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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Water Department Meets All Federally Mandated Requirements for Lead in Drinking Water

The Philadelphia Water Department takes the health and safety of our customers seriously. We test for lead in accordance with federally mandated requirements, and we have met those requirements since 1993. During the past 15 years, we have conducted research at our own treatment facilities on corrosion control and have participated in national research as well. We started adding corrosion inhibitors to our treatment process well ahead of the federal mandate to do so.

The Philadelphia Water Department has never “thrown out” any test result for lead sampling. It would be illegal and unethical for us to do so. We want to make it clear. All of our data is shared with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who alone has the authority to invalidate a test result.

One sample for Philadelphia was invalidated by the DEP, as it was not a representative sample for one particular home due to plumbing changes made by the homeowner. These changes were not immediately brought to our attention by the homeowner at the time of sampling. Due to the plumbing changes, the test result did not reflect the original condition of the plumbing. We then tested another sample in this particular home, and the results were comparable to previous samples taken in that home since 1992, all of which were below the federal limits for lead.

We remain committed to protecting our customers’ drinking water. We drink the water, too, and we want to ensure that the water is safe to drink for our own families, as well as our customers.

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