

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

FAX MEMO

TO:

FROM: Melinda Holland, Facilitator

SUBJECT: City of Columbus Community XL Project - Lead Safe Columbus Program

DATE: May 3, 2000

This fax is to provide you with some background for a telephone call I will make to you in the very near future. The attached fact sheet explains a new project being sponsored by the City of Columbus, with cooperation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [US EPA] and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency [OEPA]. Under this XL Project, the City of Columbus has requested regulatory flexibility under the Federal and State drinking water regulations on lead service lines, in exchange the City will provide \$300,000 per year for 15 years to implement a comprehensive Lead-Safe Columbus Program to reduce lead hazards for children who are most at risk for lead poisoning.

I have been hired to organize and facilitate **public stakeholders meetings on May 16 at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm** at the Columbus Division of Water conference room. The address is Public Utilities Complex, 910 Dublin Road, 1st Floor Auditorium, Columbus, Oh 43215. For directions please call 645-7020.

Those who believe that they or their community could be affected by the Project are invited to attend the public meeting and to participate in development of the Final Project Agreement, if they so desire. For more information on stakeholder involvement in Community XL Projects, please see the U. S. EPA's Project XL Stakeholder Involvement Guide. You can download this document from EPA's Project XL web site at:

www.epa.gov/projectxl/032599.pdf

I will call to see if you or the organization you represent have any concerns about or interest in this project. **You may also contact me at [864] 457-4202; fax: 864-457-5393; email: mholland@piedmont.net** I look forward to speaking with you soon. Thank you for your assistance.



City of Columbus Community XL Project

WHAT IS PROJECT XLC?

Project XL, which stands for “eXcellence and Leadership,” is a national initiative created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection. Project XL for Communities [XLC] encourages public sector and community organizations to come forward with new approaches to demonstrate community-designed and directed strategies for achieving greater environmental quality consistent with community economic goals. The information and lessons learned from Project XL are being used to assist EPA in redesigning its current regulatory and policy-setting approaches. Project XL encourages testing of cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results superior to those achieved under current regulations and policies, in conjunction with greater accountability to stakeholders. It is vital that each project tests new ideas with the potential for wide application and broad environmental benefits. As of April 2000, twenty pilot experiments are being implemented and thirty-five additional projects are in various stages of development

SUMMARY OF THE COLUMBUS PROJECT

The Columbus Division of Water is planning to make changes to the City's drinking water treatment in the future and is concerned, based on past experience, that these changes may cause lead levels in drinking water to rise temporarily. Under the Federal and State drinking water regulations, if the lead levels rise above the limit established by USEPA and Ohio EPA (OEPA), the City must begin sampling lead service lines (LSL) immediately and replacing those lines that contribute high levels of lead. The Columbus Division of Water has requested regulatory flexibility from US EPA and OEPA to suspend LSL sampling and replacement for up to three years. In exchange for this flexibility the Division of Water will provide \$300,000 per year for fifteen years to the Columbus Health Department to implement a comprehensive Lead-Safe Columbus Program designed to identify and reduce lead hazards as an alternative to the Lead and Copper Rule requirements for testing and replacement of lead service lines (LSL). The Program's interventions are targeted to children who are at most risk for lead poisoning.

Lead-Safe Columbus Program

The Health Department's Lead-Safe Columbus Program will be responsible for the following activities:

SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

- < **Medical case management** will be provided for all lead-poisoned children, including: supplying educational brochures along with free blood lead screening and probe screens within the community, testing of all children under six residing in a home where tap water exceeded the Lead Action Level, and lead hazard risk assessments.
- < **Public education/outreach** activities will be directed towards identified high-risk areas and include the following components: peer-based parent education; education for parents of lead-poisoned children ; training for local remodelers, renovators, painters, do-it yourselfers and property maintenance staff; training of property owners, realtors, 1st time home buyers, financial institutions, neighborhood groups, and non-profit housing organizations; a training module targeted at *Management, Monitoring and Maintenance Training for Property Owners and Their Maintenance Crews* which will be designed to enable property owners to

effectively manage, monitor and maintain their lead-safe housing; *General Information and Overview of Lead Poisoning Prevention*
 < **\$100,000 in Lead Hazard Abatement Grants** for low-cost abatements to low- and moderate-income families per year.

Drinking Water Treatment

Through this XL project the City of Columbus, OEPA and US EPA will work closely together to prevent lead levels in drinking water from rising. Should there be an increase in lead levels in addition to immediate City action, this XL project will provide the opportunity to aggressively address water treatment issues by providing quick access to state and national water treatment experts. There is no detectable lead in Columbus's source water. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion of building plumbing materials. The most common sources of lead include lead-soldered joints in copper pipe and faucets and other fixtures made from lead-bearing brass. There are also no lead main waterlines within the Columbus distribution system.

FLEXIBILITY

Implementation of this project will require flexibility from State and Federal drinking water requirements. The flexibility will be conditioned on the City's commitment to provide resources to the Lead Safe Columbus program and it's additional commitment to aggressively tackle water treatment issues.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder involvement is integral to XL projects. The goal of Project XL stakeholder involvement is a collaborative working relationship between sponsors – the organization that has proposed an alternative approach – and stakeholders – those people who believe that they or their community could be affected by an XL project. **A Final Project Agreement which will detail project implementation is now under development. Interested stakeholders are invited to participate in the process of FPA development. For more information on how to participate please call Gary Garver at (614) 645-7257.**

APPROACHES TO BE TESTED

This project takes a multi-media approach to controlling lead by allowing the City to utilize some of the City's drinking water resources to abate a known health hazard through an exposure pathway other than, and in addition to, drinking water (i.e., household lead paint and dust), and it allows the City's Water Department that is facing challenges working through technical issues associated with making treatment adjustments, flexibility from LSL testing and replacement requirements in the drinking water regulations.

CONTACTS

Project Sponsors: Gary Garver, Columbus Health Dept. (614) 645-7257
 Lynn Kelly, Columbus Division Of Water (614) 645-7100
State Contact: Kirk Leifheit, Ohio EPA (614) 644-2752
EPA Regional Contact: Miguel Del Toral (312) 886-5253
EPA Headquarters Contact: Kristina Heinemann (202) 260-5355

More information about Project XL is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>.