



**Gannett Fleming**

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August 21, 2020

Dr. Eric Ritzert, Superintendent  
Karns City Area School District  
Administrative Office  
1446 Kittanning Pike  
Karns City, PA 16041

Subject: Karns City Area School District  
Potable Water Lead Testing Results

Dear Dr. Ritzert:

Gannett Fleming is pleased to submit a report of the results the lead testing of potable water fixtures in the District's facilities.

The Junior / Senior High School recently changed the supplier of its potable water to Petroleum Valley Regional Water Authority. Sugar Creek Elementary receives its water from Pennsylvania American Water and the Chicora Elementary receives its water from the Chicora Borough Water supply.

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Education amended the Public School Code to encourage school districts to conduct testing for lead in drinking water from fixtures used for human consumption. If the testing reveals lead in excess of the drinking water action level the district is to implement a plan to address lead in the drinking water.

The Department of Education requirements reference the USEPA 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Tool Kit for guidance on how to conduct the sampling. The 3Ts Tool Kit recommends testing at every fixture used for drinking water or for food preparation. Fixtures not used for consumption purposes, such as water fixtures used by staff for housekeeping or faucets in restrooms do not need to be sampled if there is no reason to believe these fixtures are not used for consumption. Fixtures known or suspected to not be used for consumption, such as sinks in classrooms, do not need to be sampled.

Sampling for lead content in the drinking water was conducted by Gannett Fleming personnel on July 31, 2020 at each of the schools. The sampling locations were selected based upon the criteria presented above. drinking water regulations for lead testing include collecting one liter "first draw" samples. That is sampling of fixtures that have been allowed to sit stagnant overnight. Each fixture was tagged and taken out of service so that it was not mistakenly used prior to collection of the first draw sample. Drinking water regulations set the lead "Action Level" at 15 µg/L. in first draw one liter samples. If any of the samples collected exceed this action level, the district should take actions to remove the fixture from service and conduct an investigation to determine the cause of the exceedance.

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### **Chicora Elementary School**

A total of 10 samples were collected from the Chicora Elementary School. Of the 10 collected, one exceeded the 15 µg/L action level. The sample that exceeded the action level was collected from the soup kettle spigot in the kitchen. Staff reports that the soup kettle spigot has likely not been used since school was closed in the spring. It is possible that this extended period of stagnation is the cause of the action level exceedance. It is recommended that this fixture be removed from service, operated to flush potable water through the tap and then allowed to sit stagnant for a period of 24 hours and resampled for lead content.

### **Sugar Creek Elementary**

A total of seven samples were collected from the Sugar Creek Elementary School. None of the seven samples collected exceeded the action level.

### **Junior / Senior High School**

A total of 15 samples were collected from the Junior / Senior High School. None of the 15 samples exceeded the lead action level. The highest sample location was the TC Academy Sink which contained 10.9 µg/L in the first draw sample. Although that is well under the lead action level it is recommended that a follow-up sample be collected from that location to determine if it will be consistently under the lead action level.

The results of the sampling conducted on July 31, 2020 indicate that with one exception the locations from which the samples were collected provided water that was under the lead action level.

The kitchen soup kettle in Chicora should be examined and resampling conducted to confirm the initial sample result. It should not be used for consumptive purposes until that evaluation is completed and the spigot consistently delivers water that is less than the lead action level. Gannett Fleming can provide assistance in conducting this investigation.

Gannett Fleming would like to thank the District's administrative and maintenance staff for their assistance in competing this project. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,  
GANNETT FLEMING, INC.

*Eric T. Buzza*

Eric T. Buzza  
Project Manager

Attachments

cc: Steve Andressi, Karns City School District  
GF File