

June 2, 1948

Mrs. Gilbert J. Ross,
Cornish Flat Post Office,
Cornish Flat, New Hampshire.

Dear Mrs. Ross:

I am sending you herewith the report of the analytical results obtained on the two samples of water which you sent in to us. I am very glad that I requested that two samples be sent, since otherwise I should have had some doubt in my mind as to the significance of the analytical information. With the two samples available, it is quite apparent that there has been no accidental factor of contamination, since both are high in their lead content.

There is no question in my mind that this water is unsuitable for continued use for household purposes and as water for drinking. Water for such purposes should not normally contain more than 0.02 or 0.03 milligram lead per liter, and it cannot be regarded as safe for use if the lead content is in excess of 0.10 milligram lead per liter. No doubt you will recognize that when water is used for cooking some of it is boiled away and the lead, therefore, becomes somewhat more concentrated in the cooked material. The use of water of this sort for cooking, washing the dishes, and for drinking might well result in a lead intake from this source alone of 1/2 milligram lead per day. This is too much, and although it is entirely possible and likely that individuals could use this water for quite some period of time without serious consequence, there is unquestionably undue risk in so doing. I should certainly advise that steps be taken to eliminate the contamination of this water, if you find it necessary to continue its use. This will probably require the elimination of the lead piping in the water system. While you are at this you had better be sure that the reserve tank is free of lead compounds. Sometimes these tanks are made of unsuitable metal and quite frequently they are soldered and the solder comes in contact with the contents. Moreover, from time to time they are repaired by soldering. These factors may result in a considerable degree of contamination. In this instance it is to be noted that the water which came from the tank is lower in its lead content than that which came from the faucet. Therefore it may well be that the tank is wholly satisfactory. However, the facts in this regard should be established clearly, in connection with any changes you may make in the water system.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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Material: Drinking Water
Source: Home of G. Ross, Cornish Flat, N. H.
Submitted: 5-26-48 by Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Required: Lead Determinations

<u>Analysis Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Mg. Pb/Liter</u>
48A-4562	From Kitchen Faucet	0.26
48A-4563	From Reserve Tank	0.16

Reported: 5-29-48