



PUBLIC WORKS UTILITY OPERATIONS

DATE: October 17, 2016
FROM: Michelle Klose, Director of Utility Operations *MK*
ITEM: Water Service Line Policies including Lead Service Line Replacement

REQUEST

Review and approval of the draft water service line policies.

Please place this item on the October 25, 2016 City Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We are receiving residential requests for replacement of lead service lines. These service lines are the water lines constructed and maintained by the homeowner that extend from the city water main to the water meter within the home.

The city is in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule which is part of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Lead testing has been ongoing for many years, however there has been greater interest raised more recently with the national attention in Flint, Michigan. EPA and the North Dakota Department of Health are expecting increased monitoring and a lowering of compliance levels for lead within the service lines of homes. The EPA has a compliance level of 0.015mg/L and a goal level of 0mg/L for human consumption, so this is considered a health and safety issue.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION

Review and approval of attached water service line policies.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

I will be present at the City Commission meeting to respond to questions the Board may have regarding this matter. **Contact:** Michelle Klose, 355-1700, mklose@bismarcknd.gov

Policies on Residential Water Service Lines

Effective: 10/25/2016

Purpose: Maintenance and repair of water service lines are a responsibility of the property owner. Bismarck City Ordinance Title 11-02-01.1g states *all service pipes, curb boxes, corporation stops, shut off boxes and any other fixtures off of the main are the property of the owner and must be kept in repair at the owner's expense*. This policy establishes the conditions under which the City of Bismarck will incur or reimburse costs using the Service Line Repair fund.

Eligibility of Water Service Lines: Water service lines connected to the City water main which serve residential properties with four living units or less, are charged a monthly fee to establish a Service Line Repair fund. Those properties that pay the monthly fee into the fund are eligible for reimbursement of costs according to the following policies.

Repair Policy: The repair policy covers leak repairs to tapping saddle or corporation stop connections to the City water main, leak repairs of the curb stop inlet or outlet connection, the adjustment of curb boxes and repair of inoperable curb stops. The City will undertake the repair including any surface restoration deemed necessary by the Director of Utility Operations, and the cost will be covered by the fund. Any repairs required due to damage caused by the property owner or third parties and any damages caused by a leak outside the repair area are not eligible.

Frozen Water Service Line Policy: The frozen water service line policy covers only restoring water service from the City water main to the meter due to extensive frost depth. This policy does not include damages caused by negligence of the property owner or third parties or any damages resulting from the frozen line. The property owner's contracted expense to restore service will be reviewed and the cost for the work deemed necessary by the Director of Utility Operations is eligible for reimbursement.

Lead Service Line Replacement Policy: The lead service line replacement policy covers removal of lead water service line from the City water main to the curb stop. The work is only eligible if completed in combination with the property owner's replacement of the lead water service line between the curb stop and the meter. The direct cost of the work from the City water main to the curb stop including any surface restoration deemed necessary by the Director of Utility Operations is eligible for reimbursement. Due to the health and safety related issues related to lead service lines, the City of Bismarck will allow the property owner's replacement cost of the lead service line from the curb stop to the meter to be paid through a special assessment on the property.