

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Kelvin Simmons co-op Has Levels of Uranium Above Drinking Water Standards

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

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On 04/19/22, we received notice that the sample collected on 03/30/22 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Uranium. The standard for Uranium is 30 µg/L. The average level of Uranium over the last year has been 59 µg/L.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **You do not need to boil your water** or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

What is being done?

Through a grant from WIFA and ADEQ we are obtaining land for a new well site that meets safe drinking water standards. We anticipate resolving the problem within 2022-2023.

For more information please contact Elijah Gray at 480-250-1200 or elijah@santacruzsolutions.org

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Kelvin Simmons co-op.

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The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Kelvin Simmons Co-op are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L).

This program includes:

1. Public education content
2. Corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water)
3. Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility)

This brochure also explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

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Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

Kelvin Simmons Co-op found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent wetted surface lead to be labeled as "lead-free."

The water system source water does not contain lead, and lead was detected above the MCL in only one location.

When water is in contact with pipes, and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead pipes or lead solder.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN YOUR WATER

1. Run your water to flush out lead

Run water from the cold water tap for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold and reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.

2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula

Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Also, do not boil water from the hot water tap, as hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. Rather, if you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

3. Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25

percent wetted surface lead to be labeled as “lead-free.”

4. Test your water for lead

Call us at **520-818-4456** to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

5. Get your child's blood tested

Contact the state or local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

6. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water

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You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Routine samples to monitor the presence of lead in the water system were collected in September of 2017. One of the five samples collected had a lead level above the individual sample action level. Although the raw average of the five samples was below the lead action level, Kelvin Simmons Co-op is required to increase monitoring frequency and provide literature, such as this pamphlet, to the water consumers. The current source of the contamination is not known, but ongoing testing is being undertaken to find this source. Should the issues be systemic within the water system, corrosion control activities will be pursued. A potential change in the water source of the system due to the elevated presence of radiological contaminants may have introduced water that is more aggressive than the previous source.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at **520-818-4456**. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.

[Kelvin Simons Co-op
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