

From: Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NASPR) Public Works and Patuxent River Utility Services (PRUS)

To: **Drinking Water Consumers**

Subj: Notice of Unknown Service Line Letter

1. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires water systems to develop an inventory of all service line pipes in their water distribution system and classify the materials of their service line pipes as either Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR), Non-Lead, or Lead Status Unknown. Our public water system is focused on protecting the health of every person living and working in our facilities and housing (family and unaccompanied) on our installations. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who consumes water (drinking, showering, bathing, dishwashing, cooks, oral hygiene) at this location. In addition to the people directly served at this property, this could and should include people in barracks, family housing, military treatment facilities, schools, CDCs, and workplaces.

Public Water System (PWS): Naval Air Station Patuxent River

PWS ID No.: MD0180022

Service Line Location: *Building List Attached*

2. We have determined that either a portion of, or the entire water pipe (called a service line) that connects your home, building, or other structure to the water main is made from **unknown material but may be lead**. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. NASPR along with PRUS will be working diligently to verify all unknown service lines as required by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and EPA regulations.

3. Lead and galvanized service lines (downstream of a past/present lead connection) can contribute to lead in drinking water. People living in homes with a galvanized service line, that has adsorbed lead, may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

4. The Navy water system is in compliance with EPA lead and copper rule action levels, but further investigation is needed to determine if these lines require replacement.

5. NASPR Lead and Copper sample results collected in 2022, meet all applicable EPA and the MDE drinking water quality standards. Although your water line material may be unknown, the overall health of the water system and water quality is known and meets all applicable drinking water standards. In addition, beginning in CY2025, PRUS will be actively conducting physical verification of all unknown service lines. Any service lines requiring replacement will be scheduled for replacement. PRUS is following all EPA and MDE regulations and will continue to sample for lead and copper as required by the MDE. In the event of a water quality

concern, PRUS will notify the appropriate personnel per the MDE drinking water notification requirements.

6. If you have questions concerning any of the information provided in this notice, or if you have information that could help us better describe your service line, contact us via:

Navy Public Works- (301) 751-6072
Patuxent River Utility Services- (910) 813-5935

7. The information below is provided, as required, by MDE and EPA for consumer's awareness of the possible effects of lead in drinking water.

8. **Health effects of lead:** Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have an increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

9. **Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water:** Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

- a) **Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.
- b) **Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- c) **Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- d) **Run your water.** The more time water has been sitting in pipes the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. It is recommended to flush for at least 3 to 5 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking, especially if the

water hasn't been used for several hours. For water that has been sitting overnight, flushing for 5 minutes or longer is advisable.

10. **Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.** If you have any health-related questions or concerns about lead exposure or a blood lead test, you are encouraged to contact your health care provider, or if you are a TRICARE beneficiary, use the REGION Appointment Center to schedule an appointment with your primary care provider.

In the United States, State, city, or county health departments can also provide information about how you can have your child's blood tested for lead.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Navy recommend public health actions when the level of lead in a child's blood is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or more. For more information and links to the CDC's website, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

11. For more information on reducing lead exposure from your drinking water and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

To learn more about the quality of the drinking water on this installation, visit our Annual Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report at: [Water Quality Information \(navy.mil\)](http://www.navy.mil/water-quality)

These notices will also be added to our Installation Drinking Water Webpage in the near future at: <https://leadcopper-awareness-asusinc.hub.arcgis.com/>