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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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MDE

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Acting Secretary

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Lt. Governor

October 14, 2003

Mr. Robert L. Buglass, P.E.  
Principal Environmental Engineer  
Environmental Group  
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission  
14501 Sweitzer Lane  
Laurel, MD 20707

Re: PWSID 015-0005 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission  
The Lead and Copper Rule

Dear Mr. Buglass:

Thank you for your September 15, 2003 letter which provided the name of the specific chemical Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) plans to add to the drinking water at their two water treatment plants (Potomac and Patuxent) this year, as requested by this office.

Based on our review of the Product Data Sheet and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Astaris phosphoric acid (75%), and that this specific chemical meets ANSI/NSF Standard 60 for drinking water treatment chemicals, Astaris phosphoric acid (75%) meets with MDE's approval as a drinking water additive for the WSSC. Although NSF lists a maximum use of 13 milligrams per liter (mg/L), your letter states that the orthophosphate concentration will only be approximately 1 mg/L as PO<sub>4</sub> as the maximum dosage. Please notify this office if WSSC plans to make any changes related to the proposed chemical or dosage.

We understand that WSSC plans to start adding phosphoric acid to the drinking water at the Potomac Filtration Plant in the fall of 2003 and the Patuxent Filtration Plant by end 2003. Please notify this office in writing once each step has been completed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-537-3729.

Sincerely,

*Christina Ardito*

Christina Ardito  
Public Health Engineer  
SDWA Implementation Division  
Water Supply Program