

## Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of frequently asked questions that you may have as we look to complete the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. For more information regarding the project, check out the “What to Expect” document.

### Why am I included in this project?

- The water service material going to your property has been identified as either lead or galvanized pipe by one of the following ways:
  - past construction,
  - old records, and/or
  - visual inspection from last summer's inventory project.

### How many people will be included in this project?

- Currently, 154 water service replacements are scheduled to be included in this project.

### Why do we need to replace lead and galvanized pipes?

- Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, interfere with the production of red blood cells and has been linked to lower IQ in children. Lead can be stored in the bones and released during pregnancy to the fetus, or later in life causing additional health problems.
- Visit the following website to learn more about the effects of lead:
- [https://www.health.mn.gov/communities/environment/water/factsheet/letitrn\\_english.html](https://www.health.mn.gov/communities/environment/water/factsheet/letitrn_english.html)

### Why should I participate in this project?

- As of now, the State has funding available to cover the cost for replacing any identified lead or galvanized pipe.
- This funding is only available through your public water system (BELW). By participating in this project, your service will be replaced with all or much of the cost covered by grant dollars.

### What happens if I do not want to participate?

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to require all lead and galvanized services to be replaced within a 10-year span. Minnesota has a statewide goal to identify and replace all lead service lines by 2033.
- If you choose not to participate, you may be required to replace your lead or galvanized service at your own expense later when funding is no longer available.

### How do I participate in this project?

- Sign and return the informational flier with your contact information on it.
- BELW and Bolton & Menk will reach out to schedule a time to visit onsite.
- Sign and return the Final Agreement Form that went out in the mail.

### Who will be conducting the work?

- Once plans have been reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Health, BELW will hire a contractor through a competitive bidding process. This contractor may hire additional contractors and plumbers to help with construction.

### Can you do plumbing work for me while you're here?

- No additional plumbing work can occur outside of what is needed to replace the lead service pipe up to the meter.

### What if I have lead pipes throughout my home?

- This project cannot address lead pipes after the meter. Any pipe replacement past the meter will be the property owner's responsibility.

### Do I need to be there to let you in?

- Yes, the contractor or inspector will not enter your home without you present. The contractor will coordinate with you in advance on when your service is planned to be replaced.

## How can I stay informed?

- Visit [www.blueearthconstructionprojects.com](http://www.blueearthconstructionprojects.com) to learn more about the project.
- You may also sign up for email updates and visit this site frequently to stay informed.
- Updates regarding individual water service replacements will not take place from this website. Blue Earth Light & Water, and Bolton & Menk will be reaching out to property owners individually when it comes to replacing your particular water service. (This is why it is important that we receive your contact information).

## How will my service be replaced?

- Two methods of replacement will be reviewed. Each property will be unique, and the plan / method will be presented to the property owner prior to performing work.
  - Open Cut Method
  - Trenchless Method

## Will you need to shut off my water?

- There will be occasional water shutdowns throughout this project. If your property is affected by a water shutdown, you will be notified at least one day before it occurs. These shutdowns usually take less than 4 hours.
- Emergency shutdowns may occur as well. This would be an unplanned shutdown due to unforeseen circumstances. In these rare situations, notice will not be provided, and the contractor will work diligently to address the issue and get the water turned back on as soon as possible.
- Overall, water shutdowns should be minimal on this project.

## Will there be outside disturbances?

- Outside disturbances will vary depending on the method needed to install your service.
- Concrete sidewalks and driveways removed as part of the project will be replaced and reinstalled as part of the project.
- Yards will be restored with salvaged topsoil and new sod.
- Any landscape pavers on private property that need to be disturbed will be salvaged and reinstalled as part of the project costs; any landscape rock or mulch on private property that needs to be disturbed will be salvaged and reinstalled as part of the project cost.
- Any retaining walls on private property that need to be disturbed will be salvaged and reinstalled as part of the project cost.
- Please let the contractor know of any buried private utilities such as dog fences and irrigation lines. Any dog fences and irrigation lines disturbed within the public right of way will be at the expense of the homeowner. Any dog fences and irrigation lines disturbed on private property will be fixed or replaced as part of the project cost.

## Will there be inside disturbances?

- Inside disturbances will also vary depending on the property and finishings.
- In most situations the water services enter homes into an unfinished room in the basement or crawl space. Minimal disturbance will occur in this situation. The water service either enters through the foundation wall or comes up out of the floor. If the service comes up out of the unfinished floor. The contractor will cut an approximately 3' by 3' opening to run the new pipe through. This opening will be restored with concrete and covered as part of the project cost.
- If carpet or other flooring is on top of the concrete floor where the water service enters through the floor, the contractor will replace the opening with concrete still as part of the project cost. The carpet or other flooring will need to be replaced by the property owner. Other installation methods will be reviewed in scenarios like this to reduce the amount of disturbance.
- If the service comes through the foundation wall, the contractor will either remove the old service line and run the new 1" PE pipe through the opening, or they will come through the floor. Whatever provides the least amount of disturbance. Any costs related to restoration of drywall or finishings will not be included in this project. If this scenario occurs, the contractor will do their best to minimize disturbance. It will be up to the property owner to coordinate and pay for this type of restoration.