



# CITY OF ADAK, ALASKA

## NOTICE Water Analysis Results

Dear Adak Municipal Utility Customer,

Last year around this time we conducted our semiannual Lead/Copper testing program of the water distribution system. Due to abnormalities in our testing protocol, as well as possible corrosion throughout the system, some of the samples we received exceeded EPA levels of copper exposure in the following sample locations (see below table).

We are working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) as the Adak water system previously encountered this issue before Adak was incorporated. We have agreed to and have conducted a new round of sampling from more locations to verify the condition of the water system. We should have the results from this test by the first of January 2015. In February/March we will conduct another 10 samples to verify the December 2014 testing.

We provided public notice to the affected customers in December 2013 however ADEC and the City feel that more distribution of this notice is warranted, hence the notice in your utility bill.

Please be assured that your water is safe to drink at home and we are doing everything we can to make sure that the water system stays safe and in compliance with all Federal and State regulations. An effective way to reduce the potential of copper exposure, at the tap, is to run the water for 15-30 seconds prior to collection for consumptive uses (especially after periods of non-use), and to avoid consumption from hot water taps.

The reason we conduct this testing and why there are regulations regarding exposure are related to the health effects of copper. Copper is a naturally occurring common metal found throughout the environment in which we live. Copper is also an essential element in our diets, just like iodine, copper plays an important role in the metabolism of foods we eat, and is part of the chemical structure of many of the enzymes that make our body work. There is no evidence that copper causes diseases in humans, however, at elevated levels, copper is considered to be an irritant, and may cause stomach or intestinal distress. Among people who are predisposed to Wilson's Disease (a hereditary metabolic condition found in 1 out of every 30,000 individuals) copper at elevated levels will aggravate the disease.

For more information call the City Office at (907) 592-4500 or ADEC at (907) 269-7653.

### **EPA Copper Action Level: 1.3 ppm (parts per million, 1.3 mg/L)**

<b><u>Location Address</u></b>	<b><u>Location Results</u></b>
214 B Umak Circle	1.43 ppm
167 D Fisherman's Cove	1.38 ppm
146 C Finger Bay Road	1.39 ppm

#### **CITY OF ADAK, ALASKA**

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