

Water & Sewer Agenda Summary

Date: December 14, 2022

Key Staff Contact: Adam Prior, Chief Engineer & Michaela Jackson,

Title: EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Update

Summary: In recent years, there has been greater national awareness of the potential for lead in drinking water and the adverse health effects this can cause over a long period. Lead pipes have historically been used in homes, as people did not know that lead could seep out into drinking water. The issue really became apparent with the public health crisis in Flint, Michigan, from 2014-2019.

The water leaving Greeley's treatment facilities is lead-free, lead does not come from our water supplies or the city's water delivery pipelines. We have been monitoring and proactively removing lead from our supply network since the 1990's. Historically, lead piping was sometimes used in the service lines that connect individual properties to the water main. The Water & Sewer Department has already replaced all known City-owned portions containing lead (from the water main to the water meter) but has not replaced the customer-owned portions (from the meter to the house). Up until now, these have been left for homeowners to replace at their own discretion. This means that in older homes built prior to 1981 (based on Greeley's adoption of the International Plumbing Code that banned lead in water service lines) the customer portion of service lines may still contain lead.

In December of 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency released revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR), that strengthen the regulatory framework governing lead in drinking water. One of the key elements of the LCRR is the requirement for water systems to develop and maintain a service line inventory, including material information for both the public and privately owned portions of the system. The LCRR also required that any galvanized steel lines downstream of historical lead lines must also be removed.

To provide the best possible water to our customers, and to stay ahead of the regulatory framework the City is initiating two projects. The first project is titled; WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY POTHOLING PROJECT, this project will identify homes with lead service lines or galvanized steel downstream of historical lead service lines. The first phase will start in early 2023 and will begin with the digging of basketball sized potholes at 120 pre-determined properties to identify service line pipe material (public & private). This project will then be expanded to a further investigate 1,980 older homes over the next 3-5 years.

Before potholing begins, affected customers will receive two notification letters, a door hanger, and City personnel or a consultant will be available for communications. These customers will also receive an invitation to complete an online survey to identify service line material as it enters the home. Those who complete the survey will receive a \$50 discount from their water bill. Those with suspected or confirmed lead service lines or galvanized steel downstream of a historical lead service line will be offered free filtered water pitchers and a six-month supply of replacement filters.

Where lead or galvanized steel downstream of historical lead service lines are identified, the project titled: WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT will replace these water service lines. This project will replace service lines to the first fitting inside of the customer's

house as required by the EPA's revisions at no cost to the customer. Customers will need to sign an acknowledgement and consent form for this work to take place. They can decline this replacement, but they may eventually be required to do so at their own expense, estimated at \$6,000 to \$10,000.

These projects are critical for the City of Greeley as we meet changing regulations and continue our mission to provide high quality, safe, and reliable drinking water to customers. Effective communication and customer engagement will be key to the success of this project. More information is available on our website at [Lead and Copper \(greeleygov.com\)](http://greeleygov.com/LeadandCopper).

Recommended Action: None

Attachments: None