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*City Attorney*

**Justin Smith**  
*Director of Public Services*

February 10, 2025

Resident  
Address  
St. Johns, MI 48879

RE: Water Service Line Study to Verify Water Line Material

Dear Water Customer,

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently required all municipal water systems to perform a Complete Distribution System Material Inventory (CDSMI). The City of St. Johns has finished its CDSMI in accordance with EGLE and EPA guidelines. This distribution study includes verifying the water service line material that delivers water into your house. This inventory is done by utilizing historical records, work orders and assumptions based upon the age of your home and our water distribution infrastructure. The various water service line materials, that service lines are made of, are plastic, copper, galvanized and lead.

Although EGLE and EPA guidelines are new, the City of St. Johns has long recognized the need to address lead service lines within our distribution system. This study is part of a long history of focus and attention towards our water distribution system. The City and its consultants, utilizing EGLE and EPA guidelines and historical data, have determined that your water service line material **may contain lead.**

The City of St Johns has been proactively removing and replacing lead service lines for over 30 years. In addition to lead line removals, the City of St Johns introduces an additive, poly-phosphate, in our water treatment process which provides a protective coating on lead pipes preventing lead particles from entering the drinking water. These proactive steps have been in place for over three decades. The City has always met all current and prior guidelines and requirements for all lead and copper sampling mandated by the State of Michigan.

Per EGLE requirements, the City of St Johns performs Lead and Copper sampling. Sampling occurs every three years, these samples have never revealed any lead in our distribution system. These sample results are available on the City's webpage by visiting [www.cityofstjohnsmi.com/lead](http://www.cityofstjohnsmi.com/lead) to view the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and other related documents.

**Next Steps:** To verify your service line material is in fact lead, the City of St. Johns needs to schedule an in-home inspection of your water service line. This step is essential to determine the level of risk and confirm the material of the service line. City staff, upon inspection, will discuss next steps, if any, that should be taken regarding your water service line. Also, a follow-up letter will be sent to you with the results. There will be **NO cost to you** for the inspection or, if needed, the replacement of your water service line.

To schedule your in-home inspection or if you have any questions, please contact:

**Calvin Galecka**

**Water System Supervisor**

**Phone: 989-224-8944 EXT 235**

**If determined that your water service line contains lead, below is guidance to reduce your exposure to lead.**

**Health Risks of Lead Exposure:** Lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects, especially in infants, children, and pregnant women. Here are some actions you can take to reduce exposure:

1. **Use a Lead-Reducing Filter:** We recommend using a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter. Please see the attached guide for more information on choosing and using filters.
2. **Flush Your Pipes:** Run your water for at least five minutes if it has been sitting stagnate in excess of 12 hours to flush out lead-containing water.
3. **Use Cold Water:** Always use cold water for drinking and cooking, as hot water dissolves lead more easily.
4. **Get Your Water Tested:** You can have your water tested by contacting the City of St. Johns or using a certified lab. More details on testing can be found in the attached materials.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of your water supply. We appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Calvin Galecka  
Water Supervisor