

**Indian River County, Florida
Department of Utility Services
Board Memorandum**

Date: November 14, 2024

To: Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

Through: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Nancy A. Bunt, Assistant County Administrator
Sean C. Lieske, Director of Utility Services

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Subject: Update Regarding EPA Mandated Notice of Unknown Service Line Material Letter Dated November 8, 2024

Background:

In 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) passed a set of regulations now known as the lead and copper rule improvements (LCRI) that requires water utilities to identify and replace any lead pipes used in water service lines. To implement these regulations, EPA delegated the implementation of the LCRI rules for Florida properties to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The first step in implementing this ruling requires an inventory of the material type used for all water service lines. The second step is to investigate all water service lines identified during the inventory as “Unknown” regarding the material and determine which, if any, are lead. The final step is to replace all water service lines containing lead. Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) embarked on step one of the inventory initiative in August 2022. IRCDUS is now in step two of this process.

Analysis:

Compiling the inventory in step one required IRCDUS to review its historical records and identify the service lines where the materials used was known. This required a review of 56,386 IRCDUS water service line records for date of property construction and materials used by IRCDUS in constructing the service line. The review resulted in Staff identifying 45,903 water service lines that were determined safe and free of lead based on the year of the pipe installation and the year the home was built. The remaining 10,483 water service lines are unknown and required further investigation.

The next step in the investigation required us to notify the property owners whose water service line material has been identified as unknown. This step required IRCDUS to mail a Notice of Unknown Service Line Material Letter to the property owner along with a Lead Service Line Replacement pamphlet. This mailing was reviewed and approved by FDEP. This mailing was sent by IRCDUS on or about November 8, 2024.

IRCDUS is now notifying the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) that the mailing has been completed, and we are receiving both responses to our request as well as question/concerns. Based upon those customer questions, a follow-up letter to address customer inquiries was mailed on or about November 22, 2024.

Funding:

No funding is requested at this time.

Recommendation:

This update notification item is provided for the Board of County Commissioners' information. No action is necessary at this time.

Attachment:

- Notice of Unknown Service Line Material letter
- Lead Service Line Replacement pamphlet
- Second Follow Up Letter