

Lead level education efforts underway

The past few weeks we have been busy addressing the increased lead levels that were detected as part of the most recent round of water samples taken at people's homes.

We employ three activities to minimize/prevent lead exposure: Lead Free SPRWS (lead service line replacement), treatment improvements (to minimize corrosion), and public education.

As a result of our recent testing, SPRWS will be increasing both public education efforts by launching an extensive public education campaign and upgrading our corrosion control system. (Corrosion control

improvements were underway prior to lead level concentrations) Here is a more information about these actions:

Public Education: While our ongoing efforts will have significant positive impact into the future, we want to ensure that customers are aware of not only what we are doing about lead but also what they can do at home to reduce potential exposure. This month we will kick off an extensive public education campaign, which will include the following elements:

Direct Mail Notification: We will send out detailed information to all our customers

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Shea named to Water Utility Council

We are excited to announce that SPRWS General Manager, Patrick Shea, has been selected to represent the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) on the National Water Utility Council (WUC). The America Water Works Association's WUC is dedicated to establishing an effective legislative and regulatory environment that serves the best interests of the water community.



Patrick Shea

The water community faces an array of pressing challenges, including: addressing the presence and effects of PFAS (forever chemicals), securing essential infrastructure funding, bolstering cyber security measures, advancing source water protection, lead service line replacement initiatives, and the extension of the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

General Manager Shea's comprehensive experience spans across drinking water,

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Water utility employees take on new roles in various divisions

Three water utility employees take on new roles.

Ben Robetor is working as a water utility tech II in the Damage Prevention Unit (DPU) effective October 21.

Mary Obey moved from meter operations to the front desk in the lobby, working as a customer



Ben Robetor



Mary Obey



Natilee Squires

service rep, effective on Oct. 21.

Natilee Squires earned a promotion to IS info. tech. analyst IV as of November 4.

Public education campaign on lead exceedance underway

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explaining lead in drinking water and the actions to reduce exposure to lead.

Utility Bills Messaging:

Information indicating we have detected elevated lead levels and how to learn more about lead in drinking water.

Press Release Issuance:

SPRWS will issue a press release to local media outlets to ensure the information reaches as many residents as possible.

Informational Postings:

Educational materials will be prominently displayed at local libraries and community centers, offering resources and guidance.

Public Meeting: We will be holding a public meeting at SPRWS. The meeting will provide an opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, and learn more about what we are doing to ensure water quality (and grab a bottle for free lead water testing). We hope to have MDH and County Public Health at this meeting. This will take place from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. on Nov. 28 at SPRWS.

Treatment Improvements

Water leaving the McCarrons

Treatment Plant is free from lead. Lead is introduced into the water supply through the corrosion of lead materials, including lead service lines that connect some homes to our distribution system. When water is in prolonged contact with these materials, it can cause corrosion, and subsequently, lead can dissolve into the water.

We have successfully piloted an advanced corrosion control method as part of the McCarrons Plant Project piloting and will be adding this corrosion control process in January 2024. This will help minimize the potential of lead leaching into drinking water. Implementing this has been delayed a bit due to availability of equipment. We will do a lot of testing as it roles out to maximize its effectiveness.

Lead Free SPRWS

Lead Free SPRWS is the Board authorized 10-year initiative to significantly reduce lead exposure from drinking water by eliminating lead service lines from our service area. 2022-2023 has been a very successful start to this work

as we have already replaced over 1,000 lines including those at nearly every daycare. With 26,000 lead service lines in our system, this is an extensive and expensive project estimated to cost \$300-\$500 million. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) funds plus funds from the state of Minnesota currently lay out five years of funding to support this work. We will continue to advocate for the funding beyond this until every lead service line has been replaced. We encourage our customers to learn more about our Lead Free SPRWS initiative and to actively participate in this program when offered the opportunity. Check out this video to learn more: <https://rb.gy/88t2p>

We are hopeful that these efforts will maintain and strengthen confidence in our drinking water system.

It is clear that staff at SPRWS is committed to ensuring that every measure is taken to provide clean, safe drinking water and these efforts will increase public awareness of lead in drinking water.

Shea named to the AWWA's National Water Utility Council

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wastewater, stormwater operations. This wealth of knowledge positions him uniquely to provide valuable insights and contribute effectively to the mission of the National Water Utility Council.

Patrick's dedication and

expertise will be influential in shaping policies that prioritize the health, safety, and sustainability of our water resources.

Please congratulate Patrick on this appointment and wish him success in his endeavors with the National Water Utility Council.

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies is a community of water sector leaders advancing policies to protect public health and economic vitality via safe, affordable, and sustainable drinking water.