

EPA Lead Service Line Inventory

Shenandoah, Iowa

Last week a large number of Shenandoah residents received one of three letters from the Shenandoah Water Department in regards to the water service line to their properties. Three types of letters were sent about the water service line material to properties. Those letters were for water service lines made of lead, galvanized steel, or of unknown or unidentified material. If you did not receive a letter then the water service line material has been identified or installed after 1988 and is not lead or galvanized steel.

In 2021 the EPA mandated that all public water service lines in the United States be inventoried and the material of which the pipe is made of be identified as best as possible. Properties with water service lines found to be made of lead, galvanized steel, or unknown or unidentified in material received a letter explaining the health effects of lead and information about lead in general as mandated by the EPA. Until the water service line material is identified both outside and where it enters the property, a letter will be sent annually each July.

The Lead Service Line Inventory was required to be submitted by October 16, 2024. While the EPA's final rules have not been released it has been indicated that cities will likely have 10 years to identify all water service line material that enters the structure and the material between the shut off valve in the curb area and the water main unless it is non-lead or non-galvanized. Further, it is believed that service lines made of lead and galvanized steel to the home or building will have to be replaced within 10 years. Funding for this mandate has not been determined yet.

In Shenandoah, houses or buildings older than 1940 have a good chance of having partial lead or galvanized water service lines especially if the original water service line is intact. Lead in Shenandoah is normally found between the water main and the shut off valve near the curb. Galvanized piping is normally found after lead between the curb and the house.

The Shenandoah Water Treatment Plant utilizes pH control and chemical additives to help prevent the corrosion of lead joints and piping in the distribution system. The Water Department tests for lead and copper every three years as mandated by the DNR. To date no issues have been found with those tests.

If any water quality or health concerns should arise the Water Department will provide the public with the proper notice and guidance.

The Water Department will continue to work with the EPA and DNR to comply with future mandates and guidance with this ongoing issue and continue to keep the public informed.

Thank you.

The Shenandoah Water Department