



## DEEP DIVE INTO WATER QUALITY

There is a lot of news lately concerning Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and drinking water and in this issue, I will communicate what Lawrence Utilities is doing, as well as provide links to EPA and IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) websites, where more detailed information can be found. I would like to emphasize at the outset that there is no cause for alarm and that you may continue to use and consume your tap water provided by Lawrence Utilities!

I also want to assure our customers that we take water quality seriously and we understand that this is a matter of importance to our customers. But again, I want to be clear that, at this time, we do not know whether Lawrence's water is affected by these PFAS substances. We are preparing to sample our water sources and treated water as described below and then, based on the results, we will take appropriate action, if warranted and in keeping with regulatory requirements.

To get a basic understanding of what PFAS are, you can use this link to find information on the EPA's website:  
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

The page provides information on what PFAS are, what has been learned so far, and what is not known. You will also find EPA's Strategic Roadmap, research information and other helpful information. I will also be posting the Roadmap on the Utility's website in the "Water & Sewer Information" section soon.

Lawrence Utilities is also working with IDEM regarding PFAS. IDEM's mission is to "implement federal and state regulations to protect human health and the environment while allowing the environmentally sound operations of industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental activities vital to a prosperous economy." Thus, we work closely with IDEM in monitoring and reporting on many water quality parameters, as can be seen in the annual Consumer Confidence Report. These reports may be found on our utility website as well.

We are participating in a voluntary PFAS Sampling program initiated by IDEM to help evaluate the prevalence of PFAS throughout the State of Indiana. You can use this link to see more about IDEM's PFAS program:

<https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/nonrule-policies/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas/>

Our sampling materials are being shipped to us on July 10, 2023, and we will then return them to IDEM so they can be tested. The results will be shared when they become available.

So please, be assured that there is no cause for alarm and keep watching this newsletter for additional information as it becomes available.

## WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

We are also in the process of complying with the Lead Service Line Inventory requirement under the new Lead & Copper Rules. Right now, we are compiling data from existing records and other data sources to complete the inventory under Phase 1. We are also seeking funding from the Indiana Finance Authority to complete Phases 2 & 3.

Although the utility does not have a wealth of documentation on water service lines installed pre-1973, we do know that City ordinance from 1973 on required the

use of copper service lines for all water connections. Since the mid-1980's there have also been regulations in place to require first a "reduced" lead content in brass fittings used in water plumbing, then a change to "no lead". So, the industry has been evolving to a zero-lead state for quite some time now.

We have no concerns for any homes built post-1973 as to what type of service line material was used because only copper and, more recently, polyethylene tubing (PE) has been allowed. Prior to 1973

though, we have seen instances where galvanized water lines were used on the customer's side of the service line. As we encounter those with our water main replacement projects, they are removed and replaced with copper or PE material.

We will likely have field investigations to complete for a certain percentage of our service lines to complete an accurate inventory meeting the new requirements to eliminate lead service lines. But in all the collective experience of our water operators in the field, we have never

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## WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY CONTINUED

encountered a lead service line or fittings in the public part of the water distribution system. Regardless, we are now required to verify materials for all these lines and that is a huge task and will take a considerable amount of money and effort.

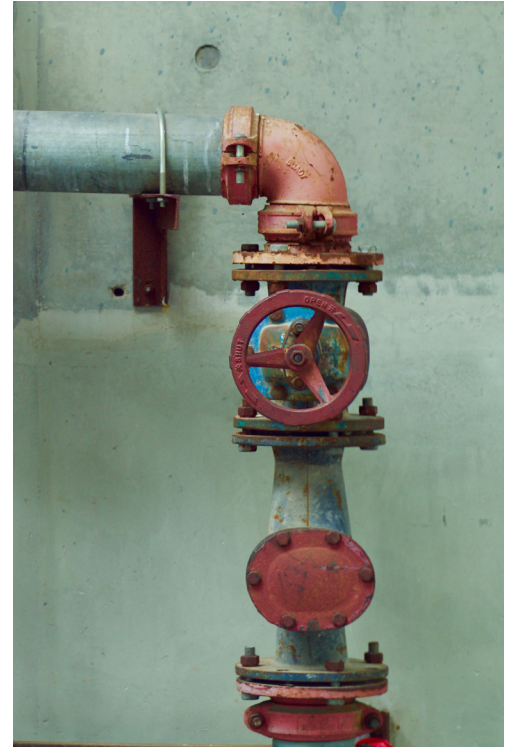
As a customer, you can assist us in these efforts by sending us pictures of the water service line where it enters your home or business. This photographic evidence is an acceptable means of proving the type of material your service line is made of. You can send the pictures, along with your address, to me at the email below or else to [lucustomerservice@cityoflawrence.org](mailto:lucustomerservice@cityoflawrence.org).

Typically, these lines come up from the floor or through the foundation or wall in basements. The portion we need to see is the portion that is before the master shut off valve, basically right where it enters the structure from outside. Copper and

plastic lines are easy to identify. If you are not sure or the type of material, we will be happy to come out and confirm it.

We will continue to work on both these very important water quality issues and keep you informed as additional information is learned. Your assistance in verifying water service line materials is greatly appreciated should you choose to send us the information.

As always, if you have any questions or need clarification, feel free to email me and I will respond.



## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

Don't forget the Fort Ben Farmer's Market is now open through October 5th. It is held on Thursday evenings between 4 and 7 PM at the Fort Ben Cultural Campus located at the northwest corner of Post Road and Otis Avenue at 8920 Otis Avenue. This is behind the Heartland Films building, formerly known as the Sterrett Center, on Fort Harrison.

Place a reminder on your calendar for the annual Community Safety Day event, coming August 12, 2023, at Fire Station 40 located at the northeast corner of 59th & Lee Road. Come meet your public safety officers, see demonstrations by the Lawrence Police and Fire Departments, and learn about services provided throughout the Lawrence community. There will be FREE hot dogs and giveaways from vendors, and you can also watch our first responders battle it out in a chicken wing eating contest. For more information check out the event page at [visitlawrenceindiana.com](http://visitlawrenceindiana.com). Hope to see you there!

