



## **REPORT FOR LEAD TESTING IN DRINKING WATER**

*for*

**WHITMAN COLLEGE  
Music Hall and Welty Center**  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Project #E2016/0808

August 31, 2016

*prepared for:*

Whitman College  
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*prepared by:*

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Client: Whitman College  
345 Boyer Ave.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Point of Contact: Mr. Fred Miller

Property: Whitman College  
Walla Walla, Washington

Major Commercial Activity: University

Environmental Professional: Yancy Meyer, BMEC, Inc.

Project Number: E2016/0808

Report Date: August 31, 2016

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Whitman College retained Blue Mountain Environmental & Consulting Company, Inc. (BMEC) to perform an investigation for the presence of lead in drinking water in the Welty Wellness Center and the Music Hall, both on the college campus. Yancy Meyer, Environmental Professional with BMEC, assisted by Caris Lynch of BMEC, performed the water sampling on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

At the request of Whitman College, water samples were taken from the specified buildings from sinks and water fountains. Samples were taken according to EPA protocols, allowing the sink/fountain to run for at least 30 seconds prior to sampling mid-stream with sterile containers using nitrile gloves.

Sampling results indicate the three samples were either non-detect or below the 15 ppb action level. No further action is recommended at this time.

## **1.1 BACKGROUND**

In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. This law requires EPA to determine the level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur with an adequate margin of safety. These non-enforceable health goals, based solely on possible health risks are called maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs). The MCLG for lead is zero. EPA has set this level based on the best available science which shows there is no safe level of exposure to lead.

For most contaminants, EPA sets an enforceable regulation called a maximum contaminant level, (MCL) the highest level of a contaminant that EPA allows in drinking water. MCLs ensure that drinking water does not pose either a short-term or long-term health risk. EPA sets MCLs at levels that are economically and technologically feasible. However, because lead contamination of drinking water often results from corrosion of the plumbing materials belonging to water system customers, EPA established a treatment technique rather than an MCL for lead. A treatment technique is an enforceable procedure or level of technological performance which water systems must follow to ensure control of a contaminant.

The treatment technique regulation for lead (referred to as the Lead and Copper Rule) requires water systems to control the corrosivity of the water. The regulation also requires systems to collect tap samples from sites served by the system that are more likely to have plumbing materials containing lead. If more than 10 percent of tap water samples exceed the lead action level of 15 parts per billion, then water systems are required to take additional actions including:

- Taking further steps optimize their corrosion control treatment (for water systems serving 50,000 people that have not fully optimized their corrosion control).
- Educating the public about lead in drinking water and actions consumers can take to reduce their exposure to lead.
- Replacing the portions of lead service lines (lines that connect distribution mains to customers) under the water system's control.

EPA issued the Lead and Copper Rule in 1991 and revised the regulation in 2000 and 2007. States may set more stringent drinking water regulations than EPA; however, Washington State protocols are the same as the national protocols.

## **2.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:** Title XIV of The Public Health Service Act: Safety of Public Water Systems (Safe Drinking Water Act) regulates the maximum level of lead considered to be safe for drinking water at 15 ppb. The scope of service included sampling of drinking water in the campus buildings, interest houses, and the Mill Creek cabins, and analysis of the samples by an accredited laboratory. Analysis of the results to recommend corrective action if needed.

## **3.0 SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS**

### **3.1. TITLE XIV OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT SAFETY OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT)**

The NATIONAL DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS SEC. 1412 regulates contaminants in drinking water, and has set a 15 ppb maximum level for lead. Any lead contamination above that level must be addressed by treatment.

## **4.0 SAMPLING METHODOLOGY**

Blue Mountain Environmental & Consulting sampled drinking water according to EPA protocols, allowing the sink/fountain to run for at least 30 seconds prior to sampling mid-stream with sterile containers using nitrile gloves. The samples were then submitted with chain of custody documentation to On-Site Laboratory for analysis of total lead content.

## **5.0 LABORATORY INFORMATION**

Samples were analyzed by On-Site Laboratory in Redmond, Washington by EPA Method 200.8. OnSite Environmental, Inc. performs a wide variety of analytical methods under various regulatory programs using published and internally developed validated test methods. The laboratory participates in semi-annual single-blind performance evaluations studies as part of on-going certification/accreditation with the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).

## 6.0 RESULTS

The following sample results were at or above the detection limit of 1.0 ppb and under the EPA action level of 15 ppb:

Sample Number	Location	Result
8-23-130	Music Hall fountain near Room 100	3.0 ppb
8-23-131	Music Hall green room	7.2 ppb

The following sample was below the detection limit of 1.0 ppb:

Sample Number	Location
7-18-01	Welty Wellness Center Laundry Room sink

## 8.0 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Sampling results indicate the three samples were either non-detect or below the 15 ppb action level. No further action is recommended at this time.

## 9.0 AUTHENTICATION

Having followed sampling protocol and stringent QA/QC controls, the conclusions in this report are well-founded, professional opinions.

Report Written By:



Yancy Meyer  
Environmental Professional  
BMEC

Report Reviewed By:



Steve Wing  
Environmental Professional  
BMEC

## 10.0 REPORT LIMITATIONS

The enclosed site assessment has been performed for the exclusive use by Whitman College, or agents specified by them, for the transaction at issue concerning the subject properties in Walla Walla, Washington.

The purpose of an environmental investigation is to evaluate potential or actual effects of past or current practices on a given site. In performing an environmental investigation, a balance must be struck between reasonable inquiry into environmental issues and an exhaustive analysis of every conceivable issue of possible concern. This environmental assessment contains BMEC opinion regarding environmental issues of concern and/or additional issues that may need to be addressed. In rendering our professional opinion, BMEC warrants that the services provided within the scope of this assessment were performed, within the limits described, in accordance with generally accepted environmental consulting principles and practices. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made. The following paragraphs describe the assumptions and standard parameters under which such opinion is rendered.

Any opinions and/or recommendations presented in this report apply to site conditions existing at the time of performance of services. BMEC is unable to report on or accurately predict events that may affect the site after performance of services, whether occurring naturally or caused by human forces. BMEC assumes no responsibility for conditions BMEC did not investigate, or conditions not generally recognized as environmentally unacceptable at the time services were performed.

Except where there is expressed concern of our client, or where specific environmental contaminants have previously been reported by others, naturally occurring toxic substances, or contaminant concentrations not of current environmental concern, may not be addressed in this document.

No assessment is thorough enough to exclude the presence of hazardous materials at a given site. Therefore, if specific hazardous materials have not been identified during this assessment, the lack of such identifications should not be construed as a guarantee of the absence of hazardous materials, but merely as the result of services performed within the scope, limitations, and cost of work done.

BMEC is not responsible for the effects of changes in applicable environmental standards, practices, or regulations after the performance of services. Services provided for this assessment were performed in accordance with BMEC's agreement and understanding with our client, which may not be fully disclosed in this report. Opinions and/or recommendations are intended for the client, purpose, site, location, time frame, and project parameters indicated.

This report was prepared solely for the use of our client, and should be reviewed in its entirety; BMEC is not responsible for subsequent separation, detachment, or partial use of this document. Any reliance on this report by a third party shall be at such party's sole risk.

# Appendix A

## Laboratory Reports