Munford Water Authority, Inc.
P.O. Box 92
Munford, AL 36268

Water Distribution System _____ Lead and Copper Analysis Results

As a means of keeping our customers informed about the drinking water the Munford Water Authority, Inc. provides, we are pleased to provide the results of our recent lead and copper compliance sampling.

The regulations for lead and copper became effective in 1992. Between 1993 and 1995, the EPA required your water supplier to collect water samples from household taps twice a year and analyze them to find out if lead is present above 15 ppb or copper is present above 1.3 ppm in more than 10 percent of all homes tested. If lead and copper were present above these levels, the system would be required to continue to monitor these contaminants twice a year. Once a water system demonstrated satisfactory action levels and maintained the ranges, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management granted reduced monitoring schedules of once every three years.

In the following table are the lead and copper results from the _____ compliance monitoring of the Munford Water Authority, Inc. distribution system.

_____ Lead and Copper Water Distribution System Analysis Results

SAMPLE DATE	LOCATION (physical address)	LEAD RESULTS Action Level 0.015 mg/l	COPPER RESULTS Action Level 1.3 mg/l

DEFINITIONS:

Action Level or AL – The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirement a water system shall follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.00.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.00.

Lead or Copper in your drinking water

Lead and copper are metals found in natural deposits as ores containing other elements. They are sometimes used in household plumbing materials or in water service lines used to bring water from the main to the home.

Why is lead and copper being regulated?

In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. This law requires EPA to determine safe levels of chemicals in drinking water which do or may cause health problems. These non-enforceable levels, based solely on possible health risks and exposure, are called Maximum Contaminant Level Goals. The MCLG for lead has been set at 0 ppm and the MCLG for copper has been set at 1.3 ppm because EPA believes this level of protection would not cause any of the potential health problems described below.

Since lead and copper contamination generally occurs from corrosion of household pipes, they cannot be directly detected or removed by the water system. Instead, EPA is requiring water systems to control the corrosiveness of their water if the level of lead and copper at home taps exceeds an Action Level. The action level for lead has been set at 15 ppb, and the action level for copper has been set at 1.3 ppm because EPA believes, given present technology and resources, this is the lowest level to which water systems can reasonably be required to control this contaminant should it occur in drinking water at their customers home taps. These drinking water standards and the regulations for ensuring these standards are met are called National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. All public water supplies must abide by these regulations.

What are the health effects of lead and copper?

Short- and Long-term effects: Lead can cause a variety of adverse health effects when people are exposed to it at levels above the action level for relatively short periods of time. These effects may include interference with red blood cell chemistry, delays in normal physical and mental development in babies and young children, slight deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children, and slight increases in the blood pressure of some adults. Long-term effects: Lead has the potential to cause the following effects from a lifetime exposure at levels above the action level: stroke and kidney disease; cancer.

Short- and long-term effects: Copper is an essential nutrient required by the body in very small amounts. However, EPA has found copper to potentially cause the following health effects when people are exposed to it at levels above the Action Level. Short periods of exposure can cause gastrointestinal disturbance, including nausea and vomiting. Use of water that exceeds the Action Level over many years could cause liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons disease may be more sensitive than others to the effect of copper contamination and should consult their health care provider.

If contaminant levels are found to be consistently above the Action Level, your water supplier must take steps to reduce the amount of lead so that it is consistently below that level. The following treatment methods have been approved by EPA for controlling lead: corrosion control.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water:

Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in the plumbing, the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder usually about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water. Try not to cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may want to use bottled water for drinking and cooking. You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.

For more information, you can contact us at the Munford Water Authority, Inc.:

Phone Number: (256) 358-4841 **Contact: _____, General Manager**