



TEAM EJP CASE STUDY

# The Lead Line Issue

## SITUATION

In November 2023, the White House announced the [Get the Lead Out initiative](#) – a program designed to accelerate lead service line replacement efforts in communities nationwide. The initiative is aimed at helping underserved municipalities identify and replace lead service lines.

### What are the Federal Lead Rules?

The [EPA](#) has a specific regulation in place, called the Lead and Copper Rule, which regulates the amount of lead and copper allowed to be present in drinking water provided by water utilities and similar organizations. Though it has undergone

some changes since its inception in 1991, it essentially dictates that no more than 15 parts per billion (PPB) of lead or 1.3 parts per million (PPM) of copper are allowable in drinking water in more than 10% of customer taps that are sampled. The number of taps sampled each testing cycle is dictated by the number of structures the water utility serves. If the EPA limits are exceeded, there are a number of remedies that must be undertaken in order to protect public health and well-being.

To date, at least 30 states have begun initiatives to remove lead supply lines and federal initiatives have been created to accelerate these efforts. At least seven

communities, including Newark, NJ, and Flint, MI, have completely replaced all their lead supply lines. Eventually, federal regulations will require the replacement of every lead service line nationwide. This process can be complicated, as ownership of the supply line is different from city to city and state to state, with either the utility or the property owner claiming ownership of the lines. It can also be a prohibitively expensive process, as many municipalities still dig up their old supply lines rather than using more modern methods of replacement, such as in-place [service line pulling](#) for a less expensive, trenchless approach.

## CHALLENGES

With these serious issues at hand, many consumers wonder why water utilities are not simply replacing all lead service lines still in use. Unfortunately, the depth of the issue is tough to grasp without digging into the details, and the picture is a complicated one. Service line replacement is a labor- and cost-

intensive process. These issues can make the process prohibitive for many water utilities, which is why state and federal initiatives to help with the expense are helping many municipalities move forward with what would otherwise be an impossible task. The three top issues involved in replacing these service lines

are the time investment to complete this work; the expense that strains already tight municipal budgets; and the effects of public inconvenience as the lines are dug up and replaced.

Lead service lines must be identified before they can be replaced. Not all cities

## CHALLENGES (CONTINUED)

have comprehensive records of where these lines are installed; identifying lines and tracing them to their origins at the water main (often buried beneath a roadway) can take time. Once the line's location is properly marked other utilities in the area must also be marked, to prevent accidental damage to those lines. Notices and permits must be posted or acquired before digging commences. A backhoe or other heavy equipment is brought in and the street is blocked off while the old supply line is dug up, with

hand digging taking place around other utilities to prevent damage. The old line is shut off and disconnected from both the water main end and the house end, and then a new supply line is placed, connected, tested for leaks, and finally re-buried. Finally, repairs to the surface pavement, turf, and other areas must be completed.

However, there are other options available to make the process faster, easier, and less expensive while reducing

customer complaints. [Using a service line puller](#) can bring the process of changing lead service lines within the grasp of even the smallest water utilities. This allows you to meet the demands of consumers who want their service lines replaced while minimizing the impact on your water utility's budget, task list, and repair process. In the past, the effectiveness of these tools has been limited by their design, which has often been engineered to only work in soft, loose soils, but new options are available.

## SOLUTION

### Cost-Effective Supply Line Replacement with Team EJP

Team EJP (Everett J. Prescott, Inc.) has step-by-step solutions available to water utilities facing down the lead service line replacement deadline. We have experienced professionals devoted to the services you need, like project budgeting and planning, GIS mapping, and tie card scanning. We offer an extensive array of replacement pipe and other materials, including the [Service Line Puller Kit](#) from [New Concept Tools](#) and lead-free waterworks brass from Team Red Hed. Team EJP is here to support the nationwide goal of "getting the lead out" and creating safe water distribution for all Americans.

How can we help? We're glad you asked. Each of Team EJP's devoted waterworks sister companies represents a pillar of support in the lead service line replacement process. When it's time to consider replacement products and specialty field services, Team EJP, a trustworthy ally for waterworks professionals, is the ideal partner. Team EJP has the most comprehensive service department in the business and a full range of specialized products you need. Rest easier knowing that Team EJP has a full-time, [on-call service department](#).



Waterworks can be an unpredictable industry, and water emergencies demand fast response. Team EJP has the trucks, equipment, and experienced personnel needed to help municipalities, contractors, and utilities.

Our team is ready to perform scheduled field service, too. Replacing lead service lines can require extra upgrades. For example, various parts of a service line could be impacted, requiring the installation of a new tap or connection, removal and replacement of a corporation stop, and so on. Old lead

service lines in smaller diameters may need to be replaced with a larger new pipe, and Team EJP has the pipes and the personnel needed to get that job done!

We offer a full range of all the specialized products you need, including:

- [Copper or CTS Tubing](#) (depending upon municipality recommendations)
- [Service Brass](#)
- [Tapping Tools](#)
- [Tapping Sleeves](#)
- **And More**