



# LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

SA-08-88

DATE: June 10, 1988

TO: All Facility Safety Heads

FROM: 429/Safety Manager, Head, Safety Engineering Branch,  
SSQRD

SUBJECT: Lead in Drinking Water Notification

Under the 1986 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, owners/operators of non-transient, non-community water systems are required to provide notice to persons served by any water system that may be affected by lead contamination. The owner/operator must provide notice even if there is no violation of the national primary drinking water regulation for lead.

The LaRC drinking water distribution system was originally designed with lead solder joints which are a possible source of lead contamination. It should be emphasized testing indicates LaRC does not have any amounts of lead in its drinking water which exceed the national standards.

This notice provided in compliance with the law is to be posted in a conspicuous place starting no later than June 19, 1988, and continuing for three months. Therefore, Facility Safety Heads are requested to post the attachment on facility Bulletin Boards as indicated above.

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2964

429/WCH 

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING HAZARDS OF POTENTIAL

LEAD IN LaRC DRINKING WATER

The LaRC drinking water distribution system is known to contain lead solder joints. The use of this material presents a potential for lead contamination of drinking water, and since dissolved lead cannot be seen or tasted in water, analysis by a State approved laboratory is the only way to determine its presence. Such analyses have not shown lead to be present in the LaRC drinking water. Additional analysis will be conducted on a continuing basis.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that lead is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. There is currently a standard of 0.050 parts per million (ppm). Based on new health information, EPA is likely to lower this standard significantly.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the potential adverse health effects of lead. This must be done even though your water may not be in violation of the current standard.

EPA and others are concerned about lead in drinking water. Too much lead in the human body can cause serious damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system, and red blood cells. The greatest risk, even with short-term exposure, is to young children and pregnant women.

Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be highest:

- o if your home or water system has lead pipes, or
- o if your home has copper pipes with lead solder, and
  - if the home is less than five years old,
  - if you have soft or acidic water, or
  - if water sits in the pipes for several hours

Consumers can minimize possible lead exposure by taking some simple precautions.

1. Flush each cold water faucet when water stands more than a few hours, typically six hours. Allow the water to run until it gets as cold as it will. Normally this may take two or three minutes although it should be kept in mind that other uses of water in the distribution system can significantly reduce the flushing period to between five and thirty seconds.

2. Do not consume water from a hot water faucet. Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting 166A/Fluids Systems Section, extension 2592.