



MEMORANDUM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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To: Milwaukee Water Works
From: Aaron Cadle – Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Date: January 7, 2016
Subject: Lead Service Connections Survey

Per your request, LRB has surveyed various comparable municipal drinking water utilities concerning each utility's lead service connections policy (i.e., policy governing customer connections to the utility's water main when these connections use lead pipes). LRB attempted to contact 15 comparable utilities, and the following 9 responded:

Boston, MA
Cincinnati, OH
Cleveland, OH
Dayton, OH
Des Moines, IA

Indianapolis, IN
Philadelphia, PA
Pittsburgh, PA
Rochester, NY

This memo is a summary of the findings of this lead service connection survey.

The chart below lists the total number of service connections and the subset of lead connections for the responding utilities and the Milwaukee Water Works.

Utility Location	Service Connections	
	Total	Lead
Boston, MA	75,000 residential	~40,000
Cincinnati, OH	240,000	16,000
Cleveland, OH	450,000	> 45,000
Dayton, OH	~50,000 residential	~35,000
Des Moines, IA	~75,000 residential	~12,000
Indianapolis, IN	315,000	2,000
Milwaukee, WI	160,000	75,000
Philadelphia, PA	500,000	60,000
Pittsburgh, PA	83,000	Unknown
Rochester, NY	57,000	~20,000

EPA Sampling Compliance

All responding utilities are in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency lead concentration guidelines.

Curb Stop to Meter Connection Ownership

Each customer for all responding utilities owns the service connection from the curb stop to the customer's meter.

Main to Curb Stop Connection Ownership

Each responding utility owns the service connection from the main to the curb stop except Des Moines and Philadelphia.

Voluntary Notice of Lead Service Hazards

Only 2 utilities, Boston and Cincinnati, have programs to voluntarily notify customers of the risk of lead service connections, although Rochester does encourage customers to "flush" water lines before using for a period after the utility "disturbs" existing lead connections when it replaces mains.

Lead Service Connection Replacements

No responding utility has a proactive program to search for and replace lead service connections. All utilities replace lead service connections from the main to the curb stop at their own expense when lead connections are discovered during repairs or main replacements. Note that this portion of the service connection is owned by the utility except in the cases of Des Moines and Philadelphia. Also note:

1. Philadelphia replaces the entire lead service connection from main to customer meter (owned solely by the customer) when discovered, at the utility's expense, without charge to the customer. Rates for the utility are set by a committee appointed by the mayor and are not governed by an independent public service commission, which gives the utility considerable flexibility to increase rates to pay for service connections not owned by the utility.
2. Des Moines replaces lead service connections from the main to the curb stop at the utility's expense, even though these connections are owned by the customer, not the utility.
3. Pittsburgh, like Philadelphia, replaces the entire lead service connection from main to customer meter when discovered, but charges the customer for the replacement from the curb stop to the meter (the portion owned by the customer). The utility offers

customers financing to pay for the replacement over time. An unpaid connection replacement charge ultimately becomes a lien against the property if not paid in compliance with the financing program.

4. Cincinnati encourages customers to replace lead connections from the meter to the curb stop when the utility is replacing the connection from the curb stop to the main, and is considering, but has not established a loan program to help customers finance these replacements.
5. Cleveland only replaces from the main to the curb stop on the "short side," i.e., the portion of service connection that does not require excavation of the street.
6. Dayton estimates the utility replaces approximately 750 main-to-curb-stop lead service connections each year. With an estimated 35,000 lead service connections, it could take the utility nearly 47 years at this rate to replace all main to curb-stop lead connections.