

**Lead Service Line Planning Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**

March 31, 2022

Meeting Called to Order at 2:03 p.m. by Kenley Farmer, appointed Chair.

**I. Roll Call of Task Force Members**

- Kenley Farmer, designee for Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Matthew Nestopoulos, designee for Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)
- Stephen Varga, designee for District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Randy Speck, public representative appointed by Council
- Valerie Baron, public representative appointed by Council
- John Deignan, proxy for Maureen Schmelling, designee for DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

**Guest Panelists**

- Kishia Powell, DC Water
- Apera Nwora, DC Water

**II. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes**

The meeting agenda was adopted and meeting minutes from March 17<sup>th</sup> can be adopted after two insertions.

1. The task force recommends inviting the Office of Racial Equity or the DOEE racial equity point of contact to future meetings.
2. Task Force must provide feedback by April 7, 2022, on the Lead Service Line Planning Task Force Guiding Principles.

**III. Timeline Review of Council's Independent Cost Assessment**

The task force voted on March 29, 2022, to extend the reporting deadline by two months from 10 months to 12 months (from August 23, 2021).

Draft Plan Deadline: Change from April 23, 2022, to June 23, 2022

Final Plan Deadline: Change from June 23, 2022, to August 23, 2022

#### **IV. Review of DC Water's Lead-Free DC Plan and Cost**

The Lead Free DC Plan (Plan) revised cost estimates are based on actual bid tabs received from contractors. Find the Plan cost estimate spreadsheet at <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1591491>

The cost estimates are broken into five categories and three major program areas.

Categories:

1. Quantities
2. Construction Unit Costs
3. Construction Subtotal
4. Design Cost Estimates
5. Program Management, Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement, Construction Management, and Data Management

Program Areas:

1. Capital Improvement Project
  - Block-by-Block Program
  - Emergency Replacement Program and Vulnerable Population
  - Small Diameter Water Main Replacement Program
2. Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program
3. Voluntary Full Replacement Program

#### **Question and Answer Session**

Q: Why DC Water have to do the water main work?

A: If the water main is in poor condition or old while performing the lead line replacement, it's necessary to replace due to potential puncturing that would result in poor water quality. Furthermore, it's most cost efficient and best for the residents.

Q: Should it be assumed that 40% to 50% of unknown lead service lines contain lead?

A: Yes, the Plan has the methodology that analyzed the number of known service lines, unknown lead service lines, and private lead service lines to come up with the projected data shared in the Plan that was released in June.

Q: Many residents are not agreeing to the voluntary replacement. Why are we assuming that residents will agree? How do the refusals affect the timeline of 2030?

A: In the block-by-block current construction, DC Water received 50% of the Private Property Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement Agreement (LSR) from residents. The data helps DC Water monitor and adjust outreach strategies that can aid in higher participation. The removal of lead service lines 2030 goal cannot be reached with the current policy without residents' participation.

Q: Can DC Water compare the cost model with other places other than Newark, New Jersey?

A: DC Water had benchmark data to find out how different utilities were funding their lead service line replacement programs. With this information, DC Water reached out to Pittsburg, Detroit, and Cincinnati to gather detailed information on their cost, program structure, and policy.

Q: How do we overcome the refusals and alternatives?

A: The task force continues to brainstorm on possible effective methods to include in the report to DC Council to increase participation.

## **V. Action Items and Future Agenda Items**

### **Action Items**

- Randy Speck/Kenley Farmer will:
  - Share the public notice and other relevant materials with ANCs.
- Kenley Farmer will:
  - Invite the Office of Racial Equity or the DOEE racial equity point of contact to future task force meetings.
- Valerie Baron/Paul Schwartz will:
  - Identify lead service line replacement expert(s) that can join one of the task force meetings to talk about their experience.
- Valerie Baron/Randy Speck will:
  - Draft proposed recommendations for the Lead Free DC Plan.
- Maureen Schmelling/DC Water will:
  - Coordinate a time for Paul to join DC Water's door to door outreach event.

- Draft a one-pager on the processes and efficiency gains between DCRA and DC Water project coordination .
- Confirm if DC Water attorneys are open to changes to the LSR Agreement. If not, provide a cover letter of the LSR Agreement in simpler language.
- Share DC Water's Fiscal Year 2021 actual cost report and current cost estimates with the task force.
- Task Force members will:
  - Provide final comments on the Lead Service Line Planning Task Force Guiding Principles by Thursday, April 7, 2022, via email.
  - Continue to identify District agencies that can aid in the development of the lead service line plan to the Council.
  - Share related documents (memorandum of agreement, studies, etc.) to help with the formulation of the plan via the Lead Service Line Planning Task Force Box.com account.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Meet with Safe Water Engineering, LLC to review their assessment.

### **Proposed Agenda for 4/14/22**

1. Roll Call of Task Force Members
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes and Meeting Agenda
3. Finalize the Guiding Principles
4. Review of DC Water's Lead Free DC Plan and Costs
5. Discuss Outreach and Partnership Opportunities
6. Reports from Subcommittees
7. Question and Answer Session
8. Action Items and Future Agenda Items