WASHINGTON WATER SERVICE COMPANY
P.O. Box 336 • Gig Harbor, WA 98335 • Toll Free (877) 408-4060 or (253) 851-4060

August 15, 2016

RE: Horizons West Water System, State ID No. 343754
Lead and Copper Test Results – Service Address: **8765 Deeridge**

Dear Horizons West Water System Customer:

Washington Water Service Company would like to thank you for your participation in the tap water monitoring program for lead and copper during the month of **June 2016**. We are pleased to report that your location's results, as well as those for the water system as a whole, are below the lead and copper Action Levels.

The results for your location are: **<1 ppb lead** and **0.08 ppm copper.**

The results for the water system as a whole* are: **<1 ppb lead** and **0.06 ppm copper**.

Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule is based on the results for the water system as a whole, not any one location. Your location's lead or copper results may be higher or lower than those for the system.

* Based on the "90th percentile value". In other words, out of every ten homes sampled, nine were at or below this level. The 90th percentile value must be less than or equal to the Action Level of 15 ppb lead and 1.3 ppm copper. The Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, requires further action by the water utility to investigate and determine the best way to control corrosion. The maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) is the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there are no known or expected risks to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The MCLG is 0 ppb for lead and 1.3 ppm for copper.

It is important to remember that the samples collected for this testing program represent worst case scenario. The targeted sampling sites are single-family dwellings built just before the lead solder ban in 1986, with copper plumbing (with lead-soldered joints), with the water having sat in the pipes for more than six hours at the time of sampling. Not all homes sampled will meet these specific criteria necessarily but this is what is targeted.

How you can reduce exposure to lead and copper in drinking water:

- When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the pipe by running the cold-water tap until the water is noticeably colder before using the water for drinking or cooking. **The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain.**
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead or copper.
- Frequently remove and clean the filter screens and aerators from your faucets to remove captured particles.
- If building or remodeling, only use "lead free" piping and materials. Avoid using copper piping or brass fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation (such as kitchen or bathroom sinks).

- Lead solder used to join copper plumbing was banned in 1986 in Washington so homes built after this time are less likely to have lead contamination of drinking water. However, even some "lead free" fixtures may still contain small amounts of lead.

How Lead Gets Into Water

Lead in drinking water most often comes from water distribution lines or household plumbing rather than from the water system source. Plumbing sources can include lead pipes, lead solder, faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. Lead is actually more likely to come from other sources besides water, such as lead-based paint and contaminated dust or soil.

Potential Health Effects of Lead

The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body. Lead is stored in the bones and can be released later in life. Lead can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, interfere with production of red blood cells that carry oxygen, and may result in lowered IQ in children. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development. Low levels of lead can affect adults with high blood pressure or kidney problems.

How Copper Gets Into Water

Copper is a mineral and natural component in soils. In the correct amounts, it is an essential nutrient for humans and plants. In Washington State, most copper in drinking water comes from corrosion of household copper plumbing and brass fixtures when the water source is corrosive (acidic, low pH) and when the water sits motionless in the plumbing for hours at a time.

Potential Health Effects of Copper

Although copper is an essential mineral in the diet, too much copper can cause health problems. Copper is widely distributed within the tissues of the body, but accumulates primarily in the liver and kidneys. A single dose of 15 mg of copper can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and intestinal cramps. Severe cases of copper poisoning have led to anemia and to disruption of liver and kidney functions. Individuals with Wilson's or Menke's diseases are at higher risk from copper exposure.

We would like to thank you again for your continued participation in this program. If you have any questions about these test results or our monitoring program, please call Carol Schlender, Water Quality Manager, toll free at (877) 408-4060.