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## Lead and Copper Rule Improvements: The Known Unknowns and How Utilities Can Prepare

March 29, 2023









# The Known Knowns



## Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Improvements (LCRI) Timeline



## Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)<sup>GARCADIS</sup>

## Key Areas of Change

- LSL removal prioritized for disadvantaged communities (DACS)
- Removal of all lead service lines, revising definitions of LSLs
- Reducing confusion between action and trigger levels
- Revising tap sampling

#### **Other Potential Options**

- Small system flexibility
- School and child-care sampling
- Risk communication
- Corrosion control treatment



## **LCRR Lead Service Line Inventory**

- The initial inventory is still due October 16, 2024.
- The inventory is complete when there are no more unknowns and no more LSLs.







# LSL Inventory



## Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory Requirements



- ✓ List, table or map w/ location identifier
- ✓ Specify on both portions:
  - lead
  - **galvanized requiring replacement**
  - non-lead
  - lead status unknown
- Publicly available (website for systems service > 50,000)
- ✓ Regularly update
- Submit annually or triennially (based on tap sampling frequency), unless all 'nonlead'

#### **Must submit to State**

• On or before October 16, 2024

#### Must notify customers

- For all lead, galvanized requiring replacement, and lead status unknown service lines <u>within 30</u> days
- <u>Annually</u> thereafter
- Must include instructions for accessing inventory in CCR

## What Information Can Be Used to Build An Inventory? ARCADIS

#### **Initial Inventory**

- Visual inspection
- Water system records, such as distribution system maps and drawings, installation and maintenance records
- Plumbing codes or ordinances
- Home build data to assign non-lead

#### **Opportunities for Improvement**

- During routine utility/contractor activities (e.g., water main repair or replacement, meter reading or replacement)
- In-home inspection, where possible, by customer or utility
- Predictive models to assess probability of lead
- Water quality sampling



Primacy agency may determine acceptable methods for identification

## Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan

All systems with <u>LSLs, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines</u> must develop a full LSLR plan that includes:

Funding Strategy for Recommended strategy to Strategy for Procedures for determining accommodate LSLR goal rate LSLR Procedures to notifying customers to composition of in event of TL customers that conduct full customers prior flush service line prioritization lead status are unable to exceedance LSLRs to full or partial and premise strategy approved by the unknown pay to replace **LSLRs** plumbing service lines State the portion they own Submit to the State by the compliance date (i.e., October 16, 2024)

## **Additional Changes Around LSLR**

#### •"Test outs" no longer allowed

#### **Partials**

- Partials discouraged
- Do not count towards goal or mandatory replacement rates
- Good faith effort for simultaneous replacement

## Customer-initiated replacement

 Replace public portion within 45 days if replaced within last 6 months or if customer intends to replace\*

\*Can extend up to 180 days with notification to the State



### What Can You Do Now to Prepare?

#### Develop an improved service line inventory

- Gather and review available records
- Verify Tier 1 and 2 sites and update sampling pool
- Take advantage of opportunities to collect data in field

#### For systems with LSLs, estimate 90<sup>th</sup> percentile

- Collect and compare first and fifth liter data
- Never too early to start a corrosion control study

#### Develop a path forward to achieve full LSLRs

- Decide how to conduct and prioritize full replacements
- Obtain any needed legal authority
- Explore funding options

#### Improve customer communications

- Determine approach for reaching renters
- Identify partners and key messages



# The Unknown Knowns

## Environmental Justice (EJ) is the Focus of EPA Stakeholder Engagement and Analysis

"The key area of the rule EPA is evaluating for the LCRI EJ analyses focuses on...how to replace lead service lines in a manner that prioritizes historically disadvantaged communities."

USEPA OGDW

Presentation to Science Advisory Board, November 2022



### **Disadvantaged Community**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides funding to remove lead service lines in disadvantaged communities.

At least 49% of the funding must be principal forgiveness.

**USEPA** is allowing states to define "Disadvantaged Community"



### **Ohio's Definition of Disadvantaged Community**

General Criteria	Program Value
Service Area Population*	Less than 10,000
Documented human health-related factors	Presence of indicators
Economic Benchmarks	Program Value
Median Household Income (MHI) less than or equal to statewide average	≤ \$58,116
Individuals with income below 200% of poverty level ≥ statewide average	≥ 30.4%
Unemployment rate ≥ statewide average	≥ 5.3%
Water and sewer rates compared to MHI ≥ statewide benchmark	≥ 2.5%



### **Ohio's LSL Funding**

- Up to 53% of project cost in principal forgiveness
- Remaining project costs may be financed at 0% interest rate
- Lead service line replacement must include both public and private service lines.
- Principal forgiveness funds may be awarded for a singular project or across multiple projects awarded throughout the program year
- LSL principal forgiveness funding must be awarded to Disadvantaged Communities



### **LSL Project Planning Information**

**Describe the following:** 

- the water system's understanding of the existence and prevalence of lead service lines
- the proposed project in relationship to the overall lead service line inventory
- the relationship of this project to other anticipated water line projects
- anticipated environmental impacts and their minimization (tree removal, storm water inlet protection, traffic disruption, etc.)



### **LSL Project Planning Information**

**Provide the following:** 

- preliminary estimate of the project costs and financing; if the project will affect rates, include the estimated increase and timing of legislation
- a realistic project schedule
- copy of communications (already shared or anticipated) with property owners explaining the project, short-term water shutoff, options for private-side lead service line replacement, the access agreement or other legal authority to work on private property, and a statement that the system will comply with OAC 3745-81-84 "Control of lead and copper – lead service line requirements



# The Known Unknowns

## **Other Potential Prioritization Factors for LSLRs**

Structures with a Confirmed Lead Service Line (LSL)

Water Quality Results

Areas with Higher Blood Lead Levels (BLLs)

Areas with High-Risk Populations

Areas with Other Utility Work





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We can't force PWSs to pay...

...but some places have figured out how to make it free for customers...

...and people who cannot afford to pay for LSLRs are also the most vulnerable...

...and there is a LOT of funding available...

...so why *wouldn't* a PWS have a program to cover the cost of a full LSLR?



## **How to Implement Private-Side Replacements**

#### **Voluntary Program Considerations**

- Focus on participation through outreach
- Obtain funding to cover full replacements
- Customer access agreement/declination forms
- Partials completed if the customer declines or non-responsive

#### Mandated Program Examples

- Operating license renewed for food service or childcare
- Registration renewed for rental properties
- Property sold
- Buildings rehabilitated
- Service line disturbed by nearby construction or public works activities
- Require all LSLs to be replaced by a certain deadline
- Cease reconnects with lead lines/ repair work on any lead lines



# (How to Prepare Customers for) Unknown Unknowns



#### **Define Key Messages for All Customers**



Lead in drinking water is a public health concern

- Water is lead free when it leaves the treatment plant.
- Our utility is committed to providing and maintaining safe drinking water for customers

Lead service line replacement is required

Removal of lead service lines benefits our entire community



# It's Not too Early to Seek Out Those 'Not In The Room' and Provide Education in Multiple Formats

- Door hangers / yard signs / post-cards
- Social media
- Newspaper ads
- Movie theatre ads
- Website development and hosting
- Virtual and call-in options



Lead Service Line Replacement Program Guide



Please reference this guide for critical information throughout your lead service line replacement



- Evening open house / block events
- Morning coffee chats
- Flyers distributed by local businesses
- Tables at community events
- School/community list serves
- Materials sent home in school packets
- Call-in options

### **Flushing Promotes Healthy Water**





Follow ANSI/AWWA C810-17 and Water Research Foundation (WRF) guidelines

Conducted by the customer the day after replacement

Costs approximately <\$2 total (water and sewer)

## Final Thoughts

Lead and Copper Rule Improvements: The Known Unknowns and How Utilities Can Prepare

#### **ARCADIS**

#### ✓ Known Knowns

Manage your Lead Service Line Inventory data before it manages you

#### Unknown Knowns

Understand Disadvantaged Community and what it means in your service area

#### ✓ Known Unknowns

Plan for full LSLRs—apply for funding and plan strategy

#### ✓ Unknown Unknowns

Define and promote key messages to your customers to minimize surprises









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### Acronyms and Abbreviations

AL	Action Level
CCS	Corrosion Control Study
CCT	Corrosion Control Treatment
CWS	Community Water System
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FLSLR	Full Lead Service Line Replacement
LCR	Lead and Copper Rule
LCRR	Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
LSL	Lead Service Line
LSLR	Lead Service Line Replacement
MFR	Multi-family Residence
NTNCWS	Non-Transient, Non-Community Water System
POU	Point-of-use
SFS	Single Family Structure
TL	Trigger Level
WQP	Water Quality Parameter
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