



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GREYER
DIRECTOR

November 5, 2018

Mr. James Ritsema
City of Kalamazoo
241 West South Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

WSSN: 03520
County: Kalamazoo
Supply: Kalamazoo

Dear Mr. Ritsema:

SUBJECT: Water System Advisory Council Requirements

This is a reminder that your water system is required to create a water system advisory council to advise and assist with the creation of materials and plans to educate your community about the dangers of lead in drinking water. This requirement is the result of recently enacted changes to the lead and copper provisions of the administrative rules promulgated under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended (Act 399).

Per the administrative rules section 325.10410 (7), water supplies serving a population of 50,000 or more, and consecutive systems serving a population of 50,000 or more, shall create a water system advisory council. According to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) records, your water supply meets these criteria. The purpose of these councils is to improve transparency in your community by developing materials and advising the water system on public awareness and education efforts. Councils must be established by **December 11, 2018** (180 days from the effective date of the rules). Please review the enclosed requirements of R 325.10410(7).

You can expect to receive additional guidance from the statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council in early 2019. In the meantime, please proceed with creating your council by December 11, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Ariel Zoldan, Environmental Quality Analyst, Technical Support Unit, Community Water Suppl Section, Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division (DWMAD), at 517-599-5684; ZoldanA@michigan.gov; or Technical Support Unit, DWMAD, MDEQ, P.O. Box 30817, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311

Sincerely,

Kris Philip, Supervisor
Technical Support Unit
Community Water Supply Section
Drinking Water and Municipal
Assistance Division

enclosure

cc/enc: Mr. Thomas Spitzner, Kalamazoo Public Service Department
Mr. John Paquin, City of Kalamazoo

R 325.10410

(7) Each water supply that serves a population of 50,000 or more, and each consecutive water system that serves a population of 50,000 or more, shall create a water system advisory council. Councils shall operate as follows:

(a) A council shall consist of at least 5 members, appointed by the community supply. To be eligible for appointment to the council, an individual shall have a demonstrated interest in or knowledge about lead in drinking water and its effects. At least one member must be a local resident who does not formally represent the interests of any incorporated organization.

(b) The members first appointed to a council shall be appointed within 180 days after the effective date of this rule.

(c) The business that the council may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the council and held in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

(d) The first meeting of a council shall be called by the water supply. At the first meeting, the council shall elect from its members a chairperson and other officers as it considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the council shall meet at least annually.

(e) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the council in the performance of an official function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

(f) The council shall do the following:

(i) Develop plans for continuing public awareness about lead in drinking water, even when the action level is not exceeded.

(ii) Review public awareness campaign materials provided by the statewide drinking water advisory council to ensure the needs and interests of the community, considering the economic and cultural diversity of its residents, are addressed.

(iii) Advise and consult with the water supply on the development of appropriate plans for remediation and public education to be implemented if a lead action level is exceeded.

(iv) Advise and consult with the water supply on efforts to replace private lead service lines at locations where the owner declined service line replacement.

(v) Assist in promoting transparency of all data and documents related to lead in drinking water within the water supply service area.

(vi) Collaborate with local community groups to ensure that residents have the opportunity to be involved in efforts to educate the community about lead in drinking water.

(g) A water system advisory council may independently seek advice, direction, and assistance from the department or the statewide advisory council.