DC Water Customer-Initiated Lead Service Line Replacement Program

05/27/2020
1. Background
2. Current inventory
3. History of LSR in DC
4. Voluntary Replacement Program
5. Early Challenges
6. Customer and Community Outreach
7. Current Challenges
8. Recent Developments-New Lead Law
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UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER SERVICE PIPE

- **Public Water Main**
- **Water Service Pipe**
- **Public Space Pipe**
- **Private Property Pipe**
- **Point of Entry (POE)**
- **Premise Plumbing**
- **Shut Off Valve**
Service Line Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>10,838</td>
<td>18,597</td>
<td>10,749</td>
<td>21,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>15,825</td>
<td>84,343</td>
<td>15,846</td>
<td>17,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-lead</td>
<td>99,412</td>
<td>23,136</td>
<td>99,809</td>
<td>87,232</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DC Water updated our inventory to minimize unknowns (~50%) and be conservative in assuming lead

- Construction
  - Replacements, repairs
- Meter pits
  - Service lines might be visible (DC’s are not)
- Historical
  - Tap cards
- EPA 1991 LCR Study
• In 2003, the EPA directed DC Water to replace Lead Service pipes at a rate of 7% per year.

• In January 2006, DC Water was in compliance with LCR and was no longer under the EPA mandate.

• DC Water continued aggressive lead service line replacement strategy.
*Legal limitation to lead service replacements (LSRs) on the public side

*Few private parties agreed to replace private side due to cost which was set at $500 + $100/ft. (About 20% participation)

- In February 2009, DC Water Board of Directors adopted resolution establishing Voluntary Replacement Program.

- $2M as part of the Infrastructure Repair and Replacement Contract (IR&R).
Voluntary Replacement Program

If both portions are lead and no CIP work is planned, DC Water pays for the portion in public space, coordinates the work, the homeowner is responsible for costs on private property.

Private-side Costs
- Historically about $750 + $125/ft
- Currently about $1,000 + $150/ft

Public-side Costs
- $8,500 with restoration

Figure 7. Customer-initiated LSLRs in Washington, DC (2009–2018)
Early Challenges

- Permitting with District agencies
- Interest & participation
1. Community Engagement
   - 100+ events annually
   - ANC presentations, community meetings, DC Council staff briefing
   - Realtor group briefings, community groups (e.g. Greater Washington Urban League)

2. Direct Customer Communication
   - Bilingual mailers
   - Simultaneous bill message & social media push
   - Newsletters, bill inserts

3. Expansion of tools
   - Inventory map (2016)
     - dcwater.com/leadmap
   - Free lead testing
   - Point-of-entry pipe material identification guides
   - Dedicated lead hotline
Current Challenges

- Scheduling with homeowners
- Homeowner affordability
Recent Developments

- Established DC Law 22-241 Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018
  - Disclosure of lead pipes and testing results to tenants & homebuyers
  - 100% costs covered during CIP/Emergency replacements
  - Assistance program to redress past partial replacements
Current Replacement Programs

*NEW* Program 1 - Assistance Program to Redress Past Partials (LPRAP)
If non-lead on public-side and lead on private-side, a new program will cover 50% of costs regardless of income, or 80% to 100% of costs depending on income.

*NEW* Program 2 - CIP (SDWMR) & Emergency Repairs
Private-side lead service line replacement is free during small diameter water main or emergency repair work.

Program 3 - Voluntary Replacement Program
If both portions are lead and no work is planned, the customer is responsible for costs on private property.
Future Development

• Identifying non-ratepayer funding sources

• Engaging community to drive participation and awareness

• Advocating for policy and pursuing legislative opportunities

• Leveraging strategic partnerships
Questions?

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