Fact Sheet: Protocol for a Public Water System Selecting Reduced Lead and Copper Tap Sites

(Version 2, March 2018)

Introduction

Sites chosen for reduced monitoring (i.e., annual or triennial frequency) must follow tier requirements and be representative of sites that were used during standard monitoring. For information regarding reduced monitoring eligibility, refer to the Department's Reduce Lead and Copper Monitoring Requirements for Public Water Systems Fact Sheet.

THE DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY AND GEOSCIENCE may determine if specific sample locations must be used.

Number of Reduced Sampling Sites

A system must collect at least one sample from the number of sites specified in the table based on the system's population during each monitoring period.

IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED that a system randomly select the reduced number of sites from the pool used during standard monitoring. (Be sure not to only use those sampling locations with the lowest lead or copper levels.)

Reduced Monitoring	
Residential & Non-transient Population	Number of DS Sites
>100,000	50
10,001 to 100,000	30
3,301 to 10,000	20
501 to 3,300	10
101 to 500	5
≤100	5*

*Same number of sites as standard monitoring

Step 1: Create a Reduced Site Sampling Pool from the Standard Sampling Pool

The reduced sampling pool must target high risk sites using the process below. Stop when you have a sufficiently large enough sampling pool to meet the required number of reduced tap samples.

Community Water Systems:

1. First, select all Tier 1 sites served by lead service lines (Tier 1, Sample Category i or iv)
2. Second, select all other Tier 1 sites
3. Third, select Tier 2 sites served by lead service lines (Tier 2, Sample Category x)
4. Fourth, select all other Tier 2 sites
5. Fifth, select all Tier 3 sites
6. Sixth, select Non-Tier sites. If all available sites are non-tier they should be evenly distributed throughout the distribution system.

Maintain documentation if the system must sample from a lesser Tier (i.e. sampled Tier 2 site because Tier 1 sites not willing to participate in sampling event).

Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems:

Select interior taps most commonly used for drinking/consumption (i.e. kitchen, drinking water fountain, breakroom, etc.) from

1. First, select from Tier 1 building(s)
2. Second, select from Tier 2 building(s)
3. Third, select from Non-Tier building(s). If all available sites are non-tier they should be evenly distributed throughout the distribution system.

- If the water flows through a higher Tier building(s) before entering the lesser Tier building(s), the lesser Tier building(s) are to have a minimum of one sample site.
- If the water system contains more than one building that meets the appropriate tier criteria, samples should be collected from more than one building.
- If the water system contains only plastic plumbing, but the faucets and fittings contain lead, the system should collect tap samples at these locations.

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STEP 2: Lead Service Line Sites

REMEMBER THAT IF YOUR SYSTEM HAS LEAD SERVICE LINES, at a minimum, 50% of reduced sites sampled must be from those served by lead service lines. It is recommended that the water system sample from as many lead service line sites as possible.

STEP 3: Select Sample Sites with Elevated Lead Levels vs. Non-Detect

REVIEW RESULTS FROM THE LAST TWO MONITORING PERIODS and determine which sites contain the highest lead and copper results. Within each Tier of the sampling pool, prioritize sampling sites to target based on previous analytical results.

STEP 4: Even Distribution (i.e., entire DS is comprised primarily of the Same Tier)

MAKE SURE ALL REDUCED SAMPLE SITES are evenly distributed throughout the system to account for each pressure gradient and in locations where the water flow is unique, such as dead-ends. Keep in mind if all Tier 1 sites are in a specific area or pressure zone, your sample sites will not be evenly distributed.

ONCE REDUCED MONITORING BEGINS, you must use the same sites, unless a site is no longer accessible or no longer meets the requirements of a priority site under the Lead and Copper Rule (i.e., the lead service line that served the site has been removed). You are required to report lead and copper site changes on the Lead and Copper Sample Site Change Form (BSDW-56) within 10 days following the end of the monitoring period.

REFER TO THE MATERIAL EVALUATION & SAMPLE LOCATION IDENTIFICATION FACT SHEET, for additional information on identifying piping and plumbing materials and identifying the Tier Levels and Categories for potential sampling sites.

References

EPA Lead and Copper Rule: Monitoring and Reporting Guidance for Public Water Systems:
https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100DP2P.PDF?Dockey=P100DP2P.PDF

Additional Lead and Copper Rule Guidance is available on our website at:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-public.html

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