

## **2017 Lead Service Line Replacement Plan**

The Milwaukee Water Works will begin the mandated full replacement of lead service lines with copper when they are leaking or damaged at all properties. A lead service line also would be replaced when a planned infrastructure project would disturb it. There are no such projects for 2017 known to include lead service lines but it is possible some lines could be disturbed.

The City owns the section of the water service line from the water main to the curb stop at the property line. The property owner owns the section from the curb stop to the water meter.

**Mayor Tom Barrett signed an ordinance** Dec. 20, 2016, approved by the Common Council, which requires replacement of the city and property owner's side of a lead service line ***when leaking or damaged***.

- To be eligible for a subsidy and financing plan, the property must be residential with 1-4 units.
- The Milwaukee Water Works will coordinate the replacement, hire a contractor and pay all costs up front.
- When the project is complete, the City will bill the owner for one-third of the cost or \$1,600, whichever is less. This may be paid in full, paid over 10 years, or paid off early, but will cost no more than \$16 per month.
- There is no subsidy for owners of either residential properties with more than four units or commercial properties. They are required to replace a leaking or damaged lead service line with copper at their expense.
- There are about 300 leaks on lead service lines each year in Milwaukee. That's the approximate number covered in the 2017 plan.

### **Child cares and private schools in 2017**

In 2016, Milwaukee received \$2.6 million in Safe Drinking Water Loan (SDWL) monies from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Of this, \$1.6 million will be used to replace lead service lines at 385 licensed child cares and 12 private charter schools. Milwaukee Public Schools do not have lead service lines.

The remaining \$1 million SDWL funds will be used to pay the city's two-third share of private side replacements for 2017.

**Previously, for a lead service line leak**, the Milwaukee Water Works replaced the city owned section with copper and encouraged the property owner to voluntarily pay to hire a contractor and replace their section with copper. The city plan does not include retroactive payment to property owners for previously replaced lead service lines.

### **If your lead service line is not leaking or damaged but you want to replace the lead with copper:**

- There is no cost share with the city or special assessment financing. The property owner must pay for the replacement.
- Obtain quotes, and if you choose to hire a contractor, before you start, please call the Milwaukee Water Works, (414) 286-3710, to coordinate your work on the private side with our work to replace the city owned side of the lead service line.