



Community Lead Response Advisory Committee

September 7, 2023

Meeting Minutes

On Conference Call:

Dan Duffy
Mora McLaughlin
Julie Barg
Barry King
Michael Podskoch
Sarah Viszneki
Pete Demarco
Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis
Christine Maloni-Hoover
Gina Miller
Sarah Stoner
Talor Musil

Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda is standard, with exception of LCRR updates

SDWMR Updates

- 2021 SDWMR
 - Project is officially complete, only small punch list items remain.
 - No statistic updates – same numbers as last meeting.
- 2022 SDWMR
 - PENNVEST award in October 2022 - \$77M loan, \$6M grants
 - Originally three contracts, 13 miles
 - Bids came in over budget – decided to drop 1 of 3 contracts, closed with PENNVEST in July
 - Contract C started, Contract B receiving notice to proceed soon
 - Contract B will begin in Millvale
 - C has completed service line verifications on three streets, started water mains on two.



- C contractor is doing things different – working in all assigned neighborhoods at once vs. moving from one neighborhood to the other as milestones are completed.
- 1,800 locations in contracts A,B,C (left contract A in statistics)
- 73% return rate so far, not much outreach done yet.
- Only 23 locations verified so far across all contracts, 6 public and private lead lines found.
- Contract A:
 - That work order alone was \$30M
 - Splitting contract in two to allow for more bidders
 - Application is with PENNVEST - should learn if we received award next month.
 - Want to begin construction in Jan-Feb 2024, funding dependent.

Other Water Main Replacement Activities:

- Southside Flats Sewer Separation
 - Will separate combined sewers, replace some water mains in work area, other lead service lines in area have been replaced under 2022 Neighborhood LSLR.
 - Construction on sewers will begin late 2023, early 2024.
 - 52% agreements returned so far
- 2023 Watermain Relay
 - Planning includes Logan Street (pending landslide repairs), Kennedy Avenue, Zulu Circle
 - Work to start later this year.

Future SDWMR Activities

- Have begun design work on 2023 SDWMR
- Anticipated to start construction in mid-2024
- Two contracts – 12.7 miles of water main, 2,300 service lines
- Full project is contingent on PENNVEST funding (6 miles of work will be funded under CIP)
- Engineering team is looking at areas where we'll work as part of 2024 SDWMR

Gina Miller: Where does PWSA stand with respect to 2026 goal to replace all lead?

- **Dan: covered in LCRR content, it ties in with your question**

LSLR/Future Work

- 2022 Neighborhood LSLR (American Rescue Plan Act Funded)
 - Started April 2022
 - \$17M grant via City of Pittsburgh
 - 1,400 locations – 725 public and 725 private lines
 - We were able to expand our reach and add more sites based on amount of lead found.



- We added Troy Hill as last neighborhood on contract. Hazelwood work order to be completed soon. 220 total locations remain on the contract.
- Ultimately, will work at 2,400 locations
- Some restoration may have to wait until next spring. All LSLR work to be completed by end of November.
- 97% agreement return rate across all work orders.
- 616 public lead
- 623 private lead
- 6 terminations at vacant properties
- Had our first occupied day-of termination at tenant-occupied property. Got the landlord to finally respond and didn't actually turn the water off, made replacement.
- 2023A Neighborhood LSLR
 - PENNVEST funded \$9.7M grant, \$3.7M loan
 - Construction began in late July
 - About 1,500 locations slated
 - Neighborhoods so far: Esplen, Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar, Perry South, Bluff, Marshall-Shadeland.
 - 57% return rate thus far
 - 35 public lead, 31 private lead – now that we're in LLB, finding more lead than Esplen.
- 2023B Neighborhood LSLR
 - PENNVEST approved \$10M grant, \$4.6M loan at July Board meeting
 - Received proposals for CM/CI
 - Construction contract will be out to bid next week.
 - Want to award at November PWSA Board Meeting
 - PENNVEST closing: mid-January
 - Construction to start early Feb.
 - Approximately 1,500 locations
 - Neighborhoods so far: Homewood North, Larimer, Homewood West, Middle Hill, Fineview.
 - Decided to focus on Priority 4 neighborhoods that were showing lower mean income versus Priority 5 that had higher income.
 - Hope to get agreements out before Thanksgiving to avoid holiday shuffle.
- 2024A Neighborhood LSLR
 - Plan to apply for additional ~\$35M in funding from PENNVEST in November 2023.
 - **Response to Gina's earlier question: If funding not provided for the entire amount, will need to assess our ability to move forward or apply again in a future cycle. They have told us the past we should not request more than ~\$15M.**
 - **If we apply at their suggested amount, won't reach goal until 2030.**
 - **Some members of PENNVEST said they are open to us requesting more.**
 - **If we receive the \$35M, we would make three more of these requests.**
 - **We may have to accept less and supplement costs with ratepayer funds if the are available.**
 - **Reiterates that our goals will only be met with adequate funding.**



- If PENNVEST approves at January 2024 Board Meeting, we could work at 5,000 more locations.
- Ran prioritization model using EJ mapping, then ranked by income.
- Will likely split some areas due to size of work order (Millvale, Southside Flats)

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: Did PENNVEST give indication as to why they were discussing “cap” on funding? Are they saying there is an increase in applications from other water systems?

Dan: They try to give direction to utilities as to what each utility should submit to ensure there is enough funding to go around. They don’t want to have to deny funding anyone who asks they don’t have sufficient funding.

- 2023 Urgent LSLR
 - Will replace private lead when encountered by PWSA Operations due to leak.
 - Awarded to Stefanik
 - Includes public-side contingency when Operations doesn’t have bandwidth.
 - New contract started in August 2023, goes for two years.

Gina Miller: Could you describe more how locations are turned over to operations?

- **If Operations is busy, especially in the winter with water main breaks, they will have the Urgent LSLR Contractor handle full line replacement.**

Opt-Out Status

- 76 declined agreements in 2022 SDWMMR, 2022-2023 Neighborhood.
- Reason continues to be that they think the private side is already non-lead.
- If customer still doesn’t want work after we do find private lead, we proceed with termination process.
- For condemned properties, we abandon service line.
- For vacant properties, we replace public site, terminate, leave curb stop shut, disconnect private side.
- No locations like this in current work orders.

Outreach (Mora McLaughlin):

- Outreach consists of:
 - Virtual and in-person public meetings
 - Robocalls
 - Lead Help Direct phone calls
 - Directed outreach for locations verified private lead
 - Project updates, including new 2023 water main replacement locations, found here:
 - Water Main Programs: <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/water-main-replacement-program>



- LSLR Programs: <https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/lead-line-replacement-programs>
- Also working to retire lead.pgh2o.com, fold into main website.

Overall LSLR Progress

- 7,259 private side replacements
- 10,378 public side
- Not much replacement from our water main work so far this year.
- Neighborhood LSLR will bump up numbers going into the end of the year.

Termination Updates

- 29 locations have been terminated since April 2021 – this is up-ticked from last meeting.
 - Haven't been reporting emergency operations terminations where they can't hook up a temp service when making replacement (mostly because the location is vacant and cannot contact the property owner).
 - 16/29 locations are related to this scenario.
 - Have been able to contact some owners to reconnect.
 - All of 29 were unoccupied.
- 2 locations have been occupied - have been able to work with tenants, landlords to collect agreements and quickly turned water back on (or prevented the shut).
- 938 37-day letters have been sent out, this is significant workload for Lead Help Team.
- 345 30-day postings for tenant occupied locations – consistent level of tenant-occupied locations since start of protocol.
- 896 received agreements or were found to not be lead, removed from termination process.
- 132 10-day letters sent
- 3 10-day letters outstanding
- 25 3-day postings
- 29 terminations – all vacant

Orthophosphate Update

- 2023A compliance testing came in 3.35ppb 90th percentile (1st liter) and 2.6 (5th liter). Lowest levels in many years. Exciting to see 5th liter sample is lower than the first.
- 2023b sampling underway, only doing 1st liter samples.
- We are confident that when new LCRR goes into effect, we will be well within regulations.
- Eventually we will be put back on annual monitoring.



- LCRR may be changed again by EPA in the next couple months by the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements.
 - LCRR required utilities to use 5th liter for the official sample. All utilities will have to go to two sample periods per year.
 - Must sample at locations with lead service line, current rules allow for non-lead pipes with lead solder. We had already removed these locations by 2019-2020.
 - We also ensure that locations within sample plan have been visually verified as lead. DEP normally allows utility to rely on historic record.
 - LCRI may require to take 1st and 5th liter, use highest result. We are waiting to hear if it will be part of official updates.
 - No matter what the regulations, we are confident we will meet requirements.

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis: When you send sample bottles, is it random sample every time to unique addresses, or do they go to same locations every time?

- Regulations state we need to be fairly consistent in our testing sites over time. We need to have a good reason (no longer Tier I, etc.) to remove a location from or sampling plan
- We'll review our list and ensure that we haven't replaced the lead line.
- We only remove locations if line is replaced or if they are part of a work order that will be replaced very soon as part of construction project. It is difficult to invalidate a site after the fact with DEP if the sample is collected after we replace the service line.
- We try to make sure list is representative of entire service area. We have three "supersystems" within water systems. Try to have even numbers based on the size of supersystem.

Reimbursement Program Update (Julie Barg)

- 117 locations have finished all steps.
- 904 total applications
- 904 locations within lowest tier of income.

Testing and Pitcher/Filter updates:

- Prior contracts for lead testing and pitchers/filters expired and were re-bid.
- 120 Water was the successful bidder for testing services so they will continue with testing.
 - Transition to new DEP (and future LCRR) requirement to mail post-construction kit 3-6 months out from work and collect 1st and 5th liter sample.
- New contract with TruePani, Inc. providing pitchers and filters.
 - Will supply Brita lead-safe filters, long-last filters. One filter cartridge will last 6 months.



General Updates

- All files will be shared after meeting.
- Customer request kits continue, volume remains consistent.
- SDWMR Plan required by settlement will be sent to PUC at end of September.

LCRR Updates

- School Sampling:
 - LCRR requires sampling at schools (K-8th) and childcare facilities over 5-year period (20% per year) from 2024-2029
 - 5 kits per location for schools and 2 kits per location for childcare facilities, take samples at different locations within building.
 - Have to provide instructions and educational materials.
 - Have begun high-level planning.
 - Want to provide educational, instructional materials next year. Sample kits to be sent in early 2025.
- LSLR Plan
 - Requirement of LCRR and PUC Act 120
 - LCRR deadline of October 2024, but PUC will require after rate case is settled, likely Feb. 2024.
 - Just beginning this process, would like to create and submit one document across both bodies.
- Inventory
 - Updated inventory due to DEP in October 2024.
 - PADEP issued new guidance last fall.
 - Records prior to 1991 cannot be stand-alone determination. This impacts us greatly, as we have a lot of more contemporary non-lead records we believe to be accurate.
 - Need 3 points of confirmation on service line with no record –do verifications at curb stop, inside the house. We need to go back to some locations and record work we’ve already done.
 - RFP out to bid to re-do machine learning model. We want to model private side this time, too.
 - Believe methodology will be improved since then.
 - Have to enter 20,000 homes to inspect service line. Starting pilot program to see how to best accomplish this, will go full-scale in 2024.
 - Will have to reclassify a lot of locations as “potentially” lead if we don’t start collecting data on unknowns.

Christina Maloni-Hoover: For RFP for machine-learning model, when do you expect bids?

- **Around middle of September.**
- **Interviews will occur in late September-October.**



- **Want to complete this project by end of year. Will feed into list of homes we need to do internal inspection.**

Housekeeping

- Skipped for time constraints.