



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

March 18, 2016

Ms. Catherine E. Heigel
Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Director Heigel,

The topic of safe and clean drinking water has become an issue of widespread attention. Specifically, citizens of South Carolina are concerned about the potential for lead contamination in their drinking water as the negative effects of lead exposure include developmental delays in children and organ damage in all exposed. We should take this opportunity to assure South Carolinians that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is diligently performing its role in monitoring and enforcing safe drinking water standards.

When we began discussing this issue last year, you assured me that DHEC would act promptly to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the agency's water quality monitoring systems and I appreciate you keeping my staff apprised of these efforts. Now, I ask that you provide my office a full account of DHEC's current activities related to lead monitoring in public and private water systems and an evaluation of the state's overall risk of lead exposure based on your agency's monitoring of these water systems. Where appropriate, I ask that you identify water systems and communities that have or are experiencing elevated levels of lead in their drinking water and your recommendations to eliminate this risk using DHEC's existing authorities and resources.

Thank you for your continued efforts in support of the health and well-being of South Carolina's citizens. If I may be of further assistance on this issue, please contact Joshua Baker in my office at joshbaker@gov.sc.gov or 803.734.5153. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb

cc: The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency