

May 3, 2016

DEAR CUSTOMER/OWNER

This letter is to notify you that your address has been identified as possibly having a lead alloy water service pipe. Our records indicate that your home is one of 486 homes in the City of Spokane that may have a lead alloy service connection from the water main located in the street to the property line of your property. There is also the possibility that the water line service from your property line to your house (i.e. private property) is serviced by a lead alloy pipe. These services were installed in the early to mid-1940s when World War II efforts made other materials scarce.

Since 1991, the City of Spokane has routinely sampled for lead in drinking water. Most samples range between 1 and 7 parts per billion of lead with one sample as high as 13.5 parts per billion. The federal action level is 15 parts per billion. Although we have not received a sample above this limit, we intend to replace all lead service lines.

The City is offering to replace your lead service line at no cost. To complete this work, we will need to visit your home to inspect the water meter as well as the pipe entering the house. Additionally, we will need to evaluate the site conditions to replace the connection with minimal disruption.

In most cases, the lead pipe is only found on the City's side of the property line. Usually, we find galvanized steel on the private property side. However, if we do find lead pipe on private property, we will need to replace that pipe as well to avoid future contamination issues. We will require homeowners to consent to that replacement on private property.

If you are interested in having your lead alloy pipe replaced, please call the Water Department between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm at 625-7827 to schedule an appointment. After 4:00pm, please call 625-7800. In the meantime, if you have concerns about your lead service line, the Washington State Department of Health suggests a few simple steps to reduce your risk of ingesting lead through drinking water:

- Let the water run until cold before filling a glass to help flush out water that has been sitting in the pipes and is more likely to contain lead.
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Hot water can cause lead to leach into the water at a higher rate.

Thank you for taking the time read this letter. We would encourage you to proceed with replacement of your service line. Please know that we will work diligently to reduce the impact of the work on you and your family during the needed work. If you have any questions, please call 625-7800.

Sincerely,

Dan Kegley
Director, Water Department