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LEAD & COPPER RULES REQUIRE ACTION BY OCTOBER 2024

Indiana communities are making progress in removing harmful lead from the drinking water and complying with the requirements of the state's revised Lead and Copper rules.

Fort Wayne City Utilities is one of Indiana's proactive utilities and was among the first to receive funding for a lead service replacement program. Utility staff kept a close eye on the Federal infrastructure bill passed in late 2021 and immediately contacted the Indiana Finance Authority about the distribution of funds that would come through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

"We appreciate the state's effort to help us replace lead service lines. We've been doing replacements since 2019 and DWSRF funding helps us perform these replacements while keeping our rates lower," said Austyn Smedberg, engineer for the City of Fort Wayne's City Utilities. "Our corrosion control treatment is very helpful to property owners that have a lead water line. Replacing the lead service lines from the non-lead water mains to the home helps even further."

Like all Indiana communities, Smedberg and City Utilities officials are still on the clock to prepare and maintain a comprehensive inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024, and provide material verification methodology. In 2019, Fort Wayne officials estimated they had 15,000 lead service lines among over 100,000 total service lines. The inventories, submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), must be updated every year.

"We've been looking at the new rules and making sure that we're on the right track. Compiling a comprehensive distribution system material inventory that will become publicly available is one aspect of this rule that we have been preparing for," Smedberg noted. "We've got the groundwork built for that, and we're populating the data so that we will be ready for the October 2024 deadline."

The new Lead and Copper Rules, set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), require public water systems to perform additional actions to better protect communities from exposure to lead in drinking water. Improvements under the new rules include:

- Using science-based testing protocols to find more sources of lead in drinking water.

- Establishing a trigger level to jumpstart mitigation earlier and in more communities.
- Driving more and complete lead service line replacements.
- For the first time, requiring testing in schools and childcare facilities.
- Requiring water systems to identify and make public the locations of lead service lines.



The new rules also require increasing public communication and outreach, including notifying residents who have lead service lines connected to their homes.

F&V CAN HELP WITH NEW RULES, EXPECTATIONS

The potential for the inventory and line replacement can be daunting, especially for small water systems. Estimates range between \$28 to \$47 billion to replace lead service lines across the country, which does not include other pricey aspects of the new rules such as testing water in schools and facilities.

Community water suppliers with systems that have corrosive water, no inventories, and elevated lead and copper levels at homes, may have financial difficulties complying with the new rules.

Funding is available from the Indiana Finance Authority through DWSRF for lead service line replacement on public and private property and asset management efforts. Low-interest loans and principal forgiveness are also available for disadvantaged communities.

There's a lot to tackle in a short period of time. Many funding opportunities may involve conversations with local officials, completing applications or filing grants, all of which take time.

F&V has helped Indiana and Michigan clients receive more than \$200 million in SRF funding last year.

If you need help with funding or understanding the new requirements on your community water supply, contact Tom Cicero at tcicero@fveng.com or call 800.494.5202.

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*Austyn Smedberg, engineer for the
City of Fort Wayne's City Utilities*

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