

Is there lead in Neskowin's Water Supply?

No! But we did find lead in the pipes of one older home outside of our neighborhood.

By now you've received the October billing from the Neskowin Regional Water District (NRWD) that included a statement required by the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program which stated "[the] Neskowin Regional Water District found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes." It goes on to state that "Lead can cause serious health problems," which is absolutely correct. What needs clarification, however, is that the high levels of lead were found in only one home, and are not in the NRWD's water system. There are no known lead service lines in the water distribution system. There is no known reason for any lead level changes.

Be assured that the NRWD takes pollutants in our water very seriously. We test for lead and copper at homes that are suspected to have old pipes and fixtures with possible issues of lead and copper leaching. Out of five samples taken this September we received one sample result that was above the EPA's .015 mg/l action level; the other four samples were significantly lower than the EPA action level. But the fact that we found one house with elevated levels of lead in our last round of sampling makes us more determined than ever to analyze more homes for lead and copper. If you suspect your home to have old metal pipe work and/or fixtures that may be leaching lead and/or copper into your drinking water please contact the water district so that we can include your home in our lead and copper sampling. However, the homes in the Hills of Neskowin are new enough that this is unlikely to be an issue.

The Neskowin Regional Water District is working closely with the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program to ensure that lead levels are reduced below the action level. The corrosion control treatment system will be inspected to ensure that it is functioning appropriately and any issues identified will be corrected. The required minimum pH set by the state will continue to be met. More frequent lead and copper tap sampling at older homes, as well as monitoring for other water quality parameters like pH and alkalinity, will occur in 2018. The data from this monitoring will be used to determine if the current corrosion control treatment is functioning properly, whether the current minimum pH may need to be raised, or whether different or additional corrosion control treatment is needed.

For more information, please call the Neskowin Regional Water District at 503-392-3966 or go to the NRWD website: www.neskowinwater.com.

- Jean Cameron, President, the NRWD Board of Commissioners