

Management Excellence

Thomas "Tom" Poy
Senior Advisor

EPA

Years of Service: 35



Summary:

The nominee has been dedicated to successfully resolving drinking water issues at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for more than 25 years. The nominee's dedication to developing strong partnerships and working on critical, high profile drinking water issues through collaborative efforts with EPA, state, utility, and non-governmental experts is a strong reflection of the individual's role as a Lead and Copper Rule technical expert.

Description: The nominee has been dedicated to successfully resolving drinking water issues at the Environmental Protection Agency for more than 25 years. The nominee's dedication to developing strong partnerships and working on critical, high profile drinking water issues through collaborative efforts with EPA, state, utility, and non-governmental experts is a strong reflection of the individual's role as a Lead and Copper Rule technical expert.

The nominee has provided efficient and effective expert support to states and communities on complex Lead and Copper Rule issues. As an ongoing member of EPA's Flint Drinking Water Task Force, the nominee provides expert advice and recommendations on lead issues to senior EPA managers, the state of Michigan, and city of Flint. In 2020, the nominee provided technical input on optimizing corrosion control treatment in light of current information, evaluating the progress of water system recovery, and ensuring processes are in place to ensure robust sampling of the distribution system occurs on schedule. To date, based on Task Force recommendations, Flint removed more than 9,700 lead service lines and continues to provide and maintain point of use filters, where needed, to ensure access to safe water.

In 2020, the nominee also assisted in the response to high lead levels in Newark, New Jersey, and has been working with Illinois EPA to address novel lead issues in University Park. The nominee has played a critical role on the technical team by evaluating the treatment and distribution system data and results to resolve the conditions that led to elevated lead concentrations in the action area. The nominee has also provided similar subject matter expertise in Joliet and Peotone, Illinois, and Waukesha, Wisconsin. The nominee also served as a subject matter expert in responses to other contaminants of concern including: harmful algal blooms on the Ohio River, nitrate contamination of private wells in Juneau and Wood counties in Wisconsin, and the COVID-19 response at public water systems.

The nominee also empowers staff to work at the forefront of lead research. Region 5 staff promotes protocols the team has identified to help better characterize and understand the nature of lead corrosion and release in a drinking water plumbing network. Further, continuing research in this area during 2020 includes exploring novel methods to identify lead service lines in cooperation with Office of Research and Development, which will build upon this body of work. Lastly, in 2020 the nominee engaged Region 5 states to help identify issues with the proposed Lead and Copper Rule that warranted comments and sought to highlight inconsistencies in the proposed LCRR that need to be addressed by the Agency when the LCRR is finalized.

In all of these and other high-profile situations, the nominee has proven to be a trusted technical expert, calming presence, and exceptional messenger of key technical and policy issues to senior leaders, states, and the public. The nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in bringing people together to solve important environmental problems.