



From: Ridgewood Water
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For Immediate Release

New Jersey Water Utilities Start Acting on Groundbreaking Lead Service Line Legislation February 17, 2022

In accordance with groundbreaking state legislation that is designed to reduce lead in drinking water and improve public health, public community water utilities in New Jersey have taken the first steps to identify and replace the state's lead-containing service lines. Within the next few weeks, certified letters will be sent to all customers who have a known lead-containing service line informing them of the dangers of lead in drinking water and listing actions they can take to reduce their exposure. Utilities will be offering to replace lead and galvanized steel service lines, including the portions owned by the utility and the property-owner.

In July, 2021, state legislation ([P.L. 2021, c.183](#)) was enacted to replace all service lines made of lead or galvanized steel and all lead connectors within 10 years (i.e., by July 2031), positioning New Jersey to be the first state in the nation to do so. The letters are one of three legislatively-required steps that will affect New Jersey water customers in 2022.

As a first step, water utilities will create and update an inventory of water service line materials and make them available to the public beginning January 22, 2022. For utilities serving over 3,300 customers, the inventories must be hosted on the water utility's or municipality's website. To improve the accuracy of the inventory, utilities will contact customers who are served by service lines of "unknown" composition to identify the pipe materials that exist on the utility-owned and privately-owned sides of the line.

Water utilities must also develop an initial lead service line (LSL) replacement plan by July 22, 2022. The plan, which will be updated over time, will provide a blueprint for replacing all LSLs and galvanized steel service lines in each water utility's service area within the next ten years at an average annual replacement rate of at least 10 percent.

"Ridgewood Water applauds the passage and implementation of recent legislation which creates a roadmap for the removal of all lead and galvanized service lines in New Jersey by 2031. Notifying homeowners of the existence of lead or galvanized materials is a critical first step toward ensuring that

our communities are free from the risks of lead exposure from drinking water service lines,” said Richard Calbi, P.E., Director of Ridgewood Water.

For more information on New Jersey’s Lead Service Line Legislation, visit this [New Jersey.com article about the legislation](#).

For more information about lead in drinking water, watch this [AWWA video “Getting the Lead Out”](#)

For more information on how to mitigate the public health risk of lead service lines, visit the [United States Environmental Protection Agency’s webpage on lead in drinking water](#).

For more information on how to identify if you have a lead or galvanized steel service line, visit [NPR’s interactive tool](#).

If you are a Ridgewood Water customer, please visit the interactive [service line look-up tool](#) to determine the materials in your service line.

ABOUT RIDGEWOOD WATER:

Ridgewood Water provides water services to 60,000 consumers in the Boroughs of Glen Rock and Midland Park, The Township of Wyckoff and the Village of Ridgewood. For more information about Ridgewood Water and its initiatives, visit <http://water.ridgewoodnj.net> or call 201-670-5520.