revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. We are planning additional interactions with our state and local partners to assure that EPA has the most up-to-date and accurate information so that the potential revisions can be effectively implemented in order to improve public health protections. EPA will update the schedule in the regulatory agenda in the upcoming months.

**

General LCR Statement

Protecting children's health is one of EPA's highest priorities and the agency continues to engage with stakeholders and assess recommendations from leading scientific experts. These steps will help ensure that any potential revisions to the lead and copper drinking water standards reflect the best available information and latest science so that we can provide all Americans these important public health protections.

Background

EPA is conducting extensive engagement with stakeholder groups and the public to inform potential revisions to the LCR. In December of 2015, EPA received comprehensive recommendations from the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) and other concerned stakeholders on potential steps to strengthen the LCR. EPA is carefully evaluating the recommendations from these groups.

Further, as part of EPA's ongoing effort to understand and assess lead exposure to children, EPA undertook a peer review of draft scientific modeling approaches to inform EPA's evaluation of potential health-based benchmarks for lead in drinking water. Input from the public and peer reviewers will help ensure that EPA is evaluating the best information and latest science on how lead in drinking water can potentially impact the health of children, one of our most vulnerable populations. EPA is committed to use the best available science to inform LCR revisions to improve public health protection.

J. Alan Roberson, P.E.
Executive Director

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)
1401 Wilson Blvd. - Suite 1225
Arlington, VA 22209

Office: (703) 812-9507