

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: Fwd: Water Service Lines - Lead | North Teutonia Ave Reconstruction Project

Categories: Public Works

We need a communication file on this issue. Please open.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bauman, Robert" <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Date: September 1, 2020 at 5:15:00 PM CDT
To: "Dettmer, Karen" <Karen.Dettmer@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: FW: **Water Service Lines - Lead | North Teutonia Ave Reconstruction Project**

From: JC Legal Resource Center, INC [mailto:jclegalrc@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Bockhorst, Tammy
Cc: Bauman, Robert; nlynette@jamescurtisgroup.com
Subject: Water Service Lines - Lead | North Teutonia Ave Reconstruction Project

Hi Tammy,

As a follow up to our brief discussion on August 25th, I am concerned about what seems to be the city's decision to not include the replacement of the lead service lines as a part of the current road construction on North Teutonia Ave between Groeling Avenue and West Capitol Drive. In the near future, I would like to discuss how *The Public Works Committee of The City of Milwaukee* might assist in securing a proper resolution, here. The replacement of the lead service lines in the North Teutonia Ave area must be included as a feature of the instant road construction project (titled: "2020-North Teutonia Avenue Reconstruction Project from West Groeling Avenue to West Capitol Drive.").

As you know, North Teutonia Ave is littered with antiquated service lines that expose each resident/patron/visitor/employee/etc. in the area to lead - especially within the past 10 to 15 years. In fact there are [approximately 40-89 properties within the North Teutonia Ave area](#) that have service lines made of **lead**: either the utility-owned section from the "main to the curb stop," the privately-owned section from the "curb stop to the meter," or both sections. As of today and for the next several months, however, the lead service lines in this area are extremely accessible because of the major road construction project currently underway. Therefore, the City of Milwaukee has the perfect opportunity to coordinate with the local property owners and remove/replace all of the lead service lines in the North Teutonia Ave area. (**Special note:** *approximately 22 buildings in this area are actually owned by the City of Milwaukee.*)

It is my understanding that the City of Milwaukee's Common Council has considered this issue on this project; and, may have received federal funds for that work. However, the Common Council has either blocked funding; or, otherwise decided against working with each of the property owners of the 53206 zip code to procure relief from the significant lead exposure caused by the antiquated service lines.

The EPA explains that the most important step in the protection against lead exposure is to prevent it before it occurs. See *additional information from the EPA, below*. Overall, lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels and the EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero. Upon consideration of the EPA's "zero contaminant goal," it could be argued that the City of Milwaukee's refusal/denial/obfuscation of funding to replace its portion of the lead service laterals during the instant road construction project could be viewed as an attempt to perpetuate the poor health, strained educational outcomes, and lower quality of life for the black and brown majority citizenry that lives in the 53206 area. We have seen in recent months how the erosion of trust can only accelerate when the government actively undercuts a community's posterity.

Lead Exposure & Poisoning [according to the [EPA](#)]

Lead can enter drinking water from corroded plumbing materials that contain lead. Properties with lead pipes that connect to the water main can be a significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Lead is persistent, and it can bioaccumulate in the body over time; and, the impact of lead on the human body can be devastating:

Children: Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in:

- Behavior and learning problems
- Lower IQ and hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Anemia

In rare cases, ingestion of lead can cause seizures, coma and even death.

Pregnant Women: Lead can accumulate in the body over time, where it is stored in bones along with calcium. During pregnancy, lead is released from bones as maternal calcium and is used to help form the bones of the fetus. This is particularly true if a woman does not have enough dietary calcium. Lead can also cross the placental barrier exposing the fetus to lead. This can result in serious effects to the mother and her developing fetus, including:

- Reduced growth of the fetus
- Premature birth
- Infant mortality

Lead can also be transmitted through breast milk.

Adults: Lead is also harmful to adults. Adults exposed to lead can suffer from:

- Cardiovascular effects, increased blood pressure and incidence of hypertension
- Decreased kidney function
- Reproductive problems (in both men and women)

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I look forward to your response. During the day, I can be reached at 414.276.4050 or nlynette@jamescurtisgroup.com.

Sincerely,
N. Lynnette McNeely

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