

Re: Consumer Notification of Lead Status Unknown Service Line

Dear Water Customer:

The Muhlenberg Township Authority (MTA) provides drinking water to more than 8,000 people in Muhlenberg Township and select surrounding areas. Our ground source wells operate around the clock, producing 4 million gallons of drinking water daily that meets state and federal safety standards.

During 2024, and continuing in 2025, in addition to performing routine maintenance and upgrades to our water treatment and distribution system, the MTA will be taking steps to identify the types of service line materials used by each of our customers. The service line is the pipe that connects your home or building to the water main in the street. Service lines may be made of lead, copper, galvanized metal, or plastic.

This verification process was prompted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which issued a Lead and Copper Rule Revision that requires the MTA to identify all lead customer-owned service lines by October 2024. While many service line material types have been identified, thousands are still unknown. For those customers whose water service line has yet to be determined, it has been classified as “Lead Service Unknown.” This means that all or a portion of the service line may be made of lead or galvanized piping, requiring replacement. Please be advised that water supplied through a service line of unknown material has the potential to increase your risk of exposure to lead.

In accordance with regulatory requirements, you are receiving this notice because the material of the water service line to the above address has been classified as “Lead Service Unknown.” In order to comply with this regulatory requirement, your assistance in verifying the service line material is needed.

For further information regarding this regulatory directive, identification of your service line, and what information is needed to complete this verification process, please visit the MTA website at [www.muhlenberg.org](http://www.muhlenberg.org) or call our office at #610-929-4709.

***The following contains further information regarding your water service line, how to identify your service line material, a service line inventory form, and important information regarding lead exposure:***

**What is a Service line?**

A service line is the piping that connects your household or building plumbing to the water main in the street. Ownership varies by water system but is typically split between the water system and the customer. Muhlenberg Township Authority owns the section of the service line from the water main up to and including the corporation stop, while the section from just beyond the corporation stop to the home is owned by the homeowner, or customer. Service lines may be made of lead, copper, galvanized metal, or plastic (see photos provided below).

## How Can I Determine My Service Line Material?

Muhlenberg Township Authority is continuing service line identification for possible replacement. If your service line is found to contain lead or galvanized piping requiring replacement, you will receive a separate notice with information about service line replacement and financing opportunities. Below are photographs of the different piping materials. We are requesting that the homeowner provides this information to the Authority by circling the appropriate material and providing the information in writing below. You, as the customer, should be able to identify the material of the piping that comes into your home by looking at the piping that is connected to your water meter (if it is inside your home). The following are photographs of the piping that can be located in your basement or other location where the utilities enter or exit your home.

### WATER SERVICE LINE EXAMPLES



Please identify the material of your water service: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach a Photograph of your water service)

If you know when this line was installed, please provide this information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this letter to the Muhlenberg Township Authority once you have identified your service line material. You are also welcome to enter this information online at the following website:

<https://www.muhlenberg.org>.

This information must be provided to the Authority within 90 days of receipt of this letter, but no later than February 15, 2025.

## Why Is This Important?

### What are the health effects of lead?

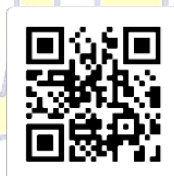
Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

### What Can I do to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If the water hasn't been used for several hours, run the water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or run the water until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. Only use cold water for drinking and cooking.
- **Do NOT use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.**
- **Do NOT boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.**
- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water, such as use of a pitcher filter that is certified to remove lead and replace the cartridges on a routine frequency or use bottled water.**
- **Identify and replace premise plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead free" installed prior to 2014, may contribute lead to drinking water because the law allowed fixtures with up to 8% lead to be labeled as lead free.
- **Regularly clean your aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

For more information, call us at (610) 929-4709, or visit our website at [www.muhlenberg.org](http://www.muhlenberg.org). Please Scan the QR Code below for faster access to Muhlenberg Township Authority Lead and Copper Reporting web page.



SCAN ME

Sincerely, Muhlenberg Township Authority