

# Likely Changes in CCR Delivery Methods; No-Lead in Components Reg

# Quality On Tap!

**T**he Kansas Rural Water Association has been among leading advocates for legislation to end the mailing requirement of the Consumer Confidence Report – otherwise known as the CCR or water quality report. KRWA has determined that nearly \$900,000 is spent annually by public water systems in Kansas for postage to mail out the CCRs which are read by few water system customers. Water customers know that if the water supplied to them is not safe, the system representatives would be alerting them to that fact in a more timely way. Still it's perfectly appropriate for water customers to know what the quality of their drinking water is.

KRWA and other affiliates of the National Rural Water Association have asked members of Congress to support legislation to end the mailing requirement and to allow delivery by electronic methods or download from a Web site. KRWA wishes to acknowledge the immediate support of the legislation in the Senate by Senators Moran and Roberts to S. 1578 as was introduced by Senator Toomey of Pennsylvania. In the House, Rep. Young from Florida introduced HR 1340 to end the mailing requirement; members from Kansas who signed as cosponsors are Rep. Huelskamp, Rep. Jenkins and Rep. Pompeo.

Late this summer, a move to attach the provisions of S. 1578 to the Farm Bill failed. The Farm Bill did not pass in the end.

EPA has now determined that it can allow electronic transfer of CCRs without legislation. EPA refers to this as the “CCR Rule Retrospective Review”. The review evaluated several electronic delivery methods to

determine which forms meet existing CCR Rule requirements.

So what's this really mean for water systems? EPA opened the topic for public comment. KRWA made that notice on its Web site. The public comment period ended October 11. At the recent National Rural Water Association conference, Ann Codrington with US EPA stated that EPA's review would be completed by the end of 2012. So, as of this writing, it is not known with certainty what EPA will finally rule. It's guaranteed that it remains the intent of EPA that every community water

system must make several considerations when implementing electronic delivery, such as a “good faith effort” to reach non-bill paying customers, multilingual requirements, small system delivery requirements and delivery certification.

At the National Rural Water Conference, EPA discussed the possible delivery methods. EPA found some forms of communication were not consistent with the regulatory requirement to “mail or otherwise directly deliver” the CCR and, as a result, would not be consistent with current CCR Rule requirements.

The table on the next page was developed by EPA. It provides a summary of CCR delivery methods that meet existing rule language to “mail or otherwise directly deliver,” including electronic, so long as the system is providing the report directly to each customer. EPA says that public water systems “may want to consider a combination of delivery methods for their CCRs based

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## CCR Delivery Methods for Bill-Paying Customers

CCR DELIVERY METHOD	METHOD DESCRIPTION
Mail - paper copy	System mails a paper copy of the CCR to each bill-paying customer.
Mail - notification that CCR is available on Web site	System mails to each bill-paying customer a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct URL to the CCR where it can be viewed. A URL that navigates to a Web page that requires a customer to search for the CCR does not meet the “directly deliver” requirement. The mail method for the notification may be, but is not limited to, a postcard, water bill insert, statement on the water bill or community newsletter.
Email – direct URL to CCR	System emails a direct URL to the CCR on a publicly- available site on the Internet. A URL that navigates to a Web page that requires a customer to search for the CCR does not meet the “directly deliver” requirement.
Email – CCR sent as an attachment to the email	System emails the CCR as an electronic file email attachment (e.g., portable document format (PDF)).
Email – CCR sent as an embedded image in an email	System emails the CCR text and tables inserted into the body of an email (not as an attachment.)
Additional electronic delivery that meets “otherwise directly deliver” requirement* <i>*This category is intended to encompass methods or technologies not included above.</i>	System delivers CCR through a method that otherwise directly delivers to each bill-paying customer and in coordination with the primacy agency.

on available technology and with consideration of the demographic and technology limitations of their customer base.”

### Will KRWA still format CCRs?

KRWA has typically formatted the CCR reports for nearly 300 cities and rural water districts in Kansas annually. KRWA’s goal is to help systems reduce costs by reformatting what sometimes can be five or six pages of text down to letter or a legal size brochure. Doing so reduces print costs for systems, assembly and handling fees. KRWA annually prints about 125,000 copies of CCRs for systems.

Given that electronic transfer is likely to be allowed in 2013, KRWA plans to continue to offer to format the CCR for the water systems, print that to a pdf format and post it on a Web site that can be accessed. In visiting with officials at KDHE, I believe

that KRWA can provide a Web site link where KRWA will post all CCRs. Systems can download their copy from that site to provide a printed copy to anyone making such a request and also can easily direct their customers to the site for viewing of the respective system CCR. KRWA will have a charge for this service, but it will eliminate the mailing

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and postage and result in real savings for the systems. Systems that operate their own Web sites have the advantage of posting their own CCR directly on their site. Still, systems have to get their report in a presentable format.

### New No-Lead reg

There has been much discussion over EPA's new regulation concerning the composition of lead content in water meters. To most system operators and managers, and KRWA, the new regulation seems extreme in that the time that water resides in a water meter is an extremely short duration.

According to Darrel Plummer at KDHE in Topeka, the most important part of the no-lead requirements for public water systems is that leaded-brass products will not be allowed to be put into any part of the potable water system after January 4, 2014. The new law was passed by Congress in January 2011 (PL111-380).

Now, let's clarify this because some people will likely be confronted by salesmen who may misinterpret the regulation and offer to sell all new water meters to systems. That's already happened in Kansas – and so – buyers beware.

Public water systems DO NOT HAVE TO REPLACE LEADED BRASS products by January 4, 2014. But the regulation says that any time the water system takes a valve, pump or meter out of service after that date it can only be

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replaced with a no-lead unit or no-lead parts. So it is very important to watch valve and meter inventories and try to order only no-lead valves and meters from now on.

### What does this mean for systems?

First, current inventory of leaded brass components become obsolete on January 4, 2014. This means sales companies will no longer be able to sell valves, fittings, or fixtures that contains lead which exceeds the 0.25 percent weighted average limit for wetted surfaces. Products that are covered by this legislation includes all valves, fittings, or fixtures that come into contact with potable water, with few exceptions. This includes corporation stops, curb stops, service fittings and couplings, meter valves, meter couplings, copper meter setters, meter yoke valves, check valves, backflow valves, etc. It also includes any plumbing valves and fittings inside a home that come into contact with potable water. This rule does not apply to "(A) pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, or fixtures, including backflow preventers, that are used exclusively for nonpotable services such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or any other uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption; or (B) toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves,

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADS—HDPE Storm Sewer</li> <li>• Ametek—Valve &amp; Curb Boxes</li> <li>• Apco—Air Release &amp; Specialty Valves</li> <li>• Ay McDonald—Brass Water Service Products</li> <li>• Cascade—SS Tapping Sleeves &amp; Clamps</li> <li>• Cherne—Muni &amp; Test Balls</li> <li>• Clay &amp; Bailey—Valve Boxes, Meter Well Covers</li> <li>• Clow Valve—Valves &amp; Fire Hydrants</li> <li>• Clow Water—Ductile Iron Pipe &amp; Fittings</li> <li>• Cla—Val—Specialty Valves</li> <li>• Contech—Corrugated Metal Culvert</li> <li>• Cresline—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Crisplin Valve—Air Release &amp; Specialty Valves</li> <li>• Deeter Foundry—Castings</li> <li>• DFWINDS—Couplings &amp; Drainage Products</li> <li>• Diamond Plastics—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Dura Plastics—PVC Fittings</li> <li>• EBAA Iron—Megalugs &amp; Restraints</li> <li>• Fast Fab—Fabricated D.I. Flange Pipe</li> <li>• Fernco—Repair Couplings</li> <li>• Fisher—Locating Equipment</li> <li>• GCI—Valve Boxes &amp; Meter Well Covers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hersey—Water Meters &amp; Meter Systems</li> <li>• Hydrant Repair Parts—Fire Hydrant Extensions &amp; Parts</li> <li>• Infiltrator Systems—Septic Chamber Systems</li> <li>• JCM—SS Tapping Sleeves, Repair Clamp &amp; Bolted Couplings</li> <li>• J-M Eagle—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Kennedy Valve—Valves &amp; Fire Hydrants</li> <li>• M&amp;H Valve—Valve &amp; Fire Hydrants</li> <li>• Mid-America Fittg—Brass Threaded Fitting &amp; Valves</li> <li>• Midwest Meter—Plastic Meter Wells</li> <li>• Multi-Fittings—PVC Sewer Fittings</li> <li>• Neenah Foundry - Castings</li> <li>• North American Pipe—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Northern Pipe—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Pipeline/Jet Stream Plastics—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Power Seal—Waterworks Materials</li> <li>• Romac Industries—SS Repair Clamps &amp; Gnp Rings</li> <li>• SIGMA—Castings, DI Fittings &amp; Valve Boxes</li> <li>• Silverline—PVC Pipe</li> <li>• Star—DI Fittings &amp; Valve Boxes</li> <li>• Tyler/Union Pipe—DI Fittings &amp; Valve Boxes</li> <li>• Val Matic—Specialty Valves</li> <li>• Watts—Backflow Preventors &amp; PRV's</li> </ul>
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service saddles, or water distribution main gate valves that are two or more inches in diameter”, (PL111-380).

What to do with inventories? Plummer suggests that managing the logistics of transitioning inventory is all about the details, which is why it is important to develop a plan for inventory transition.

### Make a plan . . .

- Identify and prioritize products that will need to be changed over to no-lead;
- Identify products that are already compliant or will not need to be changed over to no-lead;
- Identify products that will be used solely for irrigation and non-potable applications;
- Order no-lead products before the no-lead law goes into effect to avoid having non-complaint inventory on the shelf;
- Educate others in advance of the effective date so they are not stuck with obsolete inventory;
- Manage warehouses and storage to keep no-lead products and leaded products clearly labeled and separated.

It’s probably also safe to say that with all the other regulatory requirements involving water systems, agencies will probably not be in a strong position to be very aggressive in monitoring compliance. KRWA is not promoting civil disobedience in that remark. But we should all strive for reasonableness. KRWA’s contact with industry

representatives is that most new meter manufacturing involving lead and brass has changed over to the reduced lead standard.

### Let’s Pull Together!

The months of October to December are some of the busiest at KRWA as the Association finalizes plans for the next annual conference. The theme that was chosen for 2013 is “Let’s Pull Together!” Pulling together is necessary by local water system governing bodies, by consultants and other industry representatives, by regulatory agencies and by citizens. The KRWA conference will again showcase the largest exhibition in Mid-America for the water and wastewater industries. Plans are not fully complete as of this writing – but everyone can be assured that the 2013 KRWA conference will be the best ever and be a good investment of time. Mark your calendars now for March 26 – 28, 2013 at Century II Convention Center in Wichita. A hotel listing where room blocks are being held can be found on the KRWA Web site at [www.krwa.net](http://www.krwa.net), then under “Training”.

*Elmer Ronnebaum is KRWA General Manager; he has been employed by KRWA since 1983.*

*He served seven years on the KRWA board of directors prior to that. He also helped develop a large RWD and served for fourteen years on a water district board of directors.*



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