

**Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority**  
**Lead Service Line Replacement Program Update**

**August 24, 2023**

**Background:**

In July 2021, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law P.L.2021, Ch.183, which requires community water systems in NJ to identify all lead service lines, provide public notification regarding the presence of all lead service lines, and replace all lead service lines by 2031.

The law places the responsibility of removing the entire line, including piping in portions of the line that are owned by the customer, on public water systems and changed the definition of lead service line to include any galvanized piping.

While the state of NJ banned the use of lead service lines in 1988, and Atlantic City banned their use in the mid-1950s. Therefore, the Atlantic City Municipal Utility Authority (ACMUA) is focusing on homes and buildings construction prior to the mid-1950s to determine service line materials of both the privately owned portions of the pipes and the utility-owned portions.

The water service line is defined as the water pipe connecting the water main to the interior plumbing of a building. The service line ends at the first valve or connector inside the building or crawl space or 3 feet inside, whichever is shorter. Typically, the property owner owns the portion of the water pipe between the water meter near the curb and the building, while ACMUA owns the portion of the pipe from the water meter to the main under the street or alleyway.

**Where we are:**

Of ACMUA's 7,863 Service Connections, 439 are known to contain lead and 2,277 are constructed of unknown material and are presumed to be lead until further investigation is completed. The remaining service connections are unlikely to contain lead based on our records research and service installation dates (after the ban of lead materials).

As of July 10, 2023, we had partially replaced 25 lead services and identified an additional 16 lead services. A partial replacement is defined as a replacement of only 1 side of the service line, usually the utility-owned portion, while the other side is lead and remains in place.

CDM Smith was contracted by the state NJDEP to assist us in our service line inventory review and make recommendations for us to better identify our lead service lines. They completed their review of the inventory and agree with our information. CDM Smith also provided recommendations for next steps for further investigation and replacement of the lead service lines.

Remington and Vernick, Engineers have been retained by the Authority to assist us in phasing our replacement plan and providing contract documents and specifications for the lead service replacement project.

The Authority has notified NJ IBank of our intention to utilize their funding mechanism to pay for the program, which could include funding for public outreach, investigations, and replacements of LSLs on both customer sides and utility sides. The funding is likely to be a combination of grants and low interest, long-term loan.

#### The Next Steps:

The Authority has prioritized investigating and replacing lead services in areas of the City that are being paved in Fall 2023. We are utilizing an existing contract for line replacements to accomplish that goal.

ACMUA is finalizing the Lead Service Line Replacement Program outlined below.

Phase 1 of the project will focus on any services for public buildings that support children, services that are on streets that the City intends to pave in 2024, and those services that exist in the Authority's Water Main Replacement Program that includes Baltic, MLK, South Carolina and Gramercy.

Phase 2 of the project will focus on services in areas that have larger piping that meets fire flow needs.

Phase 3 of the project will focus on services that are on 4-inch piping and may include water main replacement.

Future project phasing and scope will be dependent on available financing and our ability to maximize principal forgiveness opportunities as well as overall consideration of our Capital Program.

The Authority intends to have the project completed prior to 2031.

What does this mean for you:

The Atlantic City MUA regularly samples water at the taps of its customers for lead and reports the results to the NJDEP and in its annual Consumer Confidence Report delivered to customers in July of each year. The Atlantic City MUA has never had an exceedance of the action level for lead. All ACMUA drinking water test results can be found at NJ Drinking Water Watch at the following link:

[https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP\\_WaterWatch\\_public/](https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/)

The ACMUA employs two treatment processes to prevent lead from having an impact on its customers.

1. The addition of orthophosphate to sequester any potential lead in the system.
2. The addition of lime to increase water pH and limit the corrosivity of the water.

The ACMUA strives to deliver the highest quality potable drinking water in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner while working together as one team for our customers.