

Title Lead and Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement
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I. INTRODUCTION

It is a requirement of the State of Illinois law that the City of St. Charles as a Water Utility Owner work to remove lead from the City’s water distribution system. This work includes replacement of all lead and galvanized water service lines. Water service lines are water pipes and other plumbing components that run from the water main, which is located in the Right of Way (ROW) or Easement, into residential, commercial, institutional or industrial customer's private property. The water service line is jointly owned by the property owner and the City. The property owner owns the portion of the water service line from the curb stop (or buffalo box), which is typically located near the ROW line, to the water meter inside the building structure. The City owns the portion of the water service line from the curb stop to the water main. Maintenance of and replacement of any lead or galvanized pipe or components on the interior plumbing side of the water meter is the exclusive responsibility of the property owner.

II. INTERNAL PLUMBING of STRUCTURES

The City is responsible for providing safe drinking water to our customers, which includes actively removing lead and galvanized water pipes and other plumbing components on the outside of the water meter. However, the City cannot control or replace lead or galvanized water pipes and components on the inside of the water meter on private property. Thus, minimizing lead exposure is a shared responsibility of the City of St. Charles and property owners. It is strongly advised that drinking water customers (owners) remove any lead or galvanized pipes and plumbing components present on their private property.

III. APPROACH FOR REPLACING LEAD OR GALVANIZED WATER SERVICES

The City will be responsible for the entire water service line replacement from the water main to the water meter at no cost to the customer. The City will install the new water service line and all associated plumbing components of the replacement on both the exterior and interior of the property (up to the water meter) in a like manner and to current code standards. The City of St. Charles recognizes each water service line replacement will be different and unique, however are committed to coordinating with the property owner to achieve a mutual desired outcome. The City will retain the final determination and decision of all associated work both inside and out of the structure.

IV. PROCESS AND PROCEDURE FOR CITY INITIATED REPLACEMENTS:

For City of St. Charles' Initiated Maintenance Projects (Temporary Repairs) – Property owners will be notified that their water service line may need maintenance on the day the need for the maintenance is identified and confirmed. Property owners will receive documentation that their water service line may have lead or galvanized pipe or other lead or galvanized components and requires replacement. On the day maintenance activity on the water system commences, a lead filtering pitcher will be provided to the customer, and the private property owner & resident (if rental) will be advised that the pitchers should be used for any water used for human consumption until the replacement of the water service line is completed in its entirety. (see below for information on property owner refusal of replacement)

For City of St. Charles Initiated Capital Improvement Projects – Property owners will be notified that their water service line will be impacted by an upcoming capital project. A lead filtering pitcher will be provided, and the private property will be advised that the pitchers should be used for any water used for human consumption until the replacement of the water service line is completed in its entirety. (see below for information on property owner refusal of replacement)

V. PROCESS AND PROCEDURE FOR PROPERTY OWNER INITIATED REPLACEMENTS:

For Request Initiated by Private Improvement Projects (Development Projects) – Property owners will be responsible for the full-extent of the water service line replacement from the structure (including the water meter) to the water main. Typically, these private projects require the re-routing or upsizing of the existing water service line as a result of site construction demands.

For Request Initiated by Land Owner Not Related to Private Development - Should a property owner approach the City with a desire to replace their privately-owned water service line the City will facilitate replacement of the entire water service line at no cost to the property owner, if the water service line has lead or galvanized pipe or other lead or galvanized plumbing components. The City will replace property owner-initiated water service lines in the order that

requests are received by the Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division, if adequate funds are available in the fiscal year budget for Lead Service Line Replacement. A detailed budget line for Lead Service Line Replacement has been established by the City and work for all lead service line replacements are contingent upon budget availability in the current fiscal year. If budget is not available at the time of request for Lead Line Replacement, then the request will maintain its position on the list of service to be replaced and when additional funds are available, replacement work will commence in the order that requests were received at the discretion of the City of St. Charles. These property owners are advised to obtain the use of a lead filtering device for water consumed until such time that the City can replace the water service line. The replacement work will be completed within 90 days of the City having received confirmation of all the conditions mentioned above.

VI. REFUSAL OF ENTRY FOR WORK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY:

Maintenance Projects & Capital Projects – Any property owner who will not grant the City access to private property for the purposes of replacement of the water service line in its entirety must sign a Department of Public Health waiver indicating their refusal to take part in this Lead Service Line Replacement Program. The City will still complete the replacement of the water service line from the publicly owned water main up to and including a new curb stop valve. The remaining water service line portion to the private property shall remain turned off and water service will not be reinstated until such time that the waiver is signed and provided to the City. The waiver will also indicate that the property owner has received information regarding the potential short-term increase in lead concentration in their tap water due to the impact to the existing water service line containing lead or galvanized pipe or other plumbing components and that a filtering device is recommended for use for any consumed water. The City will provide the initial lead filtering device; however, the City will not be responsible for future replacement of filters in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.