

**REDLINED**

**AMENDED LEAD WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

March 8, 2016

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. The primary purpose of this Program is to provide financial assistance to City of Saint Paul property owners for the purpose of replacing existing lead water connections on their property.
- B. The Board of Water Commissioners and the City of Saint Paul sought special legislative authority to enable the development of a program to provide financial assistance to property owners who replace lead water pipes on their property. The Minnesota Legislature granted that authority by the enactment of Chapter 504 Laws of Minnesota 1994.
- C. In the enactment of Chapter 504, the Legislature found and determined that the reduction of lead contaminants in drinking water is a public purpose, and that providing financing to property owners who replace lead water pipes on their property is a public purpose.
- D. In part, Chapter 504 established that the City and the Board can develop a program to provide loans to property owners for the replacement of lead water service connections. It further established that repayment of such loans can be accomplished through a special assessment collected with real property taxes.

**II. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM**

- A. All properties within the corporate limits of the City of Saint Paul shall be eligible for participation. To the extent that funds are available, all owners of property having lead water service connections will be given the opportunity to participate in this program.
- B. The portion of a water service connection from the water main to the property line is the responsibility of Saint Paul Regional Water Services, which shall be responsible for the costs associated with its replacement.
- C. The portion of a water service connection from the property line into the building is owned by, and is the responsibility of, the property owner. Property owners will be encouraged to replace this portion of their lead water service.
- D. Property owners may elect to have the costs of replacing the private property portion of their water service connection paid by the Board of Water Commissioners. Such payment, together with interest, shall be repaid to the Board through a special assessment against the property, to be collected as part of the real estate taxes.

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**III. APPLICATION**

- A. Property owners who desire to participate in this Program shall make application to Saint Paul Regional Water Services and will be provided the necessary forms which must be returned for review and approval.

**IV. CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SERVICE; REIMBURSEMENT; ASSESSMENT**

- A. Costs eligible for reimbursement through this program are those related to the replacement of a domestic lead service with the installation of a new copper service from the ~~water stop valve or~~ property line, ~~depending on construction requirements,~~ up to and including the water meter setting, including the cost of ~~Costs may include any~~ excavation, restoration and Saint Paul Regional Water Services plumbing permit and turn-on fees. No other plumbing work costs shall be eligible for reimbursement.
- B. Following approval by Saint Paul Regional Water Services of all eligible construction costs and documentation, payment will be made by Saint Paul Office of Financial Services issuing a check made payable ~~jointly to the property owner and~~ to the plumbing contractor listed on the approved forms.
- C. Saint Paul Regional Water Services will calculate the total costs, including approved construction costs plus all administration and financing costs, and shall assess these costs in accordance with the provisions of the City of Saint Paul's Charter and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 429.
- D. The amount assessed shall be made payable, together with interest, over a period of not to exceed ~~20~~ years.

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