

## Brookville Municipal Authority

### FACTS regarding Lead Service Lines

In 1986, the Safe Drinking Water Act banned all lead being used for any plumbing not just drinking water plumbing including the pipes, fittings, solder, and flux. In 1989, Pennsylvania passed The Plumbing System Lead Ban and Notification Act. The law became effective on Jan. 6, 1991, and applies to plumbing construction or repairs done after that date.

Based on this information, BMA ceased installation of any fittings (or pipe for that matter) that contained lead on our end of the public system. What any plumber worked on inside of someone's structure, we would have little to no information on as we do not govern beyond the meter.

We have extensive detailed records for what BMA's side of the service lines are from the main to the curb box and almost as many for what the remainder of your service lines are composed of, which is from the curb box to the meter inside your home or business. There are a very limited number of structures that we will have to enter to see exactly what pipe material is coming through the foundation and immediately hooking to the meter.

If you are concerned about your plumbing lines inside of your structure, leaded solder can be checked with a type of swab, available on Amazon, that the FDA reports is 96.6% accurate, among various other methods being available.

PADEP has existing Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) set for lead which we have historically tested for, every three years, as required. To date, we have never exceeded the MCL for lead in our system which is tested at the customers faucet of their choosing per very detailed instructions, from houses that we know have lead service lines. These levels are measured in parts per million (ppm). The MCL for lead is 0.015 ppm. To give you perspective on parts per million, 1 ppm is equivalent to:

- 1 inch in 16 miles, or
- 1 minute in 2 years, or
- 1 ounce of salt in 31 tons of potato chips.
  - To break this down further, a party size bag of Lay's potato chips weighs 13 ounces which equates to 76,308 family size bags of chips to 1 ounce of salt, which is not much salt for flavor. Entertaining the MCL for lead being 0.015 ppm, that would be the equivalent of 1 ounce of salt for 5,080,615 party size bags of Lay's potato chips.

BMA has historically fed a corrosion inhibitor that coats the inside of the pipes to prevent such corrosion, which is why we have never reached the MCL for lead.

The EPA has enacted a lead service line inventory due by October 16, 2024. You may receive a letter requesting access to your home or business so that BMA can determine what type of line runs through your foundation and to the meter, or you can simply send a picture via text or email as instructed on the letter. The EPA continues to administer changes to its protocol for the lead service line inventory which BMA will stay abreast of. Rest assured that our crew is working diligently on finishing the inventory within the next couple of months, so we can move forward to the next step.