

June 10, 2016

A recent article in The Guardian asserts that the City of South Burlington's water supply has been subjected to lead and copper testing protocols which are in violation of U. S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates. The article contains a number of factual errors, erroneous analysis and a faulty conclusion. It attempts to make the case that some states and water systems have been "cheating" in conducting lead and copper tests, thereby knowingly endangering public health. The City of South Burlington is included among the list of alleged offenders.

The allegations are unfounded and untrue in the case of South Burlington. The central charge in the article is that particular water sample collection practices used by the City are not allowed under EPA rules, thereby exposing the public to risk. The EPA recently released a statement which states in part that, "a 2008 letter on pre-stagnation flushing was directed to one water utility and was **not** framed as national guidance. The Lead and Copper Rule **does not prohibit** practices of pre-stagnation flushing..."

The Guardian article is premised on the violation of an EPA regulation which doesn't exist. EPA did distribute a "Clarification of Recommended Tap Sampling Procedures" for purposes of the Lead and Copper Rule in February 2016. These suggestions and recommendations will be followed in the next three year sampling cycle that begins in the summer of 2016, as no samples have been collected since 2013 given it is a three year sampling cycle for lead and copper.

The City of South Burlington and Champlain Water District, the wholesale supplier of water to the City and other municipalities throughout Chittenden County, are in full compliance with all state and federal water testing mandates. Therefore, the Champlain Water District, as the Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance officer for the City of South Burlington has requested a retraction from The Guardian.

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