



What Is Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment (OCCT)?

Under certain water conditions, corrosive water can cause lead to leach from older household lead service lines or lead solder and into drinking water. As part of the Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule, drinking water utilities are required to continuously monitor and maintain optimal water chemistry to prevent corrosion that can cause lead contamination.

Denver Water has a more than 100-year track record of providing exceptionally safe drinking water in a water scarce region. They have submitted a comprehensive recommendation for OCCT. It includes enhancements to their proven pH balancing system and a lead service line removal program, which is ultimately the most effective way to prevent lead contamination – removing the source.

Why Is This An Important Public Health And Regional Issue?

Contrary to the recommendation of Denver Water, as well as numerous wastewater and drinking water utilities, municipalities and environmental groups, a recent CDPHE decision requires Denver Water to add a chemical called orthophosphate into its drinking water system to control corrosion.

There are acute public health, socioeconomic and ecological risks associated with importing a large new source of phosphorus into the South Platte watershed, including:

- **Harmful algae blooms** in watersheds used for drinking water supply that could create immediate and severe risks to public health, including paralysis and death.
- **Diminished water quality** that impairs the ability of downstream users to utilize water in the South Platte River Basin.
- **Socioeconomic impacts** to fisheries, agriculture, tourism, recreation and real estate.
- **Overlooking the State Water Plan** and the unique challenges our arid region faces in balancing safe, efficient and effective water infrastructure with a strong environment.

What Is The Solution? Maximize Overall Protection of Public Health:

There is a better way to ensure safe drinking water – a solution that protects public health and ensures safe drinking water without jeopardizing the regional watershed so many depend on for high-quality drinking water. We have an opportunity to:

- **Target the source** of lead contamination by removing lead service lines from the drinking water system. The permanent fix is an infrastructure solution.
- **Pause** the implementation to collaboratively identify the best solution, which can only be developed by considering all factors influencing public health and the environment.
- **Progress** with implementation in a responsible and progressive manner that considers Colorado's water quantity and water quality issues together.
- **Proceed** with a solution that provides long-term public health while avoiding adverse secondary impacts. Denver Water's recommendation provides a roadmap for this.





Why Does It Matter To The Metro District? Making Investments That Make A Difference:

Protecting the public health and safety of the communities where we live and work is our top priority, it is the reason the Metro District was formed more than 50 years ago.

We share a common goal of ensuring the safest possible drinking water. To truly achieve this, we believe that effective implementation of this decision must be:

- **Holistic:** Consider the full spectrum of public health factors, which are directly connected to environmental health.
- **Sustainable:** Acknowledge the adverse secondary affects to public health caused by increased phosphorous in the watershed, including harmful algae blooms that are proven to be acutely dangerous to people, animals and the environment.
- **Balanced:** Consider not just how water is treated, but all elements of our drinking water supply – the source, the treatment process and the delivery system.
- **Comprehensive:** Work to continually improve source water quality, treatment and infrastructure systems.

In the interest of public health, the Metro District is committed to reducing phosphorus in the watershed. The District has currently removed approximately 50% of phosphates in our system (from 1.05 million pounds annually to 490,000 with plans to further reduce to 202,000 in the near term).

The proposed addition of orthophosphate would:

- **Create a 10-20% increase** in phosphorous levels entering the region's wastewater utilities.
- **Significantly increase untreated phosphorus** discharged into the watershed from lawn and landscape irrigation.
- **Create direct regulatory conflict** between the Clean Water Act to reduce phosphorous and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

A Growing Coalition of Support

A growing number of organizations representing diverse interests from across the region believe there are better options that would more holistically ensure public health and protect the environment. This coalition includes the Metro District's 22 local government members with voting representation on our Board of Directors, The Greenway Foundation, City of Aurora, South Adams County Water and Sanitation District, Denver Water, The City and County of Denver, Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Association, and the South Metro WISE Authority.

