



Startex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District Releases Initial Water Service Line Inventory

- *Initial service line inventory was completed to comply with EPA's revised Lead & Copper Rule*
- *Inventory findings will be used to develop an appropriate service line replacement plan*
- *SJWD will be contacting customers with unknown service line materials*
- *SJWD continues to ask customers for help with identifying private service line materials*
- *Service line inventory is available at SJWD's main office and on SJWD's website*
- *Water is safe to drink, protected by SJWD's current treatment processes*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spartanburg, SC. October 16, 2024: In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR), Startex-Jackson-Wellford-Duncan Water District (SJWD) has submitted to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) our initial inventory of water service lines. This is another crucial step in SJWD's ongoing efforts to safeguard public health. It should be noted that SJWD's regular testing protocol has found no evidence of lead or copper contaminants in its water and is in full compliance with all drinking water regulations. SJWD's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available to all residents and can be found on our website at <https://www.sjwd.com>.

The Revised Lead and Copper Rule mandates that water systems identify the material of all water service lines. This revision now requires identifying lead materials that may exist on the customer's side of the water service line between SJWD's meter and the customer's home or business.

SJWD's initial inventory development found the following in our system:

- **Total number of service lines: 34,028**
- **Lead service lines: 0**
- **Galvanized steel service lines: 0**

Note: Even though galvanized lines are not made of lead, the EPA requires that galvanized lines be treated as if they are because an upstream lead line may have existed in the past which increases the possibility of lead exposure.

- **"Unknown" material service lines: 4,607**

SJWD will now send every customer where an "unknown" material line exists a letter informing them of the finding, what they can do to reduce possible lead exposure, and what steps are being taken moving forward. It is important to note that a service line material finding of a lead, galvanized or "unknown," does not mean a person has been exposed to lead, but there could be an increased risk of exposure.

Since the LCRR's requirement of identifying the service line material on the customer's side is more difficult, SJWD is continuing to ask our customers for help identifying the service line material on their property (from the meter to the customer's home or business). SJWD has created a survey that walks customers through the identification process and makes it easy for them to submit their results. Customers can take our survey by visiting www.sjwd.com and searching for "Lead Survey."

SJWD will continue updating the service line inventory as all "unknown" service line materials are confirmed. The inventory will then serve as the foundation for our efforts to comply with the new Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which the Biden Administration announced on October 8, 2024, which mandates the replacement of any lead service lines or galvanized service lines that were once connected to lead by 2037. To help reduce the cost challenges associated with these service line replacements, SJWD is reviewing a variety of federal and state funding opportunities

"While we still have some work to do, we are in full compliance with EPA's revised regulations and will continue to take all necessary measures to protect our customers," said Billy Cothran, SJWD's CEO. "We now respectfully ask our customers for their continued help to confirm these unknown service line materials that remain on the private side of the meter."

It is important to note that SJWD's drinking water has remained compliant with all regulations, is safe to drink, and is lead-free when it leaves our water treatment facility. However, once in the distribution system, lead can leach into drinking water when it sits in or passes through corroding service lines and plumbing materials. Knowing this, years ago, SJWD implemented a corrosion control treatment program to help prevent pipe corrosion by creating a thin protective coating inside pipes and plumbing fixtures.

SJWD has now created a survey that walks customers through the service line material identification process and makes it easy for them to submit their results. We continue to ask our customers to take this survey by visiting www.sjwd.com and searching for "lead survey."

The initial service line inventory is available for review at our main office during regular business hours and on our website at www.sjwd.com.

For more information on SJWD's full compliance with the EPA's revised Lead and Copper Rule, visit www.sjwd.com. For more information from the EPA about its EPA's Lead and Copper Rule, visit www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule.

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