

**Drinking Water Advisory Council
Lead in Drinking Water (LIDW) Work Group
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2016**

In attendance: Greg Heitzman, Chair (BWK), Jennifer Burt (DPH), Tom Gabbard (DOW), Mike Gardner (BGMU), Ron Lovan (NKYW), Brad Montgomery (ACEC), Bill Robertson (PWWKY), Thomas Rockaway (UofL), Justin Sensabaugh (KYAW),

Liaisons: Gary Larimore (KRWA), Kay Sanborn (KYTN-AWWA)

Absent: Obe Cox (CCW), Rengao Song (LWC), Brian Thomas (MWD)

Division of Water (DOW): Sarah Gaddis, Samantha Kaiser, Todd Ritter

Public Attendees: Amber Agee (DPH), Lane Boldman (KCC), Samantha Morgan Faulkner (KYOAG-ORI), George Haynes II (DCA), Representative Dennis Horlander (LRC), Melissa A. Melton (RCAP), Jim Smith (CCW)

The meeting was held at the Kentucky Division of Water office, 300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort, KY and began at 1:35 p.m. EDT.

Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Membership

Chair Greg Heitzman led the roll call and noted the absent members.

Introduction of Guests

Guests introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes of June 15, 2016

Changes were made to June Meeting Minutes and the Workgroup approved the June Meeting Minutes by consensus.

Presentation by Distribution Piping Sub-group

Bill Robertson gave a Power Point presentation regarding water distribution and piping materials. Lead joints in cast iron piping (generally used prior to 1960) should not be a major area of focus for a source of lead contamination in drinking water. The primary source of lead in drinking water in distribution systems will be from lead service lines/piping, pipe fittings that contain lead, such as meters, brass/bronze fittings and valves and from lead based solder.

There is currently no easy method to inventory buried lead service lines. There are methods that require significant amounts of effort and are costly for utilities. He suggested that the first step in inventorying lead services lines is a detailed review of local plumbing codes, customer files, old system maps, old field books, purchasing records, board meeting minutes, etc. to try to determine the location of lead service lines, or the date that utilities phased out the use lead for service lines and replaced with newer materials, such as copper. Several cities, such as Paducah and Louisville report the use of copper as a substitute for lead, beginning in the 1930's. Some major US cities (i.e. Chicago) installed lead services into the 1980's.

The next step for inventory of lead service lines is using GIS systems to identify areas that have the greatest potential for lead service lines based on the age of the water main, age of homes, or other historical data, such as service line installation records. Utilities can then excavate adjacent to the water main and look at the service line material. This can be performed by conventional excavation with backhoe, or by using vacuum excavation or hand digging. Another suggested approach is testing the water for lead at each meter and also testing water at the tap inside the home, which is an indirect method but quicker and costs less. The data collected can be analyzed to determine if lead is detected between the water main and meter and between the meter and the customers tap. This method has been used with inconsistent results at best.

The workgroup discussed how utilities deal with lead service lines when they are found. Utilities are not required to, but most do, replace lead services lines once they are exposed during excavation in the field. There is a concern that during a partial lead service line replacement, disrupting the service line could cause elevated lead levels. Once the excavation process begins to find lead service lines, generalizing where they are located can be inaccurate. Lead service lines have been found in close proximity to excavated locations where no lead service line was found, often due to previous repairs on the service line or materials used by plumbers on premise plumbing. Every community is different and every location is different.

Each utility is responsible for their lead service line inventory; some utilities have acquired other water systems which makes it difficult to establish an inventory for those lines. Some utilities are waiting until regulators reach a decision regarding lead service line replacement. Other utilities (i.e. Louisville) have an active lead service line replacement program, replacing up to 1,500 per year. There is not a 'one size fits all' solution for eliminating lead service lines. Each utility should review its history of lead service lines, its lead compliance record, and treatment methods to determine if a lead service line replacement program should be implemented.

Other issues that need to be addressed are how best to communicate to the public, elected officials, and regulators; how operators need be trained to identify lead service lines; and how to integrate these concepts into standard practice. The group also acknowledged the importance of public education and operator training.

National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) Report of Lead

The NDWAC Report on Lead (hard copy provided to Workgroup members) is a good resource for the subgroups to use when preparing subgroup reports. Water industry leaders published this report in August 2015, prior to the Flint Michigan lead crisis and this allows a pre-Flint viewpoint on the lead service line issue.

Review Subgroups Assignments and Schedule

The Workgroup discussed the subgroup assignments and schedule. There will be no meeting in September. The Training subgroup will present at the meeting in October, and the Finance subgroup will present in November.

Discuss Report Template

The Workgroup was reminded to convert each presentation into a text document for its report. Mr. Heitzman will email the report template to the Workgroup members.

Open Discussion for Workgroup

The Workgroup discussed the U.S. EPA Drinking Water Workshop that will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 23 – 25 and Kentucky Rural Water Association's Annual Conference August 22 – 24.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

Next Workgroup Meeting

The Workgroup reached a consensus that there will be no meeting in September. The Workgroup decided the next meeting will be held on October 26, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. EDT at 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY. All future meeting presentations will be pushed back by one month. Mr. Heitzman will update the Workgroup membership and schedule spreadsheet and forward to Workgroup members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

DRAFT

