



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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DEC 16 2019

Ref: 8WD

Mr. Jim Lochhead
CEO/Manager
Denver Water
1600 West 12th Ave.
Denver, Colorado 80204

Re: Denver Water's Request for a Variance from the Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment Requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule

Dear Mr. Lochhead:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed your September 6, 2019 request for a variance from the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) related to the optimal corrosion control treatment requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Under Section 1415(a)(3) of the SDWA, the EPA has authority to grant a variance from any treatment technique requirement upon a showing that an alternative is "at least as efficient in lowering the level of the contaminant." Pursuant to that authority, the EPA finds that Denver Water's proposed Lead Reduction Program Plan (LRPP) is sufficient to qualify for a short-term variance because it is expected to provide public health protection and at least as equivalent lead reductions as compared to compliance with the LCR provisions regarding corrosion control. EPA hereby grants the variance from the definition of "optimal corrosion control treatment" in 40 C.F.R. 141.2. EPA approves the variance for an initial three-year period to give Denver Water the opportunity to demonstrate the LRPP will effectively reduce lead in drinking water over the 15-year period they have requested.

Under the LRPP, Denver Water will implement a holistic management strategy to reduce levels of lead in drinking water, including proactive steps to remove sources of lead in drinking water by accelerating the replacement of all lead service lines in 15 years to provide long-term public health protection, and providing customers served by lead service lines with filters until their LSL is replaced. Denver Water also proposes to control corrosion through pH/alkalinity adjustment, conduct a full investigation of its LSL inventory and publish a map showing the locations of all LSLs. Finally, Denver Water will conduct extensive outreach to educate customers about the health risks of lead and ways that they can reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water.

Denver Water's variance is subject to the terms and conditions described in the attached variance order. The variance order also describes EPA's basis for this decision. EPA may extend the variance for up to an additional twelve years. In determining whether to extend the variance, EPA intends to consider whether Denver Water effectively implemented the LRPP and that it has

resulted in reductions to lead in drinking water as outlined in the specific criteria described in the order. If the variance is not extended beyond the initial three years, Denver Water will operate orthophosphate as its designated optimal corrosion control treatment.

We truly appreciate all the help and coordination provided by Denver Water and CDPHE over the last several months to affect this positive outcome for the public health and environment for residents of Denver and surrounding areas. Please let me know if you would like to further discuss this important matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Sopkin
Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Nicole Poncelet Johnson, Denver Water
Mr. John Putnam, Director of Environmental Programs, CDPHE
Mr. Patrick Pfaltzgraff, Director, Water Quality Control Division, CDPHE
Mr. Ron Falco, Manager, Drinking Water Program, CDPHE