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Director, Division of Public Health

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To: Local Health Departments

From: Zack Moore, Acting Epidemiology Section Chief
Scott J. Zimmerman, Director, NC State Laboratory of Public Health
Larry D. Michael, Environmental Health Section Chief

Subject: Testing of Private Drinking Water Wells for Hexavalent Chromium and Vanadium

This memo is to inform local health departments that testing for hexavalent chromium and vanadium continues to be available at the State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH) to all private drinking water well owners by request.

The Division of Public Health's Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch (OEEB) will continue to provide health risk evaluations (HREs) for results indicating hexavalent chromium levels exceeding 0.07µg/L. However, use recommendations will not be provided until the US Environmental Protection Agency specifies a level for this contaminant in the Integrated Risk Information System. The Division is working with academic researchers to secure funding for evaluating home (point-of-use) technologies for treating hexavalent chromium in private wells. This research is expected to start in early 2017.

The OEEB will continue to use the Interim Maximum Allowable Concentration (IMAC) for vanadium of 0.3 µg/L until the NC Department of Environmental Quality updates the groundwater standard. When sampling results exceed the IMAC, the OEEB will provide HREs to private well owners.

Private drinking water well owners or local health department staff who have questions regarding health risks associated with specific well water test results should contact the OEEB at 919-707-5900.

For further questions regarding this memo, please contact the OEEB at 919-707-5900, SLPH at 919-733-7834, or the Environmental Health Section's On-Site Water Protection Branch at 919-707-5854.

