



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF ARLINGTON
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Memo to: Jim Feeney, Town Manager
From: Mike Rademacher, DPW Director
Date: October 17, 2024
Subject: Arlington Service Line Inventory and Lead Pipe Removal Program

The following is an update on the MassDEP's requirement for inventorying material type for the Town's water service lines and Public Works (DPW)'s efforts to comply. This requirement stems from recent revisions to lead and copper rules by the EPA that impact all community public water systems.

Service Line Inventory Program

In 2021, The MassDEP announced that communities will be required to develop an inventory of all water service lines for the purpose of identifying materials which will need to be replaced (Lead or Galvanized Requiring Replacement).

Lead Removal Program

Since 2015, Arlington has been working on a water meter replacement program which also included a service line identification component. Through visual identification data obtained during the meter replacements, and review of available records, approximately 9,000 water service line material types have been identified. There are approximately 12,750 water service lines in Arlington.

Between the records review and meter inspection program, the DPW identified 69 possible lead service lines in our system. As of spring 2024, all but 2 have been removed or confirmed to have been previously replaced. The remaining 2 are planned for removal this fall.

In 2024, review of additional record construction documents identified an additional 24 locations that may possibly contain lead. These addresses will be receiving notification letters, which include information on how to identify their water service material, and if lead, steps to remove it.

While we have been able to identify the material types for over 9,000 service lines, there remain approximately 3,500 lines where all or a portion of the service material is unknown. In order to eliminate unknowns from the system, Public Works will be performing the following:

Self-Identification

After October 28th, property owners can visit www.arlingtonma.gov/water, view the inventory, and follow the steps shown to identify their water service line material and report it to DPW.

DPW identification

In some instances where it is not clear to the property owner, or if DPW still needs to perform a meter replacement at a property, Public Works staff will schedule a visit to the property to assist in identifying the service line material.

Test Pit Excavations

In order to identify the service line material in the street between the water main and the curb stop (valve), DPW, through a contractor, will excavate small test pits to uncover the existing line and record the findings. Residents will be informed of any work prior to it commencing in front of their property.

DPW will schedule the removal of any lead service lines that are identified.

Key Deadlines

Oct 16, 2024 – Initial Water Service Line Inventory sent to MassDEP and made available to the public. **These deadlines have been met.** Additionally, an interactive map will be made available on the website the week of October 28, 2024.

Nov. 15, 2024 – By this date, notifications will be mailed to owners and renters of properties in the inventory that their service lines have been identified as unknown (approx. 3,500), potentially lead (24), or galvanized requiring replacement (2). - **DPW is on track to deliver these notifications by this date.**

October 2027 – Baseline Inventory due to MassDEP. The Baseline Inventory will determine future work to remove lead.

October 2037 – Complete removal of lead and galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service lines (both private and public).