



## **EPA Proposes Major Changes to Lead and Copper Rule for Public Comment December 2019**

On November 13, EPA published long-awaited proposed revisions to the 1991 Safe Drinking Water Act's lead and copper rule (LCR) for public comment. Comments are due January 13, 2020, although we expect there will be requests for additional time, which EPA will likely allow. On November 5, members received a one-page summary of key requirements that the proposed rule seeks to impose on you, as well as a 14-page summary outline of key proposed changes to the rule. We will discuss all of this, including the preparation of the SCWQA's comments on this proposed rule change during the membership meeting.

We understand that EPA is determined to finalize this rule ahead of the November 2020 elections. Accordingly, they have structured the proposed rule to anticipate as many changes and alternative approaches as possible to avoid the need to republish the rule should they make substantive changes. EPA will likely argue that any changes arose out of the options in the rule or the specific requests for comment on alternative approaches. Thus, barring a surprise, we are anticipating EPA to finalize the rule next summer, ahead of the November elections.

We will review a number of the key changes that are being proposed during the membership meeting.