SAFE Drinking Water
Buffalo, NY
LAKE ERIE
EXCELLENT ‘SOURCE WATER’
NON-CORROSIVE
EASILY TREATABLE
BUFFALO EXPANDS PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL OF LEAD IN CITY WATER
FREQUENT TESTING

PHOSPHATE-BASED CORROSION INHIBITOR
2016 TESTING

INCREASED RESIDENTIAL TESTING TO AN ANNUAL CYCLE

TESTING PERIOD
JUNE 1-SEPTEMBER 30
256

LEAD TESTING SAMPLE KITS
DISTRIBUTED CITY-WIDE

152

CONFIRMED TEST RESULTS

(AS OF 10/17/16)
RESULTS SHOWED EITHER NO LEAD OR LEVELS FAR BELOW THE EPA’S ACTION LEVEL OF 15 PARTS PER BILLION
INDEPENDENT TEST RESULTS SHOWED CITY OF BUFFALO WATER IS LEAD SAFE
BUFFALO SETS NEW INTERNAL ACTION LEVEL:

5 PARTS PER BILLION

ONLY 7 HOUSEHOLDS CAME BACK AT

> 5 PARTS PER BILLION

(ZERO EXCEEDING 15 PARTS PER BILLION)
ADDITIONAL PROACTIVE STEPS:

CONDUCTING TESTS IN ALL CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS WITH PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

ANY PROPERTY THAT IS CITY OWNED OR ACQUIRED WILL BE TESTED
SAFE Drinking Water
Buffalo, NY
TYPE OF SERVICE PIPE
2016 Lead and Copper Participation
OUR DRINKING WATER

- Source water - Lake Erie
- Raw water intake known for superior clarity and reliable water quality
- Non-corrosive and easily treatable
- Add corrosion inhibitor that creates a protective layer inside pipes

Recent studies show that most lead water crises are related to change in raw water source or treatment process
• EPA required lead testing every 3 years
• 50 samples required
• Detailed EPA guidance for sampling procedure
• 90th percentile EPA Action Level for lead is 15 ppb
PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

• IN CHILDREN
  • Blood lead levels of 5 µg/dL (microgram/decileter)

• IN DRINKING WATER
  • Water lead levels of 15 ppb (parts per billion)
PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

2016 Lead Sample Results
- Not Detected
- Lead Sample Results Less than 5 ppb
- Lead Sample Results Greater than 5 ppb*

Boundaries
- City of Buffalo Council Districts
- USA Zip Code Boundaries
- City of Buffalo Boundary

* Lead sample results greater than 5 ppb are labeled on the map.

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, IBCMap, GEBCO, NGA, USA� National Hemisphere, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.

Updated: October 17, 2016
BUFFALO WATER’S PROACTIVE APPROACH

• Voluntarily Increased Testing Frequency:
  • Required to test for lead in 50 residential locations once every three years
  • Increased to more than 150 residential locations on an annual basis

• Community Outreach:
  • Street to street engagement in low participation areas
  • Neighborhood block club meetings
  • Notices mailed with water bill
  • Utilized community and congregation leaders
  • Media events and interviews
  • Simplified participation via Mayor’s 311 call center
Increased Voluntary Public Participation

- Lead not detected: 87
- Lead less than 5 ppb: 58
- Lead greater than 5 ppb and less than 15 ppb: 7
INCREASED VOLUNTARY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

• 256 Lead Sample Kits delivered to customers across the City

• 152 confirmed test results

• 100% below the 15 ppb EPA Action Level

• Majority of samples had no lead detected
BUFFALO WATER’S PROACTIVE APPROACH

- Tested all park system water fountains located throughout the City
  - All results well below EPA action limit

- Watermain Construction
  - Install new service lines when replacing watermains
  - Public notice – hang tags in neighborhood
  - Since 2010, 1,500 services have been replaced
BUFFALO WATER’S PROACTIVE APPROACH

• As part of our continued proactive approach, samples with a result greater than 5 ppb, we initiate our own action plan
  • Certified 3rd party re-test provided for homeowner
  • Work with homeowner to identify solution(s)
PROACTIVE NEXT STEPS / MOVING FORWARD

- Enhanced testing approach for select sites
- Monitoring the science
- Educating customers
- Continued sampling (all customers invited to participate)
- Our annual water quality reports are available at www.buffalowater.org
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