North Castle Water District No.1
Public Water Supply Id # 5903445
Important information about your water supply

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Town of North Castle Water District No.1 is issuing this notice describing the quality of your drinking water.

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

What happened? What was done?
We routinely monitor our water supply for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Recent testing results show that our system exceeded the action level for lead. The health standard for lead is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Of the 10 samples collected, the 90th percentile sample was 0.0426 mg/L which is in excess of the action level. The result is believed to be an anomaly due to either a replaced faucet or stagnant water in the pipes of the fixture sampled by an individual homeowner. It should be noted that we have been on reduced monitoring for Lead & Copper for the past twenty years without issue, requiring ten samples every three years, half the normal amount. Because this sample exceeded the limit, we will need to go back to normal schedule of sampling of the parameters, requiring additional sample locations more frequently. We are working with the Westchester County Health Department and the required increased samples will be reported directly to them.

What does this mean?
There is no an immediate risk. If there had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, long term exposure to high levels of lead has the potential for serious adverse effects on human health. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Health Department information on lead in drinking water may be obtained at the following web site:
http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2508/

What should I do?
You do not need to use an alternative (i.e. bottled water) water supply. The short term solution to this issue is to run your tap water until water is cold to the touch before using it for drinking or cooking. This is especially important when water has been standing in the pipes overnight or for several hours. The flushed water can be saved for watering house plants, washing dishes or general household cleaning. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

The following is required educational information regarding lead in drinking water; this information is also provided to you annually in our water quality report. It should be noted that no lead service lines of record exist in North Castle Water District No.1, and our source water is not an issue.

If you should have any questions please see the contact information at the end of this notice. Additional information is available on the Town Website: www.northcastleny.com

Introduction.
The New York State Health Department and North Castle Water District no.1 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 action level of 15 parts per billion, or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water. Under the State Sanitary Code we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by utilizing a corrosion control system; this is currently in place by our water supplier Westchester County. In the coming months we will monitor the functionality of that system. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment (if necessary) and public education. We are also required to replace each lead service line that we control if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 parts per billion after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please give us a call at 914-273-1882. This brochure explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Health effects of lead.
Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain, pewter and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. Also, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination, like dirt and dust, that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and try to make sure they only put food into their mouths.

Lead in drinking water.
Although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, lead in drinking water can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. It is estimated that drinking water can make up to 20 percent or more of a persons total exposure to lead.
Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily because the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and at times, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2 percent lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0 percent.
When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain high levels of lead.

Steps you can take in the home to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.
Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing the water is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water. Some local approved environmental laboratories that provide this service are listed at the end of this booklet. For more information on having your water tested, please call 914-273-1882.
If a water test shows that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 parts per billion, then you should take the following precautions:

1. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has stood for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15 to 30 seconds. If your house has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your family's health. It usually uses less than one or two gallons of water and costs less than (insert a cost estimate based on flushing two times a day for 30 days) per month. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash dishes, watering plants or other purposes that do not involve cooking and drinking. If you live in a high rise building, letting the water flow before using it may not work to lessen your risk from lead. The plumbing systems have more, and sometimes larger pipes than smaller buildings. Ask your landlord for help in locating the source of lead and for advice on reducing the lead level.

2. Do not to cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold water tap and heat it on the stove.

3. Remove loose lead solder and debris from the plumbing by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated.

4. If your copper pipes are joined with lead solder that has been installed illegally since it was banned in 1986, notify the plumber who did the work and request replacement of the lead solder with lead-free solder. Also, notify the Westchester County Health Department office 914-813-5000 and the North Castle Building Department 914-273-8625 about the violation. Lead solder looks dull gray, and when scratched with a metal object looks shiny.
Determine whether the service line that connects your home or apartment to the water main is made of lead. The public water system that delivers water to your home should maintain records of the materials located in the distribution system. If they do not have any records concerning your service line, try to contact the plumbing contractor who installed the service line. You usually can identify the plumbing contractor by checking the office that issues or keeps records of the building permits. If the plumbing contractor can't be located, hire a licensed plumber to determine if the service line is made of lead. A licensed plumber can also check to see if your home's plumbing contains lead solder, lead pipes or pipe fittings that contain lead.
If you have a lead service line that connects your dwelling to the water main and it contributes more than 15 parts per billion of lead to your drinking water after our comprehensive treatment program is in place, we are required to replace the line. If the service line is only partially controlled by North Castle water District No.1, we are required to replace the portion of the line under our control and we are required to provide you with information on how to replace your portion of the lead service line. We are also required to offer to replace your portion of the service line at your expense and take a follow-up tap sample within 14 days of the replacement. An acceptable replacement alternative is K copper.

5. Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with the electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test shows that the drinking water coming from your tap contains lead concentrations more than 15 parts per billion after flushing and after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then you may want to take the following additional measures:

A. Purchase or lease a home water treatment device to remove lead. Home treatment devices are limited because each unit treats only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the tap, however, all lead reduction claims should be investigated. Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit.
B. Purchase, for drinking and cooking, bottled water that is certified by the New York State Department of Health.

You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. The Westchester County Health Department 914-813-5000 can provide you with information about your community's water supply.
The North Castle Building Department 914-273-8625 can provide you with information about building permit records that could contain the names of plumbing contractors that plumbed your home.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. *North Castle* is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

The following is a list of certified laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested for lead.

Eastern Analytical Services, Inc.
4 Westchester Plaza
Elmsford, NY 10523-1610
Mr. Paul Stacavage
914-592-8380

Westchester County labs
10 Dana Road
Valhalla, NY 10595
Mr. Davis Vinci
914-231-1768

Yorktown Medical Laboratory. Inc
321 Kear Street
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Mr. Albert Padovani 914-245-3203

For more information contact:

Phone: 914-273-1882

Fax:914-273-3075

North Castle Water District No. 1
15 Business Park Drive
Armonk, New York 10504

Attn: Sal Misiti,
Director of Water & Sewer Operations
watersewer@northcastleny.com

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Westchester County

Department of Health
914-813-5000

www.northcastleny.com