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DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

CERTIFIED MAIL

July 29, 2026



Jim Pillen, Governor

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Ms. Emma Smith, Financial Contact
Village of Bartlett
425 Randolph St
PO Box 277
Bartlett, NE 68622

RE: Public Water – Village of Bartlett – NE3118501 – Wheeler County
Notice of Lead Action Level Exceedance

This letter is to notify you that our records indicate that the results from the 2026 lead and copper monitoring conducted by the Village of Bartlett Public Water System ("System") exceeded the 90th percentile action level (AL) for lead. The action level for lead is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L), the System's 90th percentile was calculated at 0.0287 mg/L.

Any lead or copper exceedance requires follow-up actions. Attachment 1 outlines a schedule detailing these requirements. Below are the immediate actions that the System needs to take:

Tier 1 Public Notice

- Within 24 hours of the date of this letter, the System must:
 - Provide a Tier 1 public notification that can reach all persons served by the system and certify that Tier 1 public notice was conducted.
 - Tier 1 public notice must be direct or hand delivered to all persons served by the system.
 - Use one of the following additional public notice activities:
 - ✓ Broadcast media, such as radio or television
 - ✓ Posting in conspicuous locations around the system
 - ✓ Another method approved in writing by the Department
 - A copy of the notice that was used along with the certification form must be submitted.

Due no later than: July 30, 2026

Notification of Results

- Within 30 days of the date of this letter, the System must:
 - Provide a notice of the individual tap results (Form 6 – Consumer Notice of Lead and Copper Tap Results) to the persons served by the water system at the specific sampling sites and submit Form 4 – Lead and Copper Result Public Notification Certification to the Department.

Due no later than: August 28, 2026

Public Education Requirements.

- Within 60 days of the date of this letter, and once per year afterward, the System must:
 - Deliver a lead educational pamphlet to all customers served by the System.

- Deliver a lead educational pamphlet to organizations served by the System that are most likely to be visited regularly by pregnant women and children (i.e., public/private schools, pediatricians, licensed childcare centers, obstetrician-gynecologists).
- Choose 1 of the following to implement:
 - ✓ Public service announcements
 - ✓ Paid advertisements
 - ✓ Public area informational displays
 - ✓ E-mails to customers
 - ✓ Public meetings
 - ✓ Household deliveries
 - ✓ Targeted individual customer contact
 - ✓ Direct material distribution to all multi-family homes and institutions

Due no later than: September 27, 2026

- A copy of the notice and education materials that were used along with the certification form must be submitted to this office within 10 days of delivery.

Due no later than: October 7, 2026
- At minimum once per quarter, the System must include a lead exceedance statement with each water bill, or as a separate mailing. This requirement will begin in **Third Quarter 2026**.
- Suggested educational materials are enclosed. Any departure from the provided educational materials must be approved by the Department prior to distribution.

Additional Monitoring Requirements.

- Beginning July 1, 2026, and repeating every 6 months thereafter, the System must:
 - Collect **5** lead and copper samples.
 - Collect water quality parameter (WQP) sampling in the distribution system. The System is required to collect WQPs at **1** site(s), based on its population. WQP samples must be collected twice at each site.
 - WQP site selection should focus on sites representative of the system's water quality.
 - The System may find it convenient to sample WQPs at sites used for coliform sampling.
 - WQP samples at each location must include one first draw sample and one typical use sample. Please see the sampling instruction included in WQP sample kits for more information.
 - Collect 2 WQP samples at each entry point to the distribution system.
- The System must also conduct lead and copper source water monitoring within 6 months. One lead and copper sample at each entry point to the distribution system is required.

1st 6-month round samples due no later than: December 31, 2026

Please submit a new sample site plan prior to collecting!

Optimized Corrosion Control Treatment (OCCT) Requirements.

- An OCCT study must be performed by a Nebraska registered professional engineer, who will recommend the most optimal treatment for the System.
- The System is required to submit the engineer's OCCT recommendation to the Department for approval prior to installation. **Due no later than: January 29, 2028**
- The system will then be required to install the recommended treatment.

Due no later than: July 29, 2029

Ms. Smith

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If the System has never previously exceeded the action level for lead or copper, installing OCCT may not be necessary. Sample results for two consecutive 6 month monitoring periods must indicate 90th percentiles below lead and copper action levels, and the system must have completed all public education requirements. If these conditions are met, the Department may "pause" OCCT requirements until future results indicate an exceedance.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Liam Baker at 402-471-4228 or liam.baker@nebraska.gov. You may also contact David Jundt at 402-750-0967, the Field Service Representative in your area.

Sincerely,



Laura Johnson, Administrator
DWEE Drinking Water and Water Wells Division
245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68521
laura.r.johnson@nebraska.gov

Enclosures.

cc: Mark Nordhues, Water Operator

ec: Senator Frederic Meyer, District 41; Laura Johnson, DWEE; Trevor Johnson, DWEE; Andy Kahle, DWEE; David Jundt, DWEE; Russ Callan, Lower Loup NRD; Amanda Jeffres, Loup Basin Public Health Department

Attachment 1 – Lead Exceedance Optimized Corrosion Control Treatment Timeline

The System must complete each of the requirements listed below on or before their respective due dates.

<u>DUE BY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
July 30, 2026	Perform Tier 1 public notice requirements and submit a copy of the public notice and Certification of Public Notice.
August 28, 2026	Perform notification of results (Form 6) to individual sample sites and submit certification that notification was done (Form 4).
September 27, 2026	Perform initial public education requirements (see enclosed educational materials).
October 7, 2026	Submit a copy of the public education material that was distributed and the Certification of Public Education (see enclosed).
Every Quarter	Include lead exceedance statement in at least one water bill. Submit a copy of a bill and Certification form within 10 days of mailing (see enclosures).
January 29, 2027	Complete lead and copper source water monitoring. Collect one lead and copper sample at each entry point.
September 29, 2027	Repeat public education requirements.
January 29, 2028	Submit a professional engineer's recommendation for OCCT to the Department.
January 29, 2028	DWEE deadline to approve/designate OCCT for the system.
July 29, 2029	Complete the installation of optimized corrosion control treatment.
July 29, 2030	Initial monitoring will be completed, and the system will be eligible for reduced lead and copper monitoring.

Attachment 2 – Lead Exceedance Routine Lead & Copper Sampling Timeline

The System must complete each of the requirements listed below on or before their respective due dates.

<u>DUE BY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
July 1, 2026	Start of 6-month lead and copper monitoring. Start of 6-month WQP sampling.
December 31, 2026	Complete 1st 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples at 5 sites. Complete 1st 6-month round of WQP samples at 1 representative site(s) in the distribution system and two WQP samples at each entry point. <u>Please submit a new sample site plan prior to collecting!</u>
June 30, 2026	Complete 2nd 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 2nd 6-month round of WQP samples.
December 31, 2027	Complete 1st 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 1st 6-month round of WQP samples.
December 31, 2028	Complete 2nd 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 2nd 6-month round of WQP samples.
June 30, 2029	Complete 1st 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 1st 6-month round of WQP samples.
December 31, 2029	Complete 2nd 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 2nd 6-month round of WQP samples.
June 30, 2030	Complete 1st 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 1st 6-month round of WQP samples.
December 31, 2030	Complete 2nd 6-month round of lead and copper tap samples. Complete 2nd 6-month round of WQP samples.

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION DUE ANNUALLY

PWS Name: Village of Bartlett

NE ID Number: NE3118501

Monitoring Period (Quarter and Year): _____

Public Education Delivered To Consumers By: _____ on _____ (Date)

Public Education Delivered To The Following Women & Children's Organizations:

_____ on _____ (Date)

Additional Public Education Selection: (Select One)

- ☐ Public service announcements
 - ☐ Paid advertisements
 - ☐ Public area informational displays
 - ☐ E-mails to customers
 - ☐ Public meetings
 - ☐ Household deliveries
 - ☐ Targeted individual customer contact
 - ☐ Direct material distribution to all multi-family homes and institutions
- Completed on: _____ (Date)

Lead Action Level Exceedances require Public Education. The public water system indicated above hereby affirms that public education has been provided to all consumers in accordance with the delivery, content and format requirements and within the deadlines listed Nebraska's Regulations Governing Public Water Systems, Title 179 NAC 12.

Signature of Owner/Operator

Date

Remember:

- Certification of public education is due no later than **October 7, 2026**, and annually thereafter while the System exceeds the action level.
- Submit a **copy** of all educational materials utilized by the System for this notice with the completed certification form.
- Submit a copy of the public notice and the certification form to your Regional Compliance Officer, Mary Poe.
- Public water systems are required to keep public notice documentation for three years.

Public Education for Lead

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Village of Bartlett found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

The lead level that requires public education and additional requirements is 15 parts per billion or 0.015 mg/L. The level of lead for our public water system is 0.0287 mg/L.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Lead can also be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry. When water is in contact for several hours with pipes (or service lines) or plumbing that contains lead, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead.

EPA estimates that 10 - 20% of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 - 60% of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

Run your water to flush out lead. If the tap hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to cook, drink, or make baby formula.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

Get your child's blood tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

Get your tap tested. Please contact the Village Of Bartlett for more information.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

The results from the Village of Bartlett, NE3118501, 2024 lead monitoring season exceeded the 90th percentile action level (AL) for lead content. The action level set by the EPA and enforced by Nebraska's Regulations Governing Public Water Systems, Title 179 NAC 12-003.01 for lead is 0.015 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The calculated 90th percentile lead level from the most recent sampling for the Village of Bartlett was 0.0287 mg/L. This level requires follow-up actions in accordance with the Nebraska's Regulations Governing Public Water Systems, Title 179 NAC 12-003.01 to 12-003.05

[Insert information about what your system is doing to reduce lead levels in homes and/or buildings.]

[Insert information about the history of lead levels in tap water samples for your public water system. For example, have they declined substantially over time? Have they been low and risen recently? Is there a known reason for any lead level changes?]

For More Information on Lead:

Call us at _____. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Date Distributed _____

The Village Of Bartlett

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Lead Exceedance Statement for Quarterly Use in a Water Bill:

The Village of Bartlett found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information, please call the Village Of Bartlett at [phone number].

CERTIFICATION OF LEAD STATEMENT DUE QUARTERLY

PWS Name: Village of Bartlett

NE ID Number: NE3118501

Monitoring Period (Quarter and Year): _____

Lead Exceedance Statement: (choose one)

☐ Included as part of a water bill (attach a copy)

☐ Mailed separately to each customer (attach a copy)

Mailed to Customer on: _____ (Date)

Lead Action Level Exceedances require Public Education. The public water system indicated above hereby affirms that public education has been provided to all consumers in accordance with the delivery, content and format requirements and within the deadlines listed Nebraska's Regulations Governing Public Water Systems, Title 179 NAC 12.

Signature of Owner/Operator

Date

Remember:

This lead exceedance statement must be used verbatim. Any departure in language must be approved by the Department prior to its use.

- The System must certify that they've included this statement on a bill at least once per quarter.
- Certification includes a copy of what was sent to the customers and the Certification of Lead Statement completed and both pieces returned to the Department.
- A system will not be considered for pausing OCCT unless all public education requirements have been met.