



EPA Advisory Group Focuses on Lead Service Line Replacement Requirements in Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

The National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) has put together a Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Working Group tasked with making recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. The rule revisions are slated to be finalized in 2017. Recently the working group met to tackle the thorny legal issue of lead service line (LSL) replacement. Under the current LCR, if a system exceeds the lead action level at the 90th percentile (meaning 10% or more of samples collected from customers' taps were higher than 1.5 mg/L for lead) following the installation of corrosion control treatment and/or source water treatment, the system is required to identify the number of LSLs in its distribution and the system must replace at least seven percent of LSLs annually. Also under the current rule, in situations where the system does not own the entire LSL, the system is only required to replace the portion that it owns. Based on draft recommendations from the NDWAC LCR working group, these requirements could change – requiring water systems to replace all portions of LSLs. The working group introduced a draft

list of recommendations, which includes a checklist for systems to work towards compliance with the LCR.

The draft reviewed at the working group's meeting in April included recommendations that all public water systems implement a LSL replacement program and that systems should work with customers to replace all LSLs within twenty years of the final date of the revised rule. The draft recommends that systems work toward this requirement in a sequence of three-year milestones with a heavier workload in the early milestones since "progress may be more difficult to achieve in later years with those LSLs that remain at that time," the group writes in its draft.

The milestones would also include a requirement to provide targeted education to homeowners serviced by a LSL and the status and results of a consumer lead sampling program. See Table 1.

If systems cannot meet the milestones outlined in Table 1, then the working group has proposed an alternative checklist to provide systems with additional options to show they are making an effort to achieve compliance with the LCR. The checklist options include: giving notice to customers of the need to replace their LSLs; having

Also under the current rule, in situations where the system does not own the entire LSL, the system is only required to replace the portion that it owns.

Proposed Three-Year Cycle Milestones										
Action	2020	2023	2026	2029	2032	2035	2038	2041	2044	2047
LSL Replacement Progress	Initial	80% Remaining	60% Remaining	40% Remaining	20% Remaining	5% Remaining	3% Remaining	1% Remaining	0% Remaining	0% Remaining
Targeted education programs underway	Yes. If not, then explain.									
Status of consumer sampling	NA	# done & # offered								
Results of consumer sampling										

Table 1

Checklist of options to be accomplished by utility if replacement progress goals in Table 1 not met. ¹		
Resident engagement	System policies	Other
1. Notice to new customers of need to replace lead service line	1. Plumbing code requires full replacement if service line will be disturbed.	1. Local health agency contact with resident.
2. Written offer to replace when main in street rehabbed (customer pays)	2. Funds identified to cover customer costs sufficient to maintain progress for period.	2. Local health agency funding for removal as part of remediation
3. Written offer to volunteer (customer pays)	3. Funding options such as liens on home provided to customers.	3. Media campaign launched
4. Written refusal from customer	4. Requirement on other utilities practices	4. Homeowner association send letters to members supporting replacement.
5. Certified letter sent	5	5
6. In-person call or visit made	6	6

Table 2

¹EPA and state will provide guidance of the options and update them periodically as best practices evolve.

local health agencies contact residents; obtaining written refusal [to comply with the LCR] from customers; launching a media campaign on lead awareness; getting involvement from local homeowners' associations; identifying funds to cover customer costs for compliance sufficient to maintain progress on complying with the rule for a given amount of time. See Table 2.

As previously stated, these recommendations are still in draft format and we will have to wait to see what final recommendations will come out of the LCR working group – which were initially due to come out in April/May 2015. For more information on the NDWAC LCR working group, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/ndwac/lcr.cfm>.

Citation: <http://insideepa.com/inside-epa/ndwac-outlines-checklist-lead-water-service-line-replacements?docid=181081>

Taking Water Systems to New Heights

SCH₂WAB EATON

Schwab Eaton

785.539.4687
Schwab-Eaton.com
 Manhattan | Wichita | Beloit | Salina

- Community Planning
- Construction Support
- Parks, Recreation, & Tracks
- Site Design & Development
- Storm Water Management
- Topographic & Boundary Surveys
- Transportation
- Water and Waste Water

Civil Engineers • Land Surveyors • Landscape Architects