



The Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority
2200 Robinson Blvd
Pittsburgh PA 15221

DATE

HOMEOWNER

MAILING ADDRESS

MAILING ADDRESS

Re: Homeowner Notification: Lead Water Service Line Replacement
Response Required

Dear Homeowner:

This important notice is to inform you of upcoming construction that may impact the quality of your drinking water at ADDRESS, PA. Due to the existence of lead service lines in some homes and through a nearly \$10 million grant/loan from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority (PENNVEST), the Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority (WPJWA) is replacing approximately 1,000 lead water service lines throughout its service area. According to our records, we believe that portions of your service line may be made of lead.

In the near future, the WPJWA will perform work on your street to locate and remove water service lines that are made of lead. If we confirm your privately owned water service line is also made of lead, WPJWA will replace the privately owned lead water service line at no direct cost to you. The property owner must sign an agreement with WPJWA to allow for the private line replacement including access to your property and the inside of your home. The agreement will also include a two (2) year maintenance period for all external portions of the service line. After two (2) years from completion of the work, the responsibility for maintaining the privately owned service line will revert to the property owner.

Action Required Prior to Private Line Replacement

Included in this mailing is an Agreement authorizing WPJWA and its Contractor to perform all construction required to replace your private lead service line. Please review the Agreement and return all three pages to WPJWA's representative, ms consultants, within thirty (30) days if you would like your privately owned service line replaced in coordination with WPJWA's scheduled work. After receiving your signed agreement, a WPJWA representative will be in contact with you to schedule an initial home inspection. In lieu of the initial home inspection, you can submit two photos of your service line to the WilkPennLead@msconsultants.com email address. The first photo should be of your meter from between 5 and 10 feet away while the second photo should be a close up the area between the water meter and the wall or floor. The first photo is needed to ensure contractor access while the second photo should confirm that your service line is lead.

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Private Lead Replacement – What to expect

After the inspection or photo documentation and confirmation of an accessible lead service, WPJWA will add your address to the construction project. You will be contacted prior to work being performed on your property. This work will require workers to enter the inside of your property for several hours to replace the service line. During construction, WPJWA may be required to make minor improvements to your internal plumbing including installation/replacement of the backflow preventer, pressure reducing valve, expansion tank, meter and isolation valves. WPJWA will also be responsible for restoring private property such as lawns, landscaping and driveways that may be disrupted during construction to a condition similar to the pre-construction condition.

After the work is completed by the certified plumber within your home, another entry may be required for the Allegheny County Plumbing Department to inspect the work and confirm compliance with County Plumbing regulations. In many instances, the Plumbing Department inspection may happen on the same day as the service line work. If the inspection does not happen on the same day as the actual work, the additional entry will be required. Property owner or designee, at least 18 years old, must be present for these scheduled visits.

Lead Service Line Help Desk

Please contact the Lead Help Desk or call 412-264-8701 ext. 18100 with any questions you may have about the upcoming work and the lead line replacement program. The Lead Help Desk can also be reached by emailing WilkPennLead@msconsultants.com. The Lead Help Desk phone number and email address are being answered by the Authority's Consulting Engineer ms consultants.

Signed agreements can either be mailed in the included self-addressed stamped envelope or digital copies (scans, photos, etc.) of the signed form can be emailed to WilkPennLead@msconsultants.com

A list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers and Risk Mitigation Information are also attached.

Thank you for working with us. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we perform the work.

Sincerely,
Brian Bianchi
Executive Director, WPJWA

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Lead Service Line Construction Impacts

The information below is intended to inform you of construction impacts.

- This work may impact the quality of your drinking water. Follow the attached flushing instruction after the work is completed. The instructions will also be provided at time of work.
- “No Parking” signs will be posted 48-hours before construction and door hangers will be placed at affected properties 1-2 weeks prior to construction.
- This work will temporarily impact your water service for approximately 4-8 hours.
- Depending on the location of your lead service line, WPJWA will need to excavate a portion of your sidewalk and yard. All disruption will be addressed by WPJWA to a condition similar to the preconstruction condition at no cost to the property owner.
- At the end of each shift and on weekends, WPJWA or its contractor will reopen traffic in both directions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What will the lead replacement cost me?

The project is being funded through a grant and loan from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority (PennVEST). All construction costs including permit fees and restoration costs will be covered by the grant/loan. Property owners will be required to be home for an initial inspection of the service (if needed), during the day construction is completed, and for the inspection by the Allegheny County Plumbing Division.

2. How long will the initial inspection take to complete?

The initial inspection should take less than 30 minutes and can be scheduled for convenience.

3. When will the initial inspection take place?

The initial inspection will be scheduled once the Authority receives the Agreement to access your property. Inspections may occur anywhere from 15 to 90 days after receipt of the signed agreement.

4. When will I know that my house has been selected for the project?

You will only be notified if your home will not be included in the project and the reason for disqualification. You will be provided with an opportunity to address the issue and potentially could be added to the project.

5. When will the construction phase take place?

The construction will occur over an 18 month period between April 2025 and October 2026. The Contractor will be required to contact you to schedule the work at a day convenient for you. No weekend work is permitted by contract.

6. Will the contractor need to enter my house?

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Yes, the contractor will need to enter your house to replace any lead pipe up to the existing meter. Property owner or designee, at least 18 years old, must be available on the days and time scheduled. The work will include providing a backflow preventer, two isolation valves, a pressure reducer, and an expansion tank (if one does not already exist). The Authority will be replacing the water meter as part of the project. The work is expected to be able to be completed in one 8 hour day. Once the lead line is replaced, the Authority will also need to enter your home to install a new meter. The meter replacement will occur the same day as the lead line replacement.

7. Who do I call if I have an issue with the outside water service?

For the first two years after the service line is replaced, you should call the Authority about any problem with the external copper service line. The Authority will contact the Contractor and address the problem. After two years, ownership and maintenance responsibilities will be with the property owner.

8. How long will I be without water?

Water will be shutoff while the service line is replaced. In most cases, water will be restored within a few hours but no later than by 6 pm the day of the work.

Photos need to be emailed to WilkPennLead@msconsultants.com and include address in subject line

PHOTO EXAMPLES



The first photo should be of your meter from between 5 and 10 feet away



The second photo should be a close up of the area between the water meter and the wall or floor, depending on where the water line enters your home.

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Risk Mitigation Measures for Water Systems Conducting Lead Service Line Replacement

While working to complete service line improvements to your drinking water distribution system, it is important to note that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that lead service line replacements (LSLR) are associated with short-term elevated drinking water lead levels for some period of time after replacement. In accordance with 25PA. Code §109.4(4), public water suppliers shall take whatever investigative or corrective action is necessary to assure that safe and potable water is continuously supplied to the users. Therefore, to comply with this regulation and address concerns associated with elevated lead levels, any water system that conducts LSLR, including galvanized requiring replacement service lines, or that removed a lead pigtail, gooseneck or connector, is expected to follow the risk mitigation measures outlined in this document for the associated customer(s). For additional information on completion of risk mitigation measures, water suppliers may reference the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Standard C810, *Replacement and Flushing of Lead Service Lines*.

The following three steps are to be completed in conjunction with replacement of each lead service line, galvanized requiring replacement service line, and the removal of lead pigtails, goosenecks or connectors.

- 1) Provide notice to the owner of the affected service line, or the owner's authorized agent, as well as non-owner resident(s) served by the affected service line, **before** the affected service line is returned to service. The notice must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Include the following mandatory health effects language established by the EPA under 40 CFR 141.85(a)(1).

“Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.”
 - b. Explain that consumers may experience a temporary increase of lead levels in their drinking water due to the replacement of their service line.
 - c. Include information about removing and cleaning faucet aerators, flushing service lines and re-installing cleaned faucet aerators before the affected service line is returned to service.
 - d. Include the following informational statement in Spanish regarding the importance of the notice. “ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.”
 - e. Contain information regarding the importance of the notice in the appropriate non-Spanish language(s) if either of the following criteria are met:
 - i. A system serving at least 1,000 people has a non-English-speaking group other than Spanish that exceeds 10% of the community residents.
 - ii. A system serving less than 1,000 people has a non-English-speaking group other than Spanish that exceeds 100 community residents.

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WPJWA Lead Service Line Replacement Program

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRIVATE SIDE REPLACEMENT OF LEAD SERVICE LINE

Date: _____, 2025

The Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority (“WPJWA”) is offering certain property owners with lead or galvanized water service lines, replacement of their lead or galvanized water line from the water main to the curb stop and from the curb stop to the meter or to interior plumbing, at no direct cost to the property owner.

Under WPJWA Rules and Regulations, the WPJWA has maintenance responsibility for water service lines of 1 inch in diameter or less, serving a single family residence, from the water main to and including the curb stop, as more fully described in the Rules and Regulations. The property owner owns and is responsible for the maintenance of that portion of the water service line running from the curb stop to the meter at the premises being served by WPJWA water and all internal plumbing. As part of the Lead Service line Replacement Program, the WPJWA, will be (1) replacing lead or galvanized water service lines for which the WPJWA has maintenance responsibility (from the water main to the curb stop) or (2) replacing the portion of the lead water service line owned by the property owner (from the curb stop to the water meter or to interior plumbing), or (3) both..

If the WPJWA determines, in its sole discretion, that replacement of the portion of the lead water service line owned by the property owner at a particular residence or related interior plumbing modification is not technically feasible or will result in excess expense, due to conditions such as length, terrain, obstructions, structures, pavement, trees, internal access or other utilities, WPJWA may exclude such residence from the Program and not replace the lead service line (public or private side).

Property owners, or the owner’s legal representative, must give their authorization by signing this Authorization for Private Side Replacement of Lead Service Line Form (“Form”). Following is a description of responsibilities of the WPJWA and property owners who want to have their service line replaced:

WPJWA responsibilities

- As part of its Program and with the property owner’s signed Form, the WPJWA, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Form, will (1) replace the service line from the water main to the curb stop, (2) replace the service line from the curb stop to the water meters (for meters inside the home) or to a point within 1-foot inside the outer foundation wall of homes (for meters outside the home), (3) backfill any excavation from the curb box to the home and return all outside disturbances to their prior conditions, and (4) make interior plumbing modifications related to service line replacements, as required by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD)(limited to installation of a backflow preventer, pressure reducer, isolation valve and water heater expansion tank all as required by ACHD), all at no cost to the property owner.
- The WPJWA’s contractor will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits
- The WPJWA will require by contract that the contractor and/or subcontractor are insured.
- The WPJWA’s contractor will be responsible for providing all pipe, fittings, miscellaneous material, equipment, tools, and labor to perform all required contract work previously listed. All replacement and repair debris will be removed from the work area by WPJWA’s contractor upon completion of work.
- The WPJWA contractor, before any work is done, will examine the areas of the property that will be disturbed by construction and provide pre-construction photos to WPJWA.
- If the service line or any plumbing connected to it is damaged during the replacement of the service line and the property owner notifies WPJWA of the damage within two (2) years of the installation of the new service line,

WPJWA's contractor will be responsible for repairing or replacing the damaged service line and any damaged plumbing connected to it.

- The WPJWA will be responsible for maintenance of the external portion of the new copper water service line for a period of two (2) years from completion of service line. If the property owner has any issues with the external water service, they will be required to call the WPJWA and request an inspection and repair, if required.

Property Owner's Responsibility

- Property owner recognizes that during the replacement of the service line that there will be an interruption of water service to the property.
- Property owner or designee, at least 18 years in age, must be at the property on the dates and time scheduled for the initial inspection, contractor to perform the work, and ACHD plumbing inspection.
- Property owner must provide reasonable, safe, lighted, and unencumbered access to the water meter and to the water service piping inside the property, including access to the wall or floor area where the water meter service line enters the building, and moving any items blocking access such as boxes, furniture, washers, dryers, etc.
- If meter and/or service line is located behind a finished wall, or under a finished floor such that gaining access will disrupt the room finish, the property owner will be responsible for removing the obstruction and establishing the necessary access to perform the work. Restoration of the disturbed area upon completion of the service line replacement and any plumbing modifications is the property owner's responsibility. If the property owner is unwilling or unable to comply, the lead service line will be deleted from the Project.
- After a two (2) year period, maintenance of the service line from the curb stop to the water meter will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- The property owner will be responsible for the backflow preventer, pressure reducer, isolation valve and expansion tank starting 2 years from the installation date.
- The property owner, after completion of work, is responsible for performing the required flushing of the property's plumbing system as described in the WPJWA Flushing Instructions for Replacement of Water Service lines (provided after agreement signed) after completion of work.
- If requested, the property owner agrees to take tap water samples and return them to the laboratory in accordance with the Authority requirements.
- The property owner will be required to be at the property during the Allegheny Health Department inspection. Failure to complete a successful inspection within 60 days of project completion will result in a water shutoff until the inspection is completed.

I hereby authorize the WPJWA to (1) replace the service line from the curb box to the water meter (for meters inside the home) or to a point within 1-foot inside the outer foundation wall of the home (for meters outside the home) and (2) make any included interior plumbing modifications in my property in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Form and I agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Form. I agree that by signing this Form that the WPJWA is permitted, but not obligated, to replace the service line and make any included plumbing modifications.

I certify that I am the owner, or the legal representative for the owner, of the below service address property and have the legal right and authority to execute this Form and to grant the WPJWA the rights set forth in this Form. I hereby grant to the WPJWA and its contractors or sub-contractor the license and the right to enter this property and perform such inspections, testing, construction, and repairs as determined reasonably necessary for the replacement of my service line and any related interior plumbing modifications. I certify that if there are any tenants or other residents of the property other than the undersigned, I will provide them advance notice of the scheduled work and provide a copy of the Flushing Inspections or Replacement of Water Service lines to them.

I agree that I am responsible for ensuring that the property is in safe and sanitary conditions and that the necessary plumbing shall be accessible for workers to complete the replacement of the service line any required interior plumbing modifications.

I understand that if the WPJWA determines that safe and sanitary conditions are not met, or that the plumbing is not accessible, replacement will not be done.

I agree, on my own behalf, and on behalf of all other persons who could claim by or through me, except for the express obligations in this Authorization Form, to release and hold harmless the WPJWA from any and all claims, causes of action, damages, or losses, of any nature whatsoever, that I may have with respect to the work authorized by this FORM; it being acknowledged and agreed by me that I have accepted the offer of replacement of the service line and any included interior plumbing modifications voluntarily at no cost and my sole recourse shall be to pursue the Contractor Warranty.

OWNER INFORMATION

(if different from property address)

PROPERTY INFORMATION

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

PROPERTY OWNER OR REPRESENTATIVE(S)

(Signature)

(Type or Printed Name)

DATE: _____

Please provide the contact information where you can be reached **during normal business hours:**

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

Not Interested, Remove from Mailing List