



For immediate release:

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

MONTGOMERY - The Mexia Water System, Inc. has been required 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 ending December 31, 2019, found that the three results exceeded the EPA Action Level of 15 µg/L. Sampling consisted of 20 samples collected in different parts of the Mexia Water System, Inc. service area with results ranging from non-detect to 26 µg/L. On January 17, 2020, the Mexia Water System, Inc.'s laboratory reported that all three confirmation samples collected on January 8, 2020 did not exceed the EPA Action Level for lead. At this time, there is no evidence of lead in the water sources used by the Mexia Water System, Inc., nor are there any known lead service lines in the system.

On January 8, 2020, ADEM directed the Mexia Water System, Inc. to prepare a corrosion control report, to conduct water quality parameter and source monitoring, to continue to monitor 20 sites every six months, and to provide educational materials to its customers. ADEM is working closely with the Mexia Water System, Inc. 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 Mexia Water System, Inc. is able to demonstrate lead levels that are in compliance with EPA's Action Level, there are steps residents can take to reduce exposure."

ADEM advises customers who are concerned they may have lead in their plumbing to take the following steps:

- 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, there are 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's action level. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

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