



## Community Lead Response Advisory Committee December 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

### Welcome and Introductions

On Conference Call:

Dan Duffy  
Mora McLaughlin  
Gina Miller  
Julie Barg  
John Coogan  
Chris Hoover  
Brittany Schacht  
Sarah Stoner  
Pete DeMarco  
Mike Blackhurst  
Madeline Weiss  
Kinsey Casey

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### Orthophosphate Optimization

- Spoke last meeting about our efforts to optimize orthophosphate treatment.
- We have had two consecutive testing rounds below the action limit but we believe we can go further.
- April proposal to DEP: adjust pH and orthophosphate levels to make them the most effective in reducing lead.
  - Worked closely with DEP to create this program.
  - Adjustments in 10-week cycles. Adjust treatment parameter, monitor, and continue with other areas of our system. Won't make adjustment to both pH and ortho at the same time.
  - Will collect more than 100 samples per week.
    - Start with pipe loops, which were built during initial corrosion control treatment.
    - Then use PRS stations around system.
    - 25 residential properties (sample every 10 weeks) and dead-end hydrants throughout system.



- Home profile sampling in each distribution supersystem where there is past data on lead in water samples.
  - Harvest lead pipe for scale analysis every 10 weeks.
  - Some sample sites are weekly or two times per week.
- DEP approved plan on November 4. Began lowering pH the next week. After the adjustments are finished in Summer 2021, we will complete another two 6-month sampling events to demonstrate we are still below the action limit.
  - We would have been on annual sampling cycle, but with this treatment change we must sample more often.

## 2019 LSLR Program Updates

- Work is complete as of early October
- Currently finalizing all administrative paperwork on contracts.
- Presentation map represents all 2017 to 2019 neighborhood work.
- Metrics have not substantially changed since last meeting.
- PWSA is very proud of their accomplishments on this project –
  - We replaced many more service lines than our initial goal.
  - Over 4,500 public service lines replaced.

## Small Diameter Water Main Replacement (SDWMR) Program Update

- Work began in June 2020
- Replacing approximately 15 miles of water main and 2,062 residential public service lines (all public service lines, not just lead).
- Work is generally progressing on schedule.
  - All crews are approximately halfway through replacing water mains.
- All contractors plan to work through winter, weather permitting. We have had temperate winters in past few years.
- Baum Boulevard work is challenging and moving slower than we had anticipated, although they are nearing completion.
- Typically four stages of water relay work:
  - Prep work – verify service lines.
  - Replace water mains and test new pipe
  - Install new service lines
  - Street and sidewalk restoration.
- All work is at various stages, with multiple crews per contract working.
- Presentation map represents active work sites (red) completed work (yellow) and planned future work in 2020 and 2021 (blue).



- Approximately 2,000 locations on this contract.
  - Approximately 1,500 locations with agreement returned or agreement not required, meaning the property does not have lead line.
- Have verified 24% of locations – seeing less lead service lines than expected.
- Other contracts: 55% lead found. These contracts were explicitly targeting lead. SDWM contract requires us to dig up every service line attached to old water main.
- Concentrations of lead have historically been neighborhood-specific.
- We are targeting areas with high concentrations of lead based on our records.
- Have replaced 651 public lead service lines, 156 private lead service lines.
- Three partial replacements – 1 since last meeting.
- Four sites where building was condemned – we have eliminated service lines at those properties.
- Have area of presentation where we will note any terminations in the future, per future PUC requirements.

### Overall LSLR Status Update:

- 8,100 public replaced
- Over 5,000 confirmed non-lead.

### Opt-out Status Update:

- Have folded SDWM into this report.
- 17 opt-outs
- We always call opt-outs to discuss program.
- Majority of people say they have already replaced private line. If we verify a lead line when we excavate, we reach back out to get opt-in.
- If they have some other reason for opting out, we discuss with them to convince them to participate.
- PWSA opt-out status:
  - Have not had any on the SDWM work.
  - If we find a condemned property, per City of Pittsburgh records, we abandon the service line and will not build a new one.
  - Vacant properties that are unresponsive – we build a new public line and leave the curb stop shut
    - This process will change when terminations begin. If the private side is lead we will terminate service.
  - Had discussion with CLRAC members (Women for a Healthy Environment) to provide more assistance for homeowners where we have opted out.
    - We need a social worker to closely coordinate with customers to get the assistance they need. We do not have staff with the background to fill this roll at PWSA.
    - They would help them through an application process and get the work done that would bring building up to code and allow crews to work.



- May be volunteer based to clean up properties.
- Outreach:
  - Virtual public meetings held in project areas
  - Robocalls to unresponsive and to communities ahead of virtual public meetings.
  - Lead Help Direct phone calls to unresponsive sites
  - Door-to-Door Canvassing
    - Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
  - Project updates found at <https://www.pgh2o.com/2020-water-main-replacement-project>

Upcoming SDWMR:

- 2021 areas are under design: plan to bid in early 2021
- Potential 2022 are being selected.
- Need to receive new blood lead level data to use accurate information when determining priority areas.

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## Other Updates – PUC Order

- Filed compliance proposal September 30
- OCA and Pittsburgh United filed comments October 15
- PWSA replied to comments October 26
- Presently waiting on PUC Final Order
- Working internally to:
  - Modify databases to track and monitor termination processes. This will ensure we have followed all appropriate steps in timely manner.
  - Evaluate and modify LSLR communication materials.
    - All printed materials will go to tenants and landlords.
    - 37-day posting
    - 30-day posting
    - 10-day written termination notice (at this point we will know if the location has a lead line)
    - 3-day visit
    - Day-of visit – if they agree on this day, we will waive termination and do work.
- Anticipate we will have a draft to share with CLRAC at beginning of 2021.



## CEP

- Have completed 1,300 income verifications.
- Have collected 700 agreements.
- Have worked at 643 sites
- 235 public lead service lines replaced
- 253 private lead service lines replaced
- Total CEP funds spent: approximately \$1.4 million
- PWSA funds spent on public side replacements: approximately \$2 million.
- To spend all money, we must collect 25 more agreements.
- We are optimistic that we will spend all funds before February 15 deadline.
  - Have changed contractor and increased productivity.
- Have changed outreach process, which has shown positive results –
  - After income verification, Lead Help liaison sets up meeting and visits home to collect agreement.
- PWSA is committed to spending all funds: do not want to have to repay the money to the state instead of replacing customers' lead service lines.

**Pete DeMarco: 700 agreements, 643 sites where work was done – does this mean we still need to verify some sites?**

- **Yes, stats shown as of end of October.**
- **Contractor is completing 45-55 per month (either verification or replacement).**
  - **In January, we plan to work through the remainder of locations.**
  - **As of December 2 – 83 locations where we still need to complete work. We think we need another 25 agreements to meet our goal.**

**Pete DeMarco: We have verified the income of 1,300 homes – is that where you are trying to receive those agreements?**

- **Yes, that is the plan.**
- **If customer is completely unresponsive after income verification, eventually we do not pursue an agreement.**
- **Targeting people with income verification in past 6-8 months.**

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## General

- Mora will share documents, including PUC Settlement items, after meeting.
- Web map is updated monthly.



- We have stopped providing pitcher and filter to CAP customers after system came into compliance with LCR. Still provide pitcher and filter to any customer with sample result over 10 ppb.
  - Will continue to do home visits for customers where sample exceeds 15 ppb.
  - We often see these sites have very low water use, contributing to high lead level.
  - Trying to gain understanding of high lead sites and help customers to take steps to reduce levels.
  - Going to target low-water use homes with mailing encouraging them to sample and begin increase water flow in their home.

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## Private Side Reimbursement Program

- Rollout in October.
- Tenants and owners can qualify.
- Tiered income model to determine reimbursement amount.
- If plumber identifies public lead, we will send operations crew out to replace.
- 40 people went through income verification process to-date.
- Have only received one estimate to-date.
- Have a few customer who have applied for \$1,000 stipend.

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## Inventory

- Inventory report due to DEP December 31, 2020
- Components of revised approach includes:
  - Historical records
  - Meter replacements
  - LSLR and SDWMR verification and replacement data
  - University of Pittsburgh Machine Learning Predictive model results.
  - Curb box inspection results.
  - Continued data mining of PWSA, City of Pittsburgh, ACHD records.
- Inventory report will include data collection efforts through November 30, 2020
- Final report being prepared this month.





- Will report locations where we cannot confirm that absence of lead line – different than prior inventory required by LCR. This means all “unknown” sites will be categorized as lead until it can be confirmed.
- We will share report sent to DEP when it is complete.

**Gina Miller: Inventory has been long time coming. I&E wants to know if DEP will provide feedback on next steps? What happens after they submit report.**

- **Dan does not know. There has not been formal response to any submittals in past. DEP had comments on last material evaluation. There is not a formal “approval”. We can look into this question.**

**Gina Miller: I&E would be interested in receiving any feedback given by DEP.**

- **Our Engineering group meets bi-weekly with DEP. We can ask them to put this question on their next agenda.**
- **We have worked with them to update them on our efforts, they are in the loop on this report to-date. Approved our approach in June of 2020**
- **Import to note – we are submitting a document that is temporal. This is not a static effort and will change daily as we do construction work and gather new information.**
  - **We will always be upgrading service lines in system and changing the materials. Will continue to receive ACHD inspection reports indicating changed private service line materials.**

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## Date and priorities for next meeting

- Next meeting in early March 2021
- Next agenda:
  - SDWMR updates and future planning
  - 2026 LSLR Plan due to CLRAC in March 2021
  - Reimbursement Program updates
  - Final PUC Order

**Mike Blackhurst: Not seeing modeling efforts noted.**

- **Was noted as being part of the DEP report, discussed it at length at last meeting.**
- **Mike said he may have missed this part of the presentation.**

**Gina Miller: Will PWSA look into trying to remove barriers between estimate and work process for reimbursement? Would be interested, at next meeting, how we made this process simplified for customers.**



- **Yes, we will provide this update.**