



October 30, 2024

Initial Water Service Line Inventory Announcement

In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR), Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) recently submitted to the state of South Carolina an initial inventory of our service lines that connect our water mains to our customers' homes and businesses.

The main goal of the EPA's LCRR inventory requirement is to determine if any of a water system's lines are made of lead, so a fair and equitable replacement plan can be developed. This inventory is described as "initial" because the EPA acknowledged it may take utilities years to identify all their service lines.

It is important to note LCWSD's drinking water remains completely safe to drink and is lead-free when it enters our water system. However, as water travels through our system to our customers' faucets, lead can enter the water through service lines or the corrosion of private home or building plumbing that LCWSD is not responsible for.

LCWSD's water treatment targets the possibility of lead entering our system or our customers' plumbing, minimizing the likelihood it may leach into the water. LCWSD performs routine water testing to ensure our treatment is effective, and our results are published annually in our Water Quality Report.

During the initial inventory, LCWSD made the following findings:

- Out of the ~39,319 service lines in our system, 0 were found to be made of lead.
- ~0 lines were found to be made of galvanized material. Even though galvanized lines are not made of lead, the EPA requires that galvanized lines be treated as if they are made of lead because a lead line may have existed in the past and the possibility of exposure is increased.
- ~9,264 lines are designated "unknown." The EPA acknowledges in its regulations that systems would not be able to identify all of their water lines during this initial inventory. LCWSD will continue its inventory work until all lines are identified, in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

Every customer served by a lead, galvanized, or "unknown" line will receive a letter directly from LCWSD informing them of their finding; what they can do to reduce any possible exposure to lead; and what steps are being taken moving forward. Again, a finding of a lead, galvanized or "unknown" line does not mean a person has been exposed to lead, but that there could be an increased risk of exposure. LCWSD's treatment greatly reduces such a risk, as confirmed by our reduced monitoring requirements.

The initial water service line inventory is available on our website under the Water Service Line Inventory section of the “Customers” tab. Using the initial results, LCWSD will continue its determination of materials and development of a fair and equitable replacement plan, as required by the LCRR. LCWSD is reviewing a variety of federal and state funding opportunities to assist with our future Lead and Copper Rule compliance efforts.

The LCRR’s inventory provision also requires the nation’s water utilities to determine what materials make up the water service lines on or in the private properties of our customers. This is a much more difficult part of the regulation because LCWSD has not historically tracked or inspected the customer’s side of the service line.

As a result, LCWSD is continuing to ask our customers for help with identifying their private lines. LCWSD has produced a survey that walks customers through the identification process and makes it easy for them to submit their results. We ask our customers to take our survey by visiting www.lcwasd.org and searching for “service line material survey.”

While we still have some work to do, we’re proud of our compliance with the EPA’s revised regulations and our protection of our customers from lead, said Brad Bucy, PE, LCWSD District Manager. We will always comply with the EPA’s requirements and respectfully ask our customers for their continued help finding lead that may remain in their homes and businesses.

For more information on LCWSD’s full compliance with the EPA’s revised Lead and Copper Rule, visit www.lcwasd.org. For more information from the EPA about its EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule, visit www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule.