# SL Rules and Guidance

## Maintenance Responsibilities

(d)   *Repairs to service lines.*

   Rule 15

      Whenever a break or leak occurs in a service line between the main and the curb box, the Division of Water will repair the same at its own expense as soon as possible, but if a break or leak occurs back of the curb box or at any place on the owner's premises, the repair or replacement shall be done by, and at the expense of, the owner or his or her agent. If water distribution system personnel deem it proper to shut off water in order to prevent waste or damage, the water shall not be turned on again until repairs have been made.

We like this rule due to a clear division of where the maintenance responsibility is for both the system and the customer. It is also clear that the water system turns off the water until any break is fixed.

(Shelby)

When a service connection is found to have deteriorated to the extent that permanent repairs cannot be made, or it is determined by the Deputy Service Director that the service line is of substandard materials, a new service will be required to be installed at the expense of the owner; and failure of the owner, upon notification, to authorize such new service to be installed will be deemed sufficient cause for discontinuing the supply of water to the premises without further notice. During the winter months, allow five days, including weekends, for the homeowner to make repairs. During the summer months, allow 10 days including weekends, for the homeowner to make repairs.

   a)    When a water service is found to contain any portion of lead service, the owner will be required to replace that portion within 30 days of notice.

We like this rule because it establishes a deadline for any repairs to be made to service lines. It also requires any lead service lines to be replaced.

(Sebring)

That portion of the service main between the corporation stop and meter must be maintained at the expense of the property owner. Accordingly, the property owner will be held responsible for any leakage which may occur in such service main; and the Division of Water and Sewer reserves the right to turn off the water in cases where such leakages are not corrected after proper notices to do so. The Division of Water and Sewer will make such repairs at the expense of the property owner. Actual charges will be based on time, equipment, materials, etc. determined by the Deputy Service Director. All charges will be billed to the property owner on the quarterly water bill and, if unpaid, will be turned over to the Mahoning County Auditor for collection on property taxes.

(Sebring)

We liked this rule due to the system allowing the property owner to fix the leak accordingly. If the owner doesn't correct the repairs the system will make the repairs at the owner's expense. The rule also explains how the property owner will be charged.

## Right to Inspect

 Rule 14

      Inspectors, meter readers or employees of the Division of Water, whose duty it is to enter upon private premises to read or examine meters, pipes or other fixtures used in connection with water supply, shall be provided with such credentials as the Director of Public Service deems necessary to identify them as agents or employees of the Division of Water. The agents or employees must have free access at all reasonable hours to all parts of the building for the purpose of reading or inspecting meters, examining fixtures and observing the manner in which the water is used. Any such inspection, examination or observation, other than the normal and customary meter readings for billing purposes, shall be conducted only in the event that it is reasonable to believe that the inspection, examination or observation is necessary for the correction of a defect or malfunction in the meters, pipes or other fixtures used in connection with the water supply, or in the event that the owner of the private premises requests the inspection, examination or observation. In case any authorized inspector, meter reader or employee is refused admittance to any premises or is prevented from making the examination, the water shall be turned off and not turned on again until free access is given.

(Shelby)

We like this rule due to it explaining the system workers have the right to inspect any system related equipment. It also goes into when expectations can take place, and that water will be shut off if refused to enter any property.

## Acceptable Materials

 Rule 20

      All new or replacement of old taps from the main to the curb stop, sizes three-fourths of an inch up to two inches, shall be K-type copper tubing. All sizes above two inches shall be Class 52 ductile iron or C-900 PVC pipe. All new or replacement of old service pipe from the curb stop to the inside of the building, dwelling, trailer or apparatus containing the meter, sizes three-fourths of an inch to two inches, shall be K-type copper tubing or approved plastic. All sizes above two inches shall be ductile iron bell and spigot, C-900 PVC pipe or approved equal. All pipe materials and installation shall be in accordance with current AWWA specifications and approved by the Director of Public Service.

(Shelby)

We Liked this rule due to it explaining the different materials and sizes for the utility portion and the customer portion of the service line.

Service mains to premises must be run on a direct line with the service branch in the street, at right angle with the street, and at no less depth than four feet (4'). From the corporation stop to the curb stop the service main (line) must be of type K copper line; from the curb stop to the meter, the service main (line) must be type K copper line or PE-3306 Class 160 Polyethylene Plastic Water tubing, at the applicant's option.

All service lines which require a street crossing in a dedicated street must be installed by boring under the street and proper backfill with compaction. No road cuts will be allowed.

(Sebring)

We liked the rule due to it explaining the different types of materials that should be used. It also explains how new lines should be installed.

## Ownership of Line

All taps will be brought to the curb or road side and the water shut-off valve will be placed at the curb or road side. The water service line from the shut off valve to the structure shall be the responsibility of the customer. The property owner is responsible for placing their water service line to within three feet of the curb or street.

(Shelby)

We liked this rule due to it explaining where the ownership of the service line splits.

## Installation, inspection required

No service will be turned on for any installation until it has been inspected and approved by the appropriate city departments, including the water system.

We like this rule due to it requiring an inspection of a new line for service.

 It shall be the duty of the Utilities Director or his or her authorized representative to cause surveys and inspections to be made at the properties served by the public water supply where actual or potential hazards to the public water supply may exist. Such surveys and investigations shall be made a matter of public record and shall be repeated as often as the Utilities Director shall deem necessary. At a minimum these inspections shall be conducted at the time of installation and on an annual basis thereafter.

(Sidney)

We liked this rule due to it explaining that inspection can happen when deemed necessary. It also states that inspections will become public records.

# Internal Policy

## Customer Line Replacement

Full Replacement

All customer side replacements are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. The city's contractor will replace customer side lead lines at no cost to the property owner.

(Toledo)

The City will replace the full lead service line, including the homeowner’s portion, free of charge. The number of homes receiving free service line replacements will be capped annually by available funding.

(Lima)

The city will replace the water line service from the main line to the water meter free of charge. Restoration of any disturbed area will also be completed free of charge.

(Newark)

Customer Cost

The city will replace service lines within the City's public rights-of-way and/or easements from the water main to the first point of shutoff. Beyond that point is private property for which the City has no legal authority; therefore, the City recommends property owners consider replacing any lead lines that may be encountered as deemed appropriate.

(Xenia)

The cost to replace the service line will be the responsibility of both the property owner and City based on responsibility of the line.

(Tipp City)

No request to replace

The city does not have a requirement for customers to replace their portion of the service line. However, it is recommended that customers consider replacement at their convenience to eliminate exposure.

(Sidney)

Partial Replacement

This program involves the City paying up to fifty percent of the project costs with a maximum of $1,500 per residential property to replace private lead service lines and defray the costs to customers. The desired goal is to encourage residential property owners to safely access the City’s public water system through non-lead service lines. Additional information and application forms are available at the Service Center, 937-525-5800.

(Springfield)

Customer Help

While replacing your private water pipe (water service) is the property owner’s responsibility, we want to help you find a reputable and licensed plumber at an affordable price.

(Dayton)

Discouraging Partial Replacements

Health Risks: Partial replacements can disturb the remaining lead pipes, potentially increasing lead levels in the water. This can pose significant health risks, especially to vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women

Galvanic Corrosion: When a lead pipe is partially replaced with a different material, such as copper, it can create a galvanic cell. This can accelerate the corrosion of the remaining lead pipe, leading to higher lead concentrations in the water

Temporary Solution: Partial replacements are often seen as a temporary fix rather than a permanent solution. They do not fully eliminate the source of lead, leaving the potential for future contamination

Regulatory Requirements: The EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) mandate full replacements unless the partial replacement is part of an emergency repair or coordinated infrastructure work. This ensures that the entire lead service line is removed, reducing the risk of lead exposure

Funding Restrictions: Projects funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) must replace the entire lead service line, not just a portion. This ensures that public funds are used effectively to eliminate lead sources

Strategies for replacement

Proactive Replacement Programs: The EPA encourages water systems to develop proactive replacement programs. This involves identifying and prioritizing lead service lines for replacement based on risk factors such as the age of the infrastructure, lead levels in water, and vulnerable populations.

Funding Options: The EPA provides guidance on various funding sources to support lead service line replacement. These include federal and state grants, loans, and other financial assistance programs. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a key source of funding for these projects.

Public Education and Communication: Effective communication with the public is crucial. Water systems should inform residents about the risks of lead exposure, the benefits of full lead service line replacement, and the steps involved in the replacement process. Public education campaigns can help gain community support and cooperation.

Coordination with Other Infrastructure Projects: To minimize costs and disruptions, water systems are encouraged to coordinate lead service line replacements with other infrastructure projects, such as road repairs or water main replacements. This integrated approach can lead to more efficient use of resources.

Data Management and Tracking: Maintaining accurate records of lead service lines and replacement activities is essential. Water systems should use geographic information systems (GIS) and other data management tools to track the progress of replacement programs and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Partnerships and Collaboration: Collaborating with local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of lead service line replacement programs. Partnerships can help secure additional funding, resources, and support for the initiatives.