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N.J. pushes Trump administration to tighten rules for lead in drinking water

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New Jersey is pushing the federal government to beef up protections for lead in drinking water, after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggested major changes to its rules for the first time in decades.

The top law enforcement officers in nine states sent a letter to the agency summarizing their concerns Wednesday, the extended deadline for public comment.

The EPA's proposed changes "misses the mark," Gov. Phil Murphy said in a statement, and fails "to adequately address our nation's rapidly deteriorating water infrastructure."

State Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, who co-signed the letter, argued in a statement that more resources needed to be spent on lower-income communities.

Late last year, the EPA proposed several updates to its Lead and Copper Rule. That includes mandating that systems replace certain lead lines and improving the chemical process that prevents lead from breaking off into water.

That process is what broke down in Newark.

Grewal and other officials support those changes, but want the agency to do more. Among other requests, the letter asked the EPA to tighten standards for how much lead is allowed in drinking water.

On the same day the EPA originally filed the proposal, Murphy endorsed a plan that would replace all lead lines in New Jersey over a decade, at a potential cost of more than \$2 billion.