

AWWA NJ Delivers Educational Seminar for Reducing Lead in School Drinking Water

ISELIN, N.J., September 15, 2016 – During July and in preparation for the start of the school year members of American Water Works Association New Jersey section (AWWA-NJ), conducted an educational seminar regarding lead in drinking water in schools for the City of Newark Public Schools. The training was held at the Harold Wilson School in Newark, NJ and was attended by thirty-one school officials responsible for the maintenance and/or safety of the school facilities including the drinking water. Topics included the source of Newark’s water supply and several elements of the EPA’s 3Ts (Training, Testing and Telling) for reducing lead in drinking water in schools, including how to perform a plumbing survey, sampling, and corrective actions per EPA recommendations.

In addition to classroom instruction several hands-on training sessions were provided, including sample collection, sample handling and preservation and identifying plumbing material. The program was extremely well received and garnered positive feedback from those in attendance. Valerie Wilson, School Business Administrator for the Newark Public Schools, reaffirmed her staff’s appreciation for the training and indicated a desire to work with the AWWA-NJ on these issues in the future stating, “*We believe we will be setting the standard for water testing and lead remediation in New Jersey schools.*”

Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education has enacted regulations that require every school district to sample for lead in all of their schools. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has been charged with providing guidance and training of this effort and has requested assistance from the AWWA NJ in implementing several upcoming regional training sessions that will be held in the near future.

Water professionals from the AWWA NJ Licensed Operator Committee who provided this training included: Frank Marascia (NJ American), Robert Fullagar (Middlesex Water Company), John Perry (Montville Township), Keith Smith (Butler Water Department), and Mike Furrey (AWWA-NJ Section Chair).

For more information on the EPA Guidance manual for elevated levels in drinking water in schools visit: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/201509/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf

For more information about the AWWA NJ Section, please visit our website: www.njawwa.org or call Mona Cavalcoli, Section Manager, at (866) 436-1120.

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About AWWA-NJ

The AWWA New Jersey Section represents over 1,350 members united in a mission to provide New Jersey residents with a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. Members include most of New Jersey's public and investor-owned water utilities along with engineering and environmental professionals and allied industry businesses. AWWA works to make advances in public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of drinking water professionals

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