



CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

May 15, 2024

Water Customer

Subject: Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement

Dear Water Customer,

Along with communities all across the United States, the City of Decatur is dealing with how best to keep you and your family safe from lead (the element Pb) in your drinking water. It's an issue that we have been aware of and actively addressing for many years. New laws have recently required even more preventive action. The current challenge is to replace water service lines that could be a source of lead in some situations. Your water service line connects the large water main in the street to your building (See Figure 1).

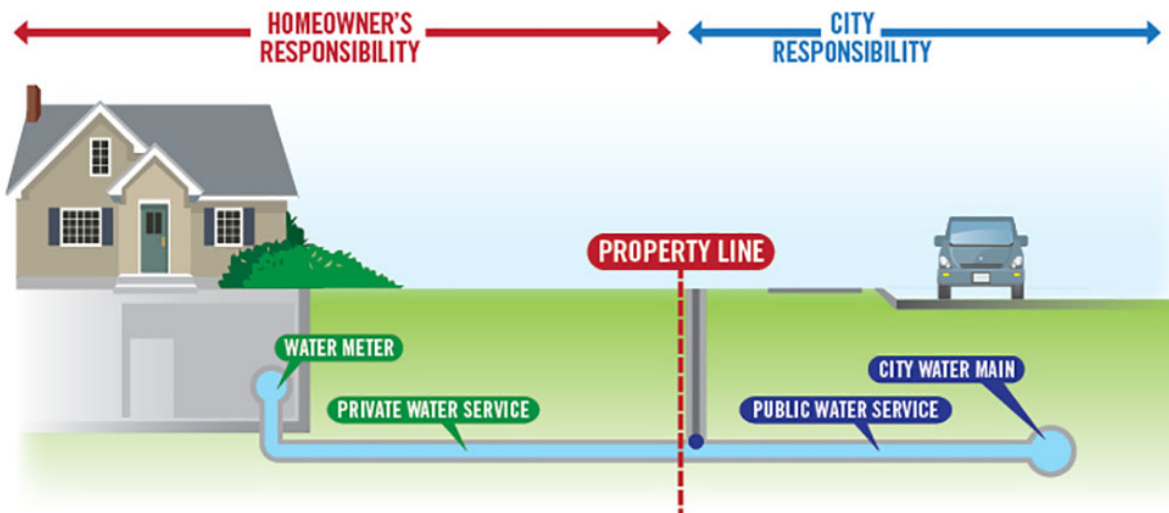


Figure 1: Water Service Line Responsibilities

In 2021, the State of Illinois passed a law, the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act, which put many requirements on public water systems. That law is the reason you are receiving this notice. The law requires that all water service lines affected by lead be replaced within a required timeframe. It also requires a system inventory, a replacement plan, and notifications such as this one. Unfortunately, the law did not provide any funding to meet these requirements. Nonetheless, the City of Decatur has completed an initial inventory and an initial replacement plan.

According to our records, the water service line serving your address may need to be replaced under the new law. The records show that a short piece of lead pipe is now or once

was used to connect your water service line to the water main. These lead connectors, called “goosenecks”, have not been installed since the 1930s. At that time, galvanized iron was used as the main material for water service lines. So, if we find galvanized material, we assume that there still could be lead in the service line. Our historical records indicate that there is a galvanized service line at your address. (In many cases, though, the service lines have already been replaced but the records didn’t get updated.)

How will the galvanized service line get replaced? There are an estimated 6,738 galvanized service lines in Decatur, and the estimated cost to replace them is \$71,450,000. The City of Decatur is actively seeking state and federal funds to offset these costs, and we have prepared a 17-year replacement plan, which would begin in 2027. The plan can be accessed at our lead service line replacement web page, available at this QR code:



In the meantime, the Mayor and City Council have established a program to share the costs of water service line replacement with affected residents. The cost-sharing program allows for up to 50 percent of the cost of replacing the private water service to be covered by the City. When you replace your private water service line through the cost-sharing program, the city will replace the public water service line at no cost to you. As a result, the entire water service line will be replaced from the city water main to the house, eliminating that source of lead in your drinking water.

We understand that you will probably have many questions after you receive this information. We have set up a web page (at the QR code above). Our Water Services Division is available at (217) 875-5705 if you have other questions or would like to discuss the cost-sharing program. Also, we plan to have staff attend neighborhood meetings in the affected areas to connect with residents personally.

We appreciate your continued trust in the City of Decatur water system. Your safety is our top priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew C. Newell", written over a thin horizontal line.

Matthew C. Newell, P.E.
Public Works Director