



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee June 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

On Conference Call:

Israel Grey
Will Pickering
Erin Gannon
Madeline Weiss
Sarah Bolenbaugh
Julie Barg
Mora McLaughlin
Dan Duffy
Gina Miller
Mike Blackhurst
Brittany Schacht
Sarah Stoner
Pete Demarco
Christine Hoover
Kinsey Casey
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis

2019 LSLR Program Updates:

- Work suspended March 20 due to COVID-19, resumed May 4
- Crews are back to full staffing, largely focusing on restoration of sites left before shut-down.
- Back to full productivity week of 6/2
- Crews are following all CDC and Department of Health guidelines for safe, hygienic workplaces:
 - Temperature check and health screening questions
 - Crews distancing themselves to the extent possible.
 - Health checks happening before home entry
 - Disinfecting surfaces in a home after we complete work.
 - Some residents have refused entry due to COVID concerns, but this has been minor.



- Return rate of 2019 LSLR: 82%
- Approximately 3,800 public replacements since start of contract.
 - 2,898 private
 - 38 partials
- Garfield, Upper Lawrenceville, Bloomfield are new work orders since shut-down, but with minimal outreach in these areas and relatively low return rate. Crews still preparing for replacements. We anticipate return rate increasing after work in area begins.

New Work Order:

- During week of 5/25, determined there was funding for one additional work order.
- Will touch approximately 250 more locations in Central Northside.
 - Reviewing to make sure it does not overlap with any future water main replacements.
 - Currently canvassing to ensure all eligible properties are included.
- Agreements to be sent in mid-June.
- Work anticipated to start mid-August

Opt-out Status

- 96 sites opted in after call with Lead Help since last meeting.
- We continue to verify sites where customer claims there is a non-lead private lead line. We are finding this is often accurate and can continue to replace the public side where there is lead. If we find lead on the private side we contact the property owner to make sure they understand and see if they will agree to a replacement.
- Trenchless method is still highly successful – 98.1% private side trenchless locations.
- Total of 77 PWSA opt-out – these are largely city-owned locations and not safe to work.
 - Our primary reason for opting-out is either structural or sanitary and do not consider it safe for work.
 - Reasoning is very rarely that the cost of replacement is too high – ~1-2 sites since 2018.
 - When a property is not safe, we put resident in touch with resources to improve living conditions. If fixes are made in time, we will come back to complete replacement.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Do you cross-check to see if a site is to be razed?

- We always check on the following:
 - If sites are boarded up/clearly not lived-in
 - If there is at least three months without water usage - three months or more are categorized as “vacant”.
 - Cross-check with condemned properties and demolition list from City.

Are you obligated to report health concerns inside home to the Health Department? Is this an opportunity to get legal aid involved for tenants rights to ensure they know their rights?



- We do not feel we are obligated to report.
- We don't want people to be reluctant to participate in program knowing we will report these issues.

Michelle states that she can put PWSA team in touch with legal advocates for tenants, if the structural or sanitary issue is responsibility of landlord.

- Point about legal aid for tenants is good, we often find this is a property owner issue. It is often older people who can't keep up with their property anymore.

Outreach Update

- Lead help moved to home offices and continued to take calls and follow up with unresponsive sites.
- Robocalls are resuming, are doubling up on sites where we hung construction-related door hangers before shutdown.
- Continue to promote program on social media.

2020 SDWMR Construction

- PennVEST closing week of 5/25
- 45-Day Packets sent week of 5/25.
- Construction starting June 15.
- Over 2,000 water services lines will be replaced, regardless of material due to the nature of the water main replacement.
 - Anticipating approximately 850 lead service lines to be replaced as part of work.

PUC Update

Settlement terms affirmed/negotiated March 26.

- Private-Side Reimbursement Program
 - Program for residential private lead service lines only.
- Consolidated all commitments into a Lead Infrastructure Plan.
- Defer to CLRAC if we feel we need to opt-out of replacing a site.
- Request for clarifications regarding water shutoff requirements:
 - As terms currently stand, PWSA must terminate service at opt-out or unresponsive properties and will only restore service after owner replaces private side.
 - Requested to allow termination for the following reasons:
 - Resident does not have legal authority to approve work.
 - Replacement costs would be burdensome.
 - Emergency replacements with authorization cannot be obtained and temporary water service cannot be established.



- Overlap with Winter Moratorium and/or existing moratorium due to COVID-19.
- Current 45-day packet language indicates that they may be shut off if they do not participate.
- Process for termination:
 - Must first notify of shut off via first-class mail.
 - Follow up with door hanger
 - Visit property and try to speak with resident on day of termination.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: If service is terminated, is there a reconnection fee?

- Currently unsure if there is a reinstatement fee for property owner who replaces line themselves
 - *(Confirmed after meeting there will be reinstatement fees)*
- If customer immediately comes back to us and agrees to work, we will add them back to our replacement list.
- There will be many layers of outreach before we terminate service.

What is considered “burdensome” for property owner?

- Not yet defined

Pete Demarco: Dan mentioned there will be gap in time between first termination notice and the last chance to be re-added to the replacement schedule. Could you explain the timeline for water main replacement work specifically?

- One of first construction activities is verification of service line material. We will know at the beginning of the work who will ultimately need a private lead replacement. We can be more focused with our outreach.
- Crews will install main, test and fill the line, then replace services as last step.
- There will be several weeks between verification and potential termination.
- First class mail notification of termination is required at least 10 days before termination.

CEP Update

- Spent approximately \$1M of \$1.8M in funds.
- CEP work was suspended due to COVID-19.
- Have been granted three-month extension due to COVID-19 (Feb. 2021).
- It is a largely older population that we serve with this program – we just recently re-started this work for safety purposes
- Recently mailed info on CEP to 2,000 locations where there is identified lead on the private side
 - Have seen large uptick in calls to Dollar Energy



- Have followed up with income-qualified residents who have not signed agreement. Left new agreement in plastic slip at residents' doors. (approx. 75 locations).

Pete Demarco: Do you think the February 2021 is a hard deadline for spending funds?

- Unsure at this time
- If we find that we cannot spend the funds, we will request another extension. Our goal is to spend all funds by the February 2021 deadline.

General Updates

- PUC settlement items update found in handout documents.
- Web map continues to be updated.
- 474 pitchers, 121 filters distributed to CAP customers since initial letter.
- Developing Private Side Reimbursement Program
 - Have discussed methods with other water providers with similar programs.
 - Working with Allegheny County Health Department to develop outreach to private plumbers who would be involved with the work.
 - Finalizing internal procedures, website information, and outreach materials.
 - Finalizing payment procedures – we will be able to co-write checks to homeowners and plumbers.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: You have existing directory of contractors who know how to do trenchless replacement. There will be many private plumbers who are not skilled at this work. Could PWSA contractors provide trainings?

- We are finding that many plumbers have done trenchless replacements before based on records, but not all.
- Sometimes plumbers do not have all necessary equipment to mole a line.
- We will likely have to provide some level of training, yes.

LCR Compliance Testing Updates

- Results still being compiled for June 2020 testing period
- More than 150 kits received
- Results lower than December 2019

Inventory Update

- Updated Materials Evaluation due to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on December 31, 2020
- Original approach in 2017 was to use curb box inspection (CBI) data to update inventory.
 - CBI is effective to positively identify lead but not to positively identify other pipe materials. Many non-lead findings via CBI are replacement of the curb stop, leaving lead pipe intact.
 - In May 2020, PWSA presented revised approach to CLRAC.

Revised approach:

- Private-side material verification during meter replacements.
- Continued verification during lead line replacements.
- Curb Box Inspections
- Continued mining of data from PWSA historical records, City of Pittsburgh historical records, and ACHD plumbing data on private-side replacements.
- We will use as-built data to confirm replacement material.
- If lead is identified by model and no other record exists, location will be excavated.
- If non-lead is identified and no other non-lead record exists, CBI will be completed. If model and CBI indicate non lead, inventory will be updated as non-lead.
- Meter replacement will continue to feed into inventory.
- 2020 Curb Box Inspection program
 - Work began May 4 – was delayed before it began due to COVID-19.
 - Focusing on:
 - PWSA Non-Lead historic drill record/Pitt Lead (239);
 - PWSA Lead historic drill record/Pitt Non-Lead (558);
 - PWSA Unknown/Pitt Non-Lead (2,354);
 - Other locations to assist in future model runs;
 - Filtered out locations within LSLR, SDWMR and prior CBI areas.
 - Work to be completed by early October.

Pete Demarco: Non-lead historical, non-lead CBI = non-lead in inventory. Could you talk through this decision-making? These are both semi-unreliable data points, is your thinking that paired together are more reliable?

- On public communications, we will indicate source of the data.
- Always will indicate that what we post is best available source. There will always be potential for lead, although it is statistically very minimal.
- Will still rely on historical records for non-lead. That data is extremely accurate. Concern is where we don't have a record.



Pitt Inventory Model Update – presented by Michael Blackhurst

- Estimate the probability that each customers’ public and private water service line is lead or non-lead.
- Apply model to:
 - Reduce unnecessary excavations.
 - Identify data collection points to improve model.
- Have delivered report to PWSA in the form of a database describing model results.
- Probability is based on:
 - Property age
 - Property conditions
- Model components:
 - Special data of customers
 - Existing indication of material
 - LSLR, meter replacements
 - Curb box inspections
 - Water service line database
 - Tap water sampling data
 - Property tax assessment
- Threshold assumed to delineate probability – what is the general range of probability?
 - There is a crossover of “true negative” and “true positive”.
 - The more you push your probability towards “true positive” you will do a better job of predicting lead, **but for less total residents.**
 - The more you push your probability towards “true negative” you will catch less lead.
- Precision diagnosis: How correct were the positive predictions?
 - Model becomes more precise with increasing threshold towards true positive.

Pete Demarco: Are there any future plans to train the model to better predict lead?

- Some of the CBI locations were dictated by PITT to represent areas of the water system with limited data
- Will update model later in 2020 with CBI, meter replacement and LSLR records since initial model run

Housekeeping

- Next meeting – early September (avoid holiday week)
- 9:00 a.m. generally works for group.



- 2/3 contractors will be wrapped up for 2019 LSLR. Last work order will likely be wrapping up at in early October.
- Update for SDWMR program.
- Any other topics group would like to hear about?
 - *No responses given by Committee*
 - **Gina Miller: Thank you for modeling update from Michael Blackhurst. Michael is happy to share further update via email with group.**
 - **Will Pickering: Announced new ED position. We value CLARC guidance and advice. With leadership change, role of CLRAC will remain the same.**