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Get the Lead Out!: Implementing the Lead and Copper Rule in Georgia

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The details of the Flint, Michigan drinking water crisis are familiar by now. Following a switch from using Detroit's water supply to treating water pumped from the Flint River, corrosion caused lead to leach from pipes throughout Flint's system into its drinking water. Similar events in other cities, such as the switch in 2007 to bottled water in Baltimore, Maryland schools after concerns were raised about lead content, have made plain that addressing lead in drinking water is not just a problem for Flint, but a national one. This article examines the underlying legal structure already in place to prevent lead from reaching unsafe levels in the nation's water supplies, and how those requirements should be implemented in Georgia for new sources of drinking water serving large water systems.