

## Desk Statement

As part of Agency's ongoing effort to improve nationwide implementation of and compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), EPA has been working with states, public water systems, and water sector stakeholders to identify challenges and best practices. Based on input received, EPA has issued a memorandum to highlight the importance of primacy agency oversight of the selection of sample sites and monitoring frequency by public water systems.

Under the LCR, water systems are required to identify a pool of targeted sampling sites that is large enough to collect the number of samples required. The memorandum emphasizes that if there are not a sufficient number of tier 1 (single-family home) sites in the originally-defined sampling pool, the system should look across the entire distribution system to ensure the sampling pool consists solely of tier 1 sites, if enough exist in the community.

EPA also highlights the importance of public water systems having current and accurate information on lead service line locations in their community to ensure Tier 1 sampling pools are as inclusive as possible. Through the memorandum, EPA urges public water systems to periodically update materials evaluations and share documentation of efforts to update materials available with its respective primacy agency.

Lastly, the LCR authorizes primacy agencies to decide if systems treating for lead and/or copper are eligible to reduce monitoring to once every three years, instead of annually, based on their history of monitoring results and other factors. In the memorandum, EPA highlights examples of documents that should be maintained by primacy agencies that demonstrate they have critically considered relevant aspects of a water system's past LCR performance and other factors like technical, managerial, and financial capacity, before approving a system's reduced monitoring request.