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Drinking Water Notice Issued to McCall Water System, Inc. Customers

MONTGOMERY - The McCall Water System, Inc. has been required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to issue a drinking water notice to its customers after testing showed elevated levels of lead in drinking water at three homes.

Laboratory analysis for the monitoring period between June - September 2020 found that three results exceeded the action level of 15 ug/L (micrograms per liter) as set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The sampling consisted of 21 samples collected in different parts of the McCall Water System, Inc. service area with results ranging from non-detect to 69 ug/L.

On August 7, the McCall Water System, Inc.'s laboratory reported that all three confirmation samples collected on July 28 did not exceed the EPA action level for lead. At this time, there is no evidence of lead in the water sources being used locally, nor are there any known lead service lines in the system.

ADEM directed the McCall Water System, Inc. on July 20 to prepare a corrosion control report, conduct water quality parameter and source monitoring, to continue monitoring 20 sites every six months, and provide educational materials to customers and other consumers. The Department will be working closely with McCall to return the system to compliance as soon as possible.

“Anytime that a lead action level is exceeded is a concern, particularly for young children and pregnant women,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “Until the McCall Water System is able to demonstrate lead levels that are in compliance, there are steps residents can take to reduce exposure.”

ADEM advises customers who are concerned regarding potential lead in their plumbing to take the following steps:

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- Run the water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from plumbing prior to using the water.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Hot water in contact with the pipes can leach more lead, so using cold water can reduce exposures.
- Consider bottled water as an alternative source. Additionally, filters available for home use that will remove lead. NSF International maintains a list of filter products certified to remove lead.
- Boiling water does not remove lead.
- Bathing and showering should be safe, even if the water contains lead over EPA action levels. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

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