



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee  
December 10, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

## Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance:

Israel Grey  
Julie Barg  
Christine Hoover  
Will Pickering  
Sarah Bolenbaugh  
Mora McLaughlin  
Dan Duffy  
Aly Shaw  
Michael Blackhurst  
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis

On Call:

Brittany Schacht  
Sarah Stoner  
Pete DeMarco

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## 2019 LSLR Program Updates:

- Crews currently working in Duquesne Heights, South Side Slopes, Perry North, and Greenfield.
- Marshall Shadeland will likely be the first site of the newly added work orders.
- All contractors have added at least one replacement crew as other projects slow down.
  - Production will slow, but we will continue to work through the winter.
  - Loss of daylight has already slowed us down a bit.
- Traffic issues have been a concern with the City. Have had to spread our crews out to avoid congestion. Things have improved on this front since the late summer.
- Agreement return rate for completed areas: 83%, overall: 78%.



- Has gone down since last meeting due to the addition of Oakland and Marshall-Shadeland.
- Considering vacant properties, we are actually in the low 90% for completed areas.
- 42% lead on the public side within our work order areas.
- Where there is public non-lead, 328 had private lead. These are not part of the program and that lead will remain in the system.
- 1,900 public side replacements as part of the PENNVEST program.
- Urgent, CEP, and LSLR public replacements in 2019: 2,730
- Return rate in Oakland is promising – we’ve done very little outreach and we have over half the agreements returned.
- “Private side is non-lead” remains the most common reason for an opt-out from residents.
  - 64 opt-outs have opted back in after speaking to Lead Help.
  - Out of 171 locations where the owner told us the private side was non-lead that have been verified, 163 were found to be non-lead on the private side and 8 were lead.
- Trenchless method is still proving effective – 98.6%
- 72 PWSA opt-outs – safety concerns inside the home where our crews should not be working.
  - 51 were City owned.
- Canvassing during construction is our most effective outreach tactic, by the numbers – this is where people become interested in the project after seeing their neighbors having work done.
  - All non-responsive locations have been canvassed once during daylight and once during after-hours.
  - After-hours canvassing has been halted because of daylight. Switched to Saturday daytime.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Utilizing schools as places to distribute information. Says that when she visited a school in Perry recently, people were asking her questions.**

- **We send our LSLR work order posters to schools that are within the work order area.**
- **There have been instances where the schools have requested copies to send home in students’ bookbags. We can continue that practice in new work order areas.**

## Additional Areas for 2019 LSLR Construction

- Based on budget and schedule, we can add an additional 1,700 sites.
- Using priority map that weights (1) children under 6 years, and women of child-bearing age, (2) blood lead levels; (3) income; ; and (4) concentration of lead based on records.
- Lower and Upper Lawrenceville, West Oakland, Bloomfield/Garfield are our suggested work order areas.
  - Adds up to 1,700
  - Allows us to spread crews out and avoid congestion.



**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** concerned about areas of Lawrenceville being gentrified. Also concerned about not hitting the last portion of the North Side that qualifies. Duffy makes point that we have wide swaths on North Side where we have worked to-date and we tried to focus on Level 5 priority sites in neighborhoods where we have not done much work, where we can minimize traffic impacts due to work congestion and what works best based on production and schedule with our various contractors. The areas selected are all at the highest priority for this work to be done.

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## CEP

- 2886 people have responded to CEP program.
- 537 have income qualified.
- 376 qualified people have returned agreements.
- 348 verified for material type of service line.
- 146 had non-lead on both sides, no work done.
- 177 private sides replaced.
- Trying to target locations where we know there is private-only lead. This is most helpful to spend funds.
- We are asking DEP to increase the FPL to 300%, they seem amenable to this change but it is not approved yet.
- \$730,000 spend of CEP funds.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** Is it more expensive to move to a CEP site that is outside of an existing work order area?

- **Yes - there is a mobilization fee we must pay the contractor. If a CEP site is within our work order areas we do the work under the 2019 Neighborhood contract and not the CEP contract.**

**Aly Shaw:** What types of targeted outreach are you doing for CEP?

- Door hangers at locations where we verify and there is private only lead.
- Post cards – targeted low-income neighborhoods + historic record of lead
- For those who were income-verified and have not returned agreement, we are going out to give them another copy of agreement.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis:** Would it make sense to use that same data to determine next LSLR sites?

- Yes, we already are using the same data set.

**Pete DeMarco:** is the process with DEP to move 300% FPL moving along? Can advocates help to move process forward?

- They seem in favor, it is a matter of final letter being issued.



- Presented plan to them in person and they asked for something formally in writing. They asked for revisions, which we made about one month ago.
- Have bi-weekly meetings with them, one is scheduled for 12/11 and we will discuss further there.

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## Reimbursement

**Mike Blackhurst: How do you encourage people to voluntarily replace their private line?**

- Board approved program, intervenors are opposed to some details.
- Waiting for PUC to make decision in February.
- Duffy is of the mind that this is a positive, additional benefit for our customers.
- Developing the program to incentivize plumbers to not require a deposit and accept payment from PWSA (check written jointly to the homeowner and plumber).

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Is the cost based on linear foot?**

- In our current reimbursement program, all invoices have been one lump sum cost. For the future program we want to push the plumbers to itemize their costs.

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Can we endorse plumbers who can do the work in the same way that our contractors do?**

- Our existing contractors will likely not be part of that endorsement list since they do not staff licensed plumbers (they subcontract this part of the work).
- For the current program that addressed customers that replaced the private side after PWSA replaced the public side from February 2016 to December 2018, 227 customers eligible, 21 requests received to-date. 3 not approved due to the lack of an ACHD inspection.
- For future program, staggered income qualification, between 100% reimbursement (300% FPL) and \$1,000 rebate (500% FPL and above)
- Plumbers don't need to be on our endorsed list but it will make the process easier for those looking to replace because certain aspects of the process will be ensured, like the deposit being covered by PWSA and an understanding that non-replacement costs like restoration will not be part of the reimbursement.
- Average reimbursement of the reimbursements completed to date is \$4,449.

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## Sampling



- 16% post-construction samples exceeded.
- After second sample round, 315 of 356 samples that were returned did not exceed.
- Partial replacements are clearly exceeding at higher rates than full line replacements.
- The rate of exceedances are going down generally. Our inspectors are giving more instruction for proper flushing, which may be helping.

**Mike Blackhurst: there is seasonality to the lead levels, can that be parsed out in your post-construction sampling data?**

- We can't really parse that out from our data.

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## Other Updates

- Web map has been updated in November.
- Committee requested a mapping of partial replacements to see if there was a pattern or concentration. After review and mapping, replacements relatively well distributed throughout the work area and are not concentrated in one neighborhood.
- Meter replacement program:
  - 12,000 meters replaced.
  - Plumbers are collecting private side service/household plumbing material type.
  - 17,000 total data points.
  - Not seeing a lot of lead or galvanized
    - 5.8% lead or galvanized private service line.
    - 1.1% lead or galvanized household plumbing.

**Mike Blackhurst: This is valuable data, would like us to push harder to get more comprehensive sampling and possibly get a baseline pre-replacement sample.**

**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: is there any data on meter replacement impacts?**

- *Pete DeMarco: there is one study out there from Chicago.* This study was the basis of the advocate's request to sample during our meter replacement process.
- Otherwise, no studies PWSA is aware of.

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## Orthophosphate/LCR Sampling Update

- Year-long study testing different chemicals for new corrosion control.
- Adding orthophosphate at three locations throughout the system.



- Aspinwall Water Treatment Plant – sends water out to the Lanpher Reservoir and the North Side.
  - Bruecken Pump Station – feeds water to the Highland 2 System.
  - Microfiltration Plant - feeds water to the Highland 1 System.
- Pre orthophosphate flushing program:
  - Comprehensive system-wide flushing.
  - Transmission mains flushed first.
  - Wanted to increase the velocity of water moving through the pipes enough to get rid of biofilms, but not enough to disrupt the permanent scale of the pipes.
  - Dead ends of the system have less orthophosphate scale because ortho-treated water is not pass through them as much as high volume areas. We focused on these areas during the flushing process.
  - Have done some investigation into houses with historically high lead levels. Many have low water consumption which means water sits, ortho is not getting pushed into those pipes.
- Utilize 70 sites around the city to take water samples and monitor chemistry.
- 6 “lead plate” sites being tested that mimic service lines.
  - All lead plate sites are below the LCR action level.
- Lead and Copper Rule Sampling:
  - 426 sample kits sent in this round of sampling – testing happens every 6 months.
  - Have more than the 100 required samples returned already.
  - Results are looking good thus far.
  - Final results will be released by DEP in mid-January.
  - We exceeded in the last round – 17.2 ppb.

**Mike: is ortho a continuous feed? If you finish replacing ortho, will you continue to use ortho?**

- **Yes, yes.**

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## Settlement Update

- Inventory
  - Working with Pitt on model
  - Drafting CBI contract for 2020.
- Interior Plumbing Inspections:
  - Leave-behind cards ongoing.
- Meter Replacements:
  - Three-month study of lead levels after meter replacement.
  - Poor return rates of those kits.



**Pete: What is the scope of the upcoming CBI contract?**

- **contract will likely account for 5,000 to 10,000 locations.**
  - 14 miles of small diameter water main replacements slated for 2020. Using priority lead sites as a factor when selecting these replacement mains.
  - Bid going out tomorrow, 12/11.
  - 2021 Small Diameter:
    - Approx. 15 miles of mains identified in priority lead areas.
    - Trying to prioritize 4-inch water mains that are within high priority lead areas.
    - Deciding on locations within the next month or so.
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## EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

- Revisions posted November 13, 2019
- We are evaluating before the deadline of January 13, 2020.
- Major change:
  - Percentage mandated to replace has been decreased from 7% to 3%, but the inventory requirements have changed that will likely cause the number to be replaced at 3% to be similar to the number currently at 7%.
  - Private side lead will be part of inventory.
  - Unknown will be considered lead until proven otherwise.
  - Other data points, like bans on lead as building materials through local ordinances, may help us weed out historic data or unknowns.
  - We can still use other methods to determine where to do construction work.
- Working with Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) and American Water Works Association (AWWA) to comment on new requirements.

**Mike: Do revisions require stringent measures for making decisions on material type?**

**Concerned that we will need to use methods we know are not reliable because of EPA mandate.**

- **Must go by your record, whatever that may be. For us, that would be a historic record for many sites.**
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## Housekeeping

- Aly will check in with Nobel about best times for him. He has not been able to attend recent meetings.



- Israel likes the morning meeting time.
- Mike prefers morning.
- Mora send out poll to set time that works best.
- Early March for CLRAC #9 tentatively selected.