

Ellicottville Water District

Lead Service Line Inventory

Important – Action Required

You are receiving this letter in accordance with the requirements of the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI). **This letter indicates that the results of the LSLI found your residence to be served by a water service line made of either a galvanized material requiring replacement or of unknown material that may be lead.** At the current time, no lead service lines have been found in your water district.

When the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, the NYSDOH began a Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) which includes, as a first step, a required Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI). The purpose of this inventory is to identify known lead service lines and potential lead service lines because of the health concerns associated with ingesting lead contaminated drinking water. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for young children and pregnant women, in the form of new learning and behavior problems while adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

Water services lines made of lead are the sources that contaminate your drinking water. The following steps that can be taken to reduce your exposure to lead in your drinking water. Filtration and cleaning your water fixtures can reduce the lead in your drinking water. A water filter certified to remove lead and properly maintained can decrease the lead in drinking water. Regularly cleaning the screen within your faucet, also known as an aerator, removes the built-up debris which can contain lead. Lead dissolves easily in hot water so using cold water from your tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula can lower your exposure. **If you do not know what material your water service line is made of it is strongly recommended to practice the previously mentioned steps to lower the potential of lead exposure from drinking water.**

Learning what your water service line is made of is a required endeavor of the LSLI. Typically, the inventory divides the water service line into two sections: a public side and a customer side. The public side of the service line is typically that portion of service piping that is located between the water distribution main and the curb valve/shutoff valve. The customer side of the service line is typically that portion of service piping located from the curb valve/shutoff valve to the connected residential water pipes. The customer side of a service line is commonly seen as the responsibility of the customer. **Therefore, you may be responsible for replacing the customer side service line in the future.**

Replacement of your service line may be negated if the identification of its material is verified. To do this, you will need access to your water meter. You will need a magnet, a screwdriver, and a camera. Find the pipe feeding your meter and perform the test procedure described below. Submit the results to: greg.keyser@evlengineering.com. **If no photos are uploaded with the test, then the results cannot be verified, and your service line may be required to be replaced.**

Test Procedure: Check to see whether a magnet sticks to the pipe. Scratch the pipe with your screwdriver and observe the color of the underlying material. Take a picture with your camera and compare your water service line with the characteristics below:

Magnet sticks to pipe -> service line is Steel

Magnet does not stick to pipe (or you do not have a magnet)? Scratch the pipe and look at the color of the scratch:

dull gray and very hard to scratch -> service lines is Steel

copper-colored (like a penny) -> service line is Copper

same as pipe surface (may be black, blue, or white) -> service line is Plastic

shiny silver and easily scratched -> service line is Lead

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. As always, our goal is to continue delivering clean and safe drinking water to our community.

-The Ellicottville Engineering Department <https://www.ellicottvillegov.com/>

Resources

Environmental Protection Agency. (2023, September 6). *Summary of the Safe Drinking Water Act*. EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-safe-drinking-water-act>

Environmental Protection Agency. (2024, May 30). *Service Line Inventory Guidance*. EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/planning-and-developing-service-line-inventory>

Service Line Inventory Guidance. (2024, April). *NYSDOH Service Line Inventory Guidance Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) v2*. https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/docs/service_line_inventory_guidance_lcrr.pdf

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. (2021, January 15). *The Federal Register*. Federal Register <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-141/subpart-I/section-141.84>

Environmental Protection Agency (2022, August). *Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory*. EPA. https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-08/Inventory%20Guidance_August%202022_508%20compliant.pdf