

City of Kingston Lead Protection Program

Across the United States, 6 to 10 million homes still get their water from lead service lines – pipes connecting the main drinking water line in the street to our homes. These pipes can unpredictably release lead into drinking water. Corrosion control can help manage the risk, but the most effective long-term solution to protect children is full replacement of all lead service lines. The tragedy in Flint, Michigan put a national spotlight on the problem of lead in drinking water – and states and communities across the country are taking steps to tackle the issue.

Background on Lead & Copper Rule Revision

Who owns lead pipes on public property (typically called “public side”) and private property (typically called “private side”) varies from community to community, complicating financing of replacement. In some communities, the drinking water utility maintains they are limited in their ability to use public funds to pay for replacements on private property. However, removing only part of the lead service lines has been shown to increase lead levels in drinking water in the short term. Full replacement of the entire service line – including portions on both public and private property – is essential.