

REPORT

Amendments to the Lead Water Service Replacement Assessment Program

March 8, 2016

In 1994, the State of Minnesota granted authority to the Board of Water Commissioners and the City of Saint Paul to develop a program by which private lead water connections can be replaced and the cost of replacement financed by the City or Board. A replacement assessment program was developed and approved by the Board and the City prior to commencing the Program.

The Program was amended in 2001 to provide the following changes:

Eligibility

Expanded the eligibility to all properties in Saint Paul, no longer limiting the Program to properties where SPRWS was replacing the lead services in the street right-of-way as part of street reconstruction projects.

Assessment Period

Extended the assessment period from 10 years to 20 years.

Housekeeping

Revised language to better communicate intent and to eliminate excessive detail.

At this time, staff proposes to further amend the Program to provide the following changes:

Limits of Replacement Work

Clarify that only costs to replace the lead service within the owner's property can be assessed through the Program. Costs for replacement within the right-of-way (e.g. from property line to the stop in the boulevard) are the responsibility of SPRWS.

Payment Check

Provide that the check for replacement work be made payable only to the contractor. The Program currently requires that the check be made payable to both the contractor and the property owner. This has on occasion resulted in homeowners cashing the check and not paying the contractor. Saint Paul Public Works Department recently made this change to its Sewer Repair Assessment Program.

See attached redlined Program showing changes.