BISHOPVILLE WATER DISTRICT

PWS #500403 and #530812 Athens and Morgan Counties, Ohio

In June 2016, House Bill (HB) 512 was passed to enact section 6109.121 of the Ohio Revised Code to create requirements governing lead and copper testing for community and non-transient non-community public water systems and to revise law governing lead contamination from plumbing and fixtures. The new law also requires community water systems to identify and map areas of their distribution systems that are known or likely to contain lead service lines. The community water systems must also identify and provide a description of the characteristics of buildings served by the system that may contain lead solder, fixtures or pipes.

In accordance with HB 512, Bishopville Water District, PWS #500403 and PWS #530812, worked with their engineering consultant to produce an overall water system map. The map includes approximate location of the distribution system only with color coded lines that indicate type of main line material, approximate year of installation and other system features. The map also includes lead and copper sample site locations. Due to the short timeframe between final EPA guidance being issued and the deadline for submission of the map, the service line materials are unknown on the private (customer) side of each service. Currently, the District believes all service lines installed on the public (water district) side is polyethylene (PE) piping. The District is currently seeking customer input through a questionnaire to help identify service line materials, particularly on the private (customer) side of the service. In addition, District personnel will begin to collect additional service line information during repairs, replacements, service requests, etc. As information is gathered, the map can be updated accordingly.

EPA guidance provides the following: Based on amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Ohio Plumbing Code, the age of a building or the age of a re-plumbing are indicators of the plumbing materials. Buildings in Ohio built prior to 1998 or that use plumbing material or solder manufactured before 1998 may have materials with greater than 8% lead and are at a higher risk of contributing lead to the drinking water than materials manufactured after 1998. In addition, buildings built and plumbing materials manufactured after 2014 were required to have less than 0.25% lead by weight and have the lowest risk for contributing lead to drinking water. It should be noted however that, although prohibited, some use of leaded solder or leaded components may have occurred after the prohibitions became effective.

With that guidance in mind, it is likely that plumbing materials on the private (customer) side, contain components that exceed the 8% lead and are at a higher risk. The Bishopville Water District system was constructed in 1974 with expansions and replacements as recent as 2016. Based on the materials of the main waterlines, no lead piping or lead soldered joints are contained within the main distribution system. However, many buildings within the service area of the District were constructed much before the initial 1974 water system was installed. Morgan County was organized in 1819 with a large growth in population in the 1840s and 1850s. Again, the District is working to compile the specific information from their customers to better determine those that may be in that category.

