



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

January 16, 2018

Alderman Michael Murphy
Milwaukee Common Council
Milwaukee City Hall
Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Alderman Murphy:

Thank you for your letter of January 12, inquiring about the timing of public statements on water filtration. I agree with you that lead contamination is a critical issue for Milwaukee families. It is important that we provide residents with accurate information and facts.

Your letter has two statements in it that need clarification and correction, as they are based on a single communication from April 2015. First, you stated about the employee communication:

“Furthermore, he stated “both USEPA Region V and the DPH concur with the Milwaukee Health Department that there is a risk of significant increase in lead concentrations in drinking water if **partial replacement of lead service lines (length of service from distribution to curb stop) occur in the City of Milwaukee as proposed by MWW.**”

Second, you stated regarding replacements and filtration advisories:

“Those statements were sent to Commissioner Baker on April 1, 2015. **Subsequently, replacements of lead service lines apparently continued for 17 months. It wasn’t until roughly September 2016 the administration instructed citizens to install filters capable of removing lead and announced a moratorium on water main repairs.**”

The moratorium on water main relays with lead service lines you reference began in January of 2016, when the results of the 2015 MWW pilot were final and presented to me. Beginning in January 2016, customers requiring an emergency replacement of either the customer or utility

side of the water service were advised on lead hazards and provided a filtration device as part of their work.

Below is a brief timeline that should provide context and clarity regarding your concerns. A fuller version of this timeline was presented to the Common Council in January of 2016. That document and numerous other documents are attached to Common Council File Number 151484, which was updated and heard again in June of 2016.

Also attached is a timeline of the 2015 MWW pilot showing customer and Council communication.

2015

February - April: Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) and Milwaukee Health Dept. (MHD) convene working group with US Environmental Protection Agency and WI Department of Human Services to begin inquiries on lead levels related to lead service lines leading off of water mains.

April: MWW designs and MHD reviews a study of the changes in lead levels in drinking water under normal main replacement practices.

May - June: Mayor and Council briefed on the lead service pilot study, with a testing protocol and communications jointly developed by MWW and MHD. Of 21 invited households, 6 voluntarily participate. All 36 properties with lead lines are notified and advised on how to reduce risk before and after mains work.

June: First pilot samples collected, sampling continues through December.

November: National Drinking Water Advisory Council issues final recommendations to US EPA, including rule changes on replacement of lead service lines and other changes to the Lead & Copper Rule.

December: Final pilot study sampling. MWW sends survey to 10 local utilities on lead services and policy/practice. Legislative Reference Bureau conducts similar survey of US cities. Both find MWW generally in line on lead service replacement practices.

2016

January: Final pilot results complete. Of the 6 homes, all had an increase in lead levels in the post-connection samples, followed by a return to approximately pre-work levels.

City-State-Federal work group reconvened to discuss the results. Out of caution, communication on lead is made with 26 additional properties which had water main work done late in 2015.

After reviewing the results, Mayor Barrett announces suspension of water main relays involving lead services. Mains with copper services will continue to be replaced in 2016,

and new protocols for lead service disturbances will be developed to ensure work is done with maximum public health benefit.

A letter is sent to the PSC informing them MWW will not be performing main replacements that include lead services in 2016.

City agencies continue to discuss with State and Federal partners the future approach to lead service lines that supports Milwaukee's long-standing commitment to reducing lead contamination risks.

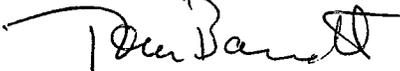
February: Letters mailed to approximately 70,000 Milwaukee households informing them that they have a lead service line, and advising how to reduce lead hazards.

New MWW protocols and communications, developed jointly with MHD, are put in place. These include advising filtration, as well as providing filtration for residents whose LSLs have been disturbed.

I remain committed to being transparent with the Common Council and our residents on this issue, and appreciate your inquiry. I agree with you and your colleagues - lead is a critical health issue for our city, and we need to remain focused on reducing lead risks and lead contamination for all Milwaukee families.

My Administration will continue to be transparent with the Common Council and the public on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Milwaukee Water Works

Safe, Abundant Drinking Water.

2015 MWW Water Main Replacement Program Lead Service Line Monitoring Pilot

Timeline

2015

MWW begins accelerated water main replacement program

Jan to March MWW develops study plan to assess impact of construction practices on lead levels at tap where water services are made of lead, requests review of sampling and analytical approach from USEPA Region 5 representative

April Discuss pilot with Mayor's Office staff and MHD
Develop communication plan and risk messaging: MWW, MHD and DPW
Review pilot design: MWW, MHD, State Health, USEPA

May 19th: Brief Mayor Barrett
19th to June 18th: Inform Alderpersons who had water main projects in their districts that included premises that may be asked to participate in study (Alds. Murphy, Stamper, Bauman, Witkowski, Donovan, Kovac, Bohl, Hamilton, Davis, Perez, Wade, Puente)
Note: Ald. Murphy requested survey of what other cities do (completed). Ald. Witkowski requested that a file be opened at Public Safety to discuss (not yet done)
20th: First letters go out inviting participation in pilot
23rd: First personal visits to residences to invite participation in pilot
28th: Progress report at AIM meeting

June 3rd: First samples collected for pilot. Sampling continues intermittently throughout summer as construction projects proceed. All results were shared with MHD who reviewed and edited MWW draft letter to customer transmitting results.

October 9th: Informal meeting with Jeff Stone of PSC (Korban, Lewis). Financing of lead service line replacements was briefly discussed
20th: MWW and MHD review results to date.



November 17th to 19th: National Drinking Water Advisory Council finalized recommendations to USEPA regarding lead service lines and changes to Lead & Copper Rule. (Lewis is member of Council.)

December 10th: Final samples collected for pilot
12th: Progress report at AIM meeting
16th: MWW sends informal survey to 10 Wisconsin utilities about their lead service practices

2016

January 7th: MWW presents results to MHD and consult on next steps.
8th: MWW/MHD discuss results to USEPA, DNR, WI Dept of Health Services and consult on next steps
11th: Update to Mayor's Office on pilot results and options for next steps
12th: Brief Mayor Barrett on pilot results and discuss options for next steps
12th – 13th: Discuss pilot and possible impacts on 2016 water main replacements with PSC's Stone and Schmidt.