Message

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Sent: 2/9/2017 3:54:44 PM
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Subject: USS Lead - Press

East Chicago press clips
US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs
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WFYI - More Aid For East Chicago Clears Committee In Legislature
WBOI - East Chicago Officials Look For Guidance Over Contaminated Water
Insurance Journal - East Chicago Residents Should Assume Lead Water Lines, Use Filter

http://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/more-aid-for-east-chicago-clears-committee-in-legislature
More Aid For East Chicago Clears Committee In Legislature
Nick Janzen, WFYI Indianapolis Feb. 8, 2017
A bill to aid toxic cleanup efforts in the city of East Chicago, Indiana, passed unanimously out of a House committee on Wednesday, Feb. 8.
Rep. Earl Harris, Jr. (D-East Chicago), who authored the bill, says the city will need long term assistance to combat its lead contamination crisis.
"There's a lot of support that's come on the national level, on the state level, and I want to make sure that this continues," Harris says. "This is not a short term problem."
In part, House Bill 1344 requests that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and Indiana State Health Department conduct lead testing in soil and water throughout the city. But the bill was amended to limit that testing to an "area of special concern"—the Calumet neighborhood, which the federal government currently lists as a toxic waste cleanup site.
East Chicago resident, the Rev. Cheryl Rivera, urged lawmakers to return that portion of the bill to its original form.
"I am here because what we need and what we want is city-wide testing of the water and the soil," Rivera says.
The Environmental Protection Agency found elevated lead levels in the drinking water of 18 Calumet homes last year — that lead comes from the city's old lead service lines. The EPA is recommending that all residents install water filters on their taps.
Resident Sara Jimenez also testified at the hearing. She's trying to sell her home in the contaminated Calumet neighborhood and asked lawmakers to consider an amendment providing financial assistance to homeowners.
"This will help us refurnish the new location that we will probably move into and not take our contaminated furnishings with us," says Jimenez.
Lawmakers didn't address whether an amendment like that would be written. One could be added if the bill is considered by the full House.

http://wboi.org/post/east-chicago-officials-look-guidance-over-contaminated-water#stream/0
East Chicago Officials Look For Guidance Over Contaminated Water
WBOI Nick Janzen Feb, 8, 2017

East Chicago, Indiana, city leaders have two different lead problems – lead in the soil of its Calumet neighborhood and lead in water pipes leading to some homes. They don't know how many yet.
Now, officials are grappling to measure the extent of that lead in water pipes leading into homes. So, when they came to testify on a bill at the Statehouse that would help them cleanup the soil, they also talked about the water.
"It had left, just, suspicion and confusion across our whole city. It has created panic," Mayor Anthony Copeland said to lawmakers about the Environmental Protection Agency tests that measured elevated lead levels in the drinking water of 18 homes.

Copeland says the city did test for lead in drinking water and it is in compliance with state guidelines. But the EPA used a more rigorous test.
"The test [the Indiana Department of Environmental Management] used is a $45 test. [The EPA] came and did a $5,000 test," Copeland says.
City utilities director Greg Crowley asked the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to help clarify the issue.
"If we're gonna change the rules and the standards, we want to make sure that it's being done comprehensively and across the board," Crowley says.
The EPA is recommending residents use water filters city-wide. It is not planning to test any additional homes.

http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2017/02/08/441224.htm
East Chicago Residents Should Assume Lead Water Lines, Use Filter
Insurance Journal, Feb. 8, 2017
Federal officials say all East Chicago residents should assume they have lead water lines and use a properly certified filter.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scientist Miguel Del Toral repeated the recommendation on Feb. 3 after initially making it last month while responding to questions from residents at an open house for the USS Lead Superfund site in the city's Calumet neighborhood.
Independence. Growth. Success. SIAA provides access to companies and more resources to help agencies increase sales, retention, income and value.
Officials say it's possible up to 90 percent of homes in East Chicago have lead water lines.
The (Northwest Indiana) Times reports the EPA tested drinking water at more than 40 homes at the site. The agency found nearly 20 of the homes had lead levels above the action level of 15 parts per billion.
EPA officials say it views the sampling to represent the entire water system. No further testing is planned.

Sincerely,

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