

## **Stronger EPA Rule Requires Water Disclosures**

Sept. 26 – A strengthened EPA rule now requires water suppliers to give customers specific information about limiting their exposure to lead in their drinking water.

The rule also improves requirements for monitoring for lead in drinking water and replacing lead service lines, Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Ernesta Jones said Wednesday.

“Today’s action will help get the lead out and keep it out of our drinking water,” Benjamin H. Grumbles, the EPA’s assistant administrator for water, said in an e-mail. “The public must have confidence in the safety of their tap water, which is, ounce-for-ounce, one of America’s greatest and most affordable assets. EPA’s targeted improvements will clarify requirements for utilities, and provide more timely and useful information for the public.”

The final rule is one outcome of the EPA’s March 2005 Drinking Water Lead Reduction Plan. Since release of the plan, the agency helped public water systems better understand the potential impacts of treatment changes on their ability to control lead.

Lead is a highly toxic metal. Even at low levels, lead exposure can cause a range of health effects including behavioral problems and learning disabilities.