TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Your Partner for a Healthy Community

Attachment 3

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February 18, 2016

David M. Brown
Chief Administration Officer
P.O. Box 549
Ithaca, New York 14851

Subject: Follow-up to School-wide Lead Sampling – Enfield Elementary School

Dear Mr. Brown:

The 90th percentile result of drinking water samples from Enfield Elementary School that were obtained on August 25, 2015, and February 6, 2016, exceeded the action level for lead in drinking water, resulting in a violation of the NYS Sanitary Code Subpart 5-1.

Action at Elevated Fixtures: As discussed on Tuesday, February 16, as an interim corrective measure, the Ithaca City School District must turn off all drinking water fountains that exceeded 15 ppb. Other sources that exceeded the action level must be turned off if it is possible they may be used for consumption (e.g, if a drinking water bottle can be filled from them) or use of the fixtures must be done under the supervision of an adult. We recommend putting a plastic bag over these fixtures when they are not in use and locking the room when no adult is present. For consistency with your prior actions, we suggest you also do this for fixtures with sample results at the action level (15 ppb).

Follow-up Sampling: Additional sampling is required. Samples must be collected by the end of next week (by February 26) from the following locations:

1. the 4 fixtures that tested highest in the February 6 sampling and that are for consumptive use,
2. a consumptive use fixture that had lead levels between 20 and 30 ppb,
3. the fixture with the next highest elevated result (after the other 4 samples), and
4. the location that was previously designated source water/entry point to the distribution, for a total of 7 sampling locations. This sample should be collected last.

Standard lead sampling procedures are to be followed with the following additions or modifications:

- Collect one first draw sample from each source except for the sample identified in #3 above.
- Flush the fixture for 30 seconds at normal flow - don't flush aggressively.
- Collect a second sample after flushing.
- Remove and examine the aerator, collect samples of any solids, etc, off the aerator and place in a zip lock sandwich bag or other sealed container and label to identify the location.
- Take photos of the aerator and the plumbing and fixtures associated with the sample and label these.
- For the sample in #3, collect twice the normal volume for a first draw sample, to be split and sent to separate laboratories.

- Do not close the shut-off valves to the water fountains or other fixtures or to the water system to prevent their use in the 6-hr or more period prior to sample collection.

Please submit a schematic showing sample results and a spreadsheet summary along with the actual lab results.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in addressing this situation.

Respectively,

Elizabeth Cameron

C. Elizabeth Cameron, P.E.
Director of Environmental Health

ec: ICSD: Paul Alexander, Dr. Matthew Landahl
NYSDOH: John Strepelis
TCHD: Frank Kruppa, Adriel Shea, Chris Laverack, Karen Bishop, Theresa Lyzcko

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