



MEMORANDUM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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To: Ald. James A. Bohl, Jr.
From: Tea Norfolk, Legislative Fiscal Analyst – Lead
Date: November 2, 2016
Subject: Lead Testing Compared to Other Cities

This memo is in response to your request to provide information regarding Milwaukee's lead testing compared to other cities. This topic was discussed in the August 26, 2016 memo, LRB no. 166044. Below is a brief summary of that memo; for a more in-depth discussion, please see the original memo.

Milwaukee conducts its lead-in-water testing pursuant to the Lead and Copper Rule, the federal rule regulating monitoring requirements for lead and copper in tap water, 40 CFR 141.86, which is overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Milwaukee is in compliance with the requirements of the rule and qualifies for reduced monitoring. Accordingly, Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) conducts a test of 50 homes once every three years. Cities that are not in compliance with the rule must test 100 homes every six months.

Lead-in-water testing conducted in other municipalities

Washington, DC

DC Water, the water utility in Washington, D.C., complies with EPA's lead and copper rule. It conducts regulatory and voluntary lead testing of 100 single-family homes every six months and reports results to EPA Region III. The sample sites are randomly selected from households with lead service pipes.

In addition, DC Water offers free lead testing to help residents identify potential lead sources. Lead test kits are delivered to households for homeowners to collect water samples.

Flint, MI

Flint, MI, is required to test its water every six months. In contrast to the City of Flint's testing practices, the University of Michigan-Flint has been testing its water quarterly since the fall of 2014.

Durham, NC

Like Milwaukee, Durham tests for lead every three years. The city maintains a sampling pool of more than 200 homes built between 1983 and 1985 throughout the city for the tests.

Lead service lines have not been used in decades. When, on rare occasion, a lead service line is discovered, it is replaced by city water and sewer maintenance staff.

Greenville, NC

Greenville qualifies for reduced (triennial) monitoring but elects to conduct testing annually. Greenville Utilities sends more than 100 kits each year, although it is only required to collect 30 samples.

In addition, Mike Hager, a North Carolina state legislator, proposed a bill to require testing at all schools and child care facilities.

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