



JEFFERSON PARISH

PUBLIC WORKS • DEPARTMENT OF WATER

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Notice of Unknown Service Line Material

You are receiving this letter because of a federal requirement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA now requires all water systems in the country to notify customers each year about the material of their water service line, even if the material is still unknown. These notifications will continue annually until every service line in Jefferson Parish has been fully identified.

DOES MY SERVICE LINE HAVE LEAD?

We have not yet confirmed what type of pipe connects your home to the water system. The Jefferson Parish Water Department is taking proactive steps towards definitively identifying every service line through our AMI (advanced metering infrastructure) project. Should any lead service lines be found, they will be replaced by the Water Department. As part of the same federal requirements, our existing lead service line inventory can be found on the Water Department's website at www.JeffParish.gov/LEADSAGE. More information will be added to this website as the project progresses.

HOW IS JEFFERSON PARISH PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER?

The Jefferson Parish Water Department is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. For over 25 years, Jefferson Parish has used a corrosion control method recommended by the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule. We add an *orthophosphate chemical corrosion inhibitor* to the water, which creates a protective coating on the inside of water pipes preventing metals, including lead and copper, from leaching into the water. The concentration is monitored both at the plant and within the distribution system to ensure that the proper levels are maintained.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE SURE I DON'T HAVE LEAD PIPES?

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, enforcement of the federal lead ban began in Louisiana in September 1988, so if your home was built after that, you should not have lead pipes. If your home was built before 1988, the EPA provides guidance and steps to take to determine what your pipe is made of. For the EPA's step-by-step online guide, visit www.epa.gov/lead. Should you determine that your pipe is made of lead, please contact the Jefferson Parish Water Quality Laboratory at **(504) 838-4313** or JPWaterQualityLab@jeffparish.gov.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD?

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Thank you for your attention to help ensure safe drinking water for everyone in Jefferson Parish. For more information from the Jefferson Parish Water Department, visit the Utility Services Dashboard at JeffParish.gov/UtilityServices or the Lead Service Line Inventory page at www.JeffParish.gov/LEADSAGE.



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