



Louis Berger

## Lead Testing in School Drinking Water – Peekskill City School District



## Background

- Until recently, testing water for lead in at schools was not required.
- Many districts have conducted testing as a voluntary, pro-active measure.
- On September 06, 2016, Gov. Cuomo signed legislation requiring that school districts test their water for lead.

# Summary of Law



- Along with the signing of the legislation on September 06, 2016 – the NY State Department of Health issued emergency regulations pursuant to new legislation, requiring that school districts test their water for lead contamination by Oct. 31, 2016.
- By September 30, 2016, all school buildings serving children in **pre-K through grade 5** must collect a sample from each outlet for testing.
- By October 31, 2016, all school buildings serving children in **grades 6 through 12** must collect a sample from each outlet for testing.

# Key Definitions in the Law

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- Outlet means a potable water fixture currently **or potentially used** for drinking or cooking purposes, including but not limited to a bubbler, drinking fountain, or faucets.
- Action level means 15 parts per billion (ppb). (Exceedance of the action level requires a response)

# Testing Requirements



- First-draw samples shall be collected from all outlets.
  - ✓ A first-draw sample volume shall be 250 milliliters (mL), collected from a cold water outlet before any water is used.
- The water shall be motionless in the pipes for a minimum of 8 hours, but not more than 18 hours.

Note: NYSDOH indicated that for inactive lines, they can exceed the 18 hour requirement; they are interested in **normal use patterns**. NO FLUSHING of lines prior to testing.
- Any first-draw sampling conducted consistent with the regulation that occurred after January 1, 2015 shall satisfy the initial first-draw sampling requirement.

# Testing Conducted for Peekskill Schools

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- Prior to emergency law, initial water testing was conducted on June 07, 2016. Supplemental testing was conducted on June 22, 2016. All district schools were included.
  - ✓ This testing was a pro-active and voluntary measure.
  - ✓ Was not all inclusive, but targeted: area closest to the water service line entrance, lower floors, kitchen food preparation sinks.
  - ✓ Of the 50 sampling locations included in the District-Wide lead in water testing program, only 3 locations exceeded the EPA action level of 15 ppb. Those locations were removed from service, pending repairs.

# Testing Conducted for Peekskill Schools

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- After the emergency law, water testing was conducted at the elementary schools on September 29, 2016, and on October 20, 2016 for the middle and high schools. In summary:
  - ✓ For the elementary schools: of the 294 sampling locations, 40 exceeded the EPA action level of 15 ppb; 8 were drinking fountains.
  - ✓ For the middle school: of the 38 sampling locations, 1 exceeded the EPA action level of 15 ppb; a sink in the kitchen.
  - ✓ For the high school: of the 106 sampling locations, 46 exceeded the EPA action level of 15 ppb. The majority were sinks in science rooms; none were drinking fountains, one was a prep sink in the kitchen.



# Response Actions

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- Testing results were reported to the local health department within 1 business day of receipt of results
- All staff and all persons in parental relation to students were notified of the test results, in writing within 10 business days of receipt of results (or by 9/20 for prior testing).
- Final remediation will involve all drinking fountains and a few sinks. Permanent signage for bathrooms/science rooms will be installed.