

A²H₂O

Quality Water Matters



Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor
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In November, Brian provided winter maintenance tips for protecting your water pipes from freezing. Little did we know how timely this information was as we were thrust into winter earlier than anticipated with 11 inches of snow and several days of below freezing temperatures in mid-November.

freezing temperatures in mid-November.

This month, as the Public Works Manager for the city, I wanted to update you on two large projects that will kick off this winter related to the city's water distribution system.

Water Meter Upgrade

In January 2020, the city will begin installation of upgraded water meters in residences and businesses. This work is estimated to be completed by December 2021. The current meters are reaching the end of their useful life and proactive replacement will avoid disruption in water service or billing error issues. This two-year project will replace approximately 26,500 water meters with new equipment that utilizes the latest metering technology, allowing for more accurate readings, and longer battery life.

We have skilled meter technicians like this month's Water Champion, Rich, who can perform this work. However, the scale of the project is just too large for city staff to accomplish in the timeframe we have targeted. The city has contracted with Utility Metering Solutions (UMS), whose professional staff routinely perform this work across the country. All UMS staff have undergone thorough background checks and will arrive at your home with identification in marked vehicles.

The project will be carried out by sectioning the city into different regions. Residents and property owners will receive a letter with scheduling instructions and details approximately 30 days before the planned replacement. The entire installation and inspection process will be completed in approximately 30–60 minutes, with interruptions to water service lasting no more than 15–20 minutes.

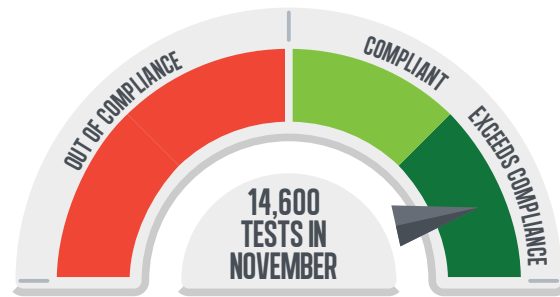
More information about the meter project as well as a video describing the installation process can be found at www.a2gov.org/meterupgrade.

Lead and Copper Rule Implementation

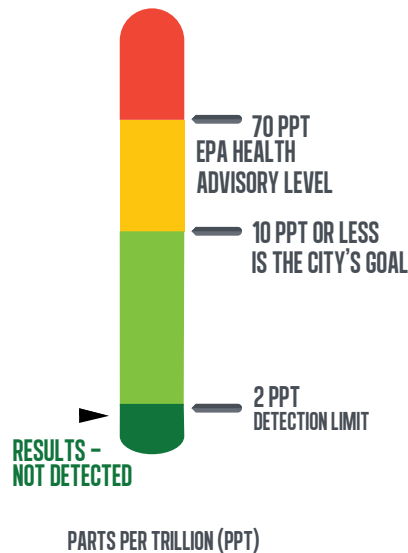
The September Quality Water Matters issue included information about recent changes to Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), which includes lowering the lead Action Level, new sampling techniques, and requiring water systems to complete a service line materials inventory and replacement plan.

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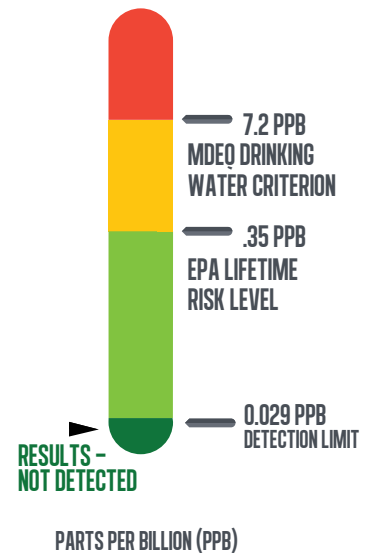
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE

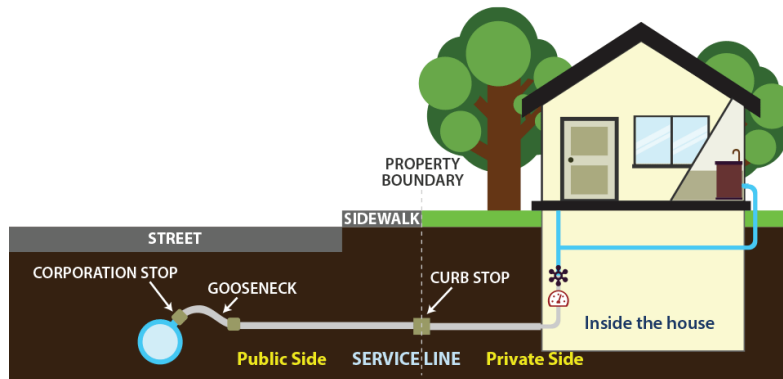


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Ann Arbor, like many communities, previously used a small piece of lead pipe to connect galvanized water service lines to the water mains. This small piece of lead pipe, known as a “gooseneck” was used on service lines installed before 1927 and again between 1942 and 1945. All of the known lead goosenecks have been removed. However, the LCR requires water systems to replace all galvanized service lines that used to be connected to those lead goosenecks. In order to plan for replacement, the city must first complete a service line materials inventory to determine which lines meet criteria for replacement. The city has historic data on the publicly owned portion and now needs to gather data on the privately owned portion of the service lines.

Lead Service Line Inventory

Public Works staff have completed a preliminary materials inventory. This involved reviewing historical records for information on age of homes and water service line material including any changes that have been made since initial installation. The final verified inventory must be completed by 2025. However, we have set a more aggressive goal to complete this work by 2022, which coincides perfectly with the water meter replacement project.



As part of the meter replacement project, the city will complete inspections to verify the privately owned portion of the service line. The city has created a map to view service line material verifications and results at www.a2gov.org/LCR. As service line material is verified, the map will be updated to reflect current data. The map also reflects those lines that have been determined to be eligible for replacement.

The LCR requires water systems to begin replacements in 2021, and continue to replace lines at a rate of 5 percent per year. The city will coordinate service line replacements with water main and road projects to minimize road and service disruptions. If your line does meet criteria for replacement, we will notify you during the year you are scheduled for replacement. Please be patient and remember we are coordinating replacements with road projects, so we do not have a long-term detailed schedule at this time.

Communication and Transparency

In 2019, per LCR rules, Ann Arbor’s Water System Advisory Council (WSAC) was formed to advise and assist with the creation of materials and outreach plans to educate our community about lead in drinking water and inform owners whose service lines may need replacement. Thankfully the city already has several communication channels to inform citizens of LCR project updates, including Quality Water Matters, www.qualitywatermatters.org and www.a2gov.org/LCR.

Also, did you know that lead in drinking water can come from many sources, including household plumbing fixtures? The allowable level of lead in water system and plumbing products dropped from 8 percent to 0.25 percent in 2014. Fixtures purchased or installed before 2014 could contain up to 8-percent lead. More information is available online at www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe. The city does offer one free lead testing kit per household by contacting the Water Treatment Plant at 734.994.2840. Kits may be scheduled to be picked up and dropped off during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Respectfully,

Molly Maciejewski, Drinking Water License F-1, S-3, Public Works Manager

DECEMBER EVENTS

Special Joint Working Session with Washtenaw County Board of Commissions, Ann Arbor City Council and Scio Township Board of Trustees: 1,4-Dioxane Public Meeting, Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Thursday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

WATER CHAMPION

The December Water Champion is **Rich Taulbee**, who has worked



in the City of Ann Arbor Public Works Department for six years, first as a sewer maintenance technician and for that past four years as a water meter and service technician. Rich spends most of his days responding to requests for water services to be turned on or off and ensuring water meters are functioning properly.

Rich’s job requires knowledge of the latest meter technology and software systems. Rich enjoys working with the public and responding to service requests, even when those calls come in the middle of the night. Rich takes pride in doing his part to provide exceptional customer service to Ann Arbor citizens. From calls about low water pressure to burst pipes, Rich makes sure everyone’s water needs are met. Thank you Rich!