

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### City of Red Bud Water Contains High Levels of Copper

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely sample water at consumers' taps for copper. The tests show copper levels in the water above the limit, or action level, so we are required to install corrosion control treatment. This treatment helps prevent copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. Corrosion control should have been installed by November 30, 2021, but the installation is incomplete.

#### What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to copper:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for copper.
- Find out whether your pipes contain copper or copper solder.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing copper from the pipes.
- Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap, copper dissolves more easily into hot water.
- **Do not boil your water to remove copper.** Excessive boiling water makes the copper more concentrated the copper remains when the water evaporates.

#### What does this mean?

Typically, copper enters public water supplies by leaching from copper or brass pipes and plumbing components. Your water is more likely to contain high copper levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of copper or contain copper solder.

*Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.*

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

#### What happened? What is being done?

The City of Red Bud's lead and copper sampling for the June thru September 2021 monitoring period, exceeded the copper action level. The copper 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for that period has been calculated to be 1.400 mg/l. This 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value is greater than the copper action level of 1.300 mg/l, therefore the City of Red Bud is required to notify the public of the high levels of copper in the water system. The City of Red Bud will submit to IEPA recommendations for Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment (OCCT) and pending IEPA approval, the City of Red Bud will implement the recommendations and/or any requirements from the OCCT. The City of Red Bud recently hired a new drinking water contract operator and a City Engineer to assist with the drinking water operations and the OCCT recommendations.

**This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.** Pending IEPA approval, the corrosion control will be in place by December 31, 2022.

For more information, please contact Patty Rieke at 1 (618) 282-3339 or 525 Power St. Red Bud, IL 62278

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*