

City of Aurora Private Service Line Replacement Program

Objective

The objective of this program is to assist City of Aurora water customers, impacted by water distribution system maintenance activities or by a capital improvement project, with the replacement of any privately-owned lead service lines (LSLs).

Background and Existing Program

Privately owned LSLs can be a source of lead in drinking water. The City currently is subject to testing lead levels within the City every three years in compliance with the Federal Lead and Copper Rule. This testing has shown the lead levels within select private residences in the City to be within current regulatory levels. Though the City's testing is within the federal regulatory levels, research has shown that when LSL's are disturbed and a portion is replaced, lead levels in the water at the customer's tap can potentially remain elevated for weeks or months after the disturbance. The City currently pays the cost of the replacement of any disturbed LSL from the publicly-owned water main to the shut off valve (also commonly known as the b-box, buffalo box, curb stop) and provides a point-of-use lead filtering device for use in each residence at the time of the LSL replacement. Under the existing program established and approved by the City Council in August 2018, the property owner is responsible for the remainder of the LSL replacement on private property, from shut off valve to the meter inside the building.

Revised Program

The City's revised LSL replacement program will provide for complete replacement of the existing privately-owned LSL from the publicly owned water main to the water meter inside the private structure. In lieu of private funding for the section of the LSL located on private property, the City will now fund the cost of the entire LSL replacement to avoid partial replacements and the possible associated temporary increase in lead levels at the tap. The private property owner will still be required to fund any repairs to drywall, flooring, or other cosmetic repairs beyond concrete foundation/slab repairs at the new water service line point of entry.

This program applies only to LSLs that are directly impacted/disturbed during maintenance and capital improvement project operations. Some infrastructure improvements may only impact a portion of the private properties within the project limits and only those private properties are eligible for LSL replacement under this program.

Process & Procedure for City Initiated Replacements

Maintenance Projects – Property owners will be notified that their LSL needs maintenance on the day the need for maintenance is confirmed. Property owners will receive documentation that their water service may be made of lead and requires replacement due to maintenance activities. On the day of the maintenance activity, a lead filtering pitcher will be provided, and the private property will be advised that the pitchers should be used for any consumed water until the replacement of the LSL is completed in its entirety.

Capital Improvement Projects – Property owners will be notified that their LSL will be impacted by an upcoming project. A lead filtering pitcher will be provided and the private property will be advised that the pitchers should be used for any consumed water until the replacement of the service line is completed in its entirety.

Process & Procedures for Property Owner Initiated Replacements

Should a property owner approach the City with a desire to replace their privately owned LSL, the City will replace the portion from the main on public property up to and including a new curb stop (buffalo box, b-box, shut-off valve) at no expense to the property owner. That property owner will be responsible to coordinate and fund the replacement of the remainder of the LSL on private property from the location where the City's improvements end to the water meter. The private portion of the work shall be completed prior to the commencement of the City activities and temporarily reconnected to the existing curb stop. These property owners are advised to obtain and use a lead filtering device for water consumed through the partially replaced line until such time that the City can replace the remainder of the LSL. The City replacement work will be completed within 90 days of the City having received notification that the portion of the service line on private property has been completed. The property owner shall receive approval from the City prior to commencement of their work, to ensure funding is available for the replacement of the remainder of the line, as the number of property owner initiated replacements will be limited annually and are subject to available annual funding.

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 purpose of replacement of the LSL in its entirety must sign a waiver indicating their refusal to take part in this program. The City will still complete the replacement of the LSL from the publicly owned water main up to and including a new curb stop valve. The remaining LSL portion to the private property shall remain 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 LSL 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.

Repayment for Private Side Replacements Under the Previous Program

This program is a revision to what was instated by the City on August 28th, 2018. At that time, the City only funded the replacement of the LSL on public property between the publicly owned water main and the curb stop valve. Under the previous program, various property owners replaced the remainder of their service from the curb box to the water meter. In these instances, the replacement was funded in its entirety by the property owner, or it was funded by the City under a low interest loan to be repaid to the City over a ten-year period. Any participant of either program since the creation of the program on August 28th, 2018 will be repaid their eligible out of pocket expenses for direct payments to contractors. Repayments will occur within 18 months of the approval of this revised Lead Service Line Program. Any existing loans will be forgiven and any loan payments to date will be repaid after receipt of details invoices and proof of payment for any eligible costs.