

Smyrna, GA Gets Ahead of Lead:

City saves resources using cost-effective verification methods to identify service line material

Bo Jones is the Assistant Director of Public Works in Smyrna, Georgia. Like most, he reviewed the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and realized the daunting task before him and the industry. Rather than wait for guidance, Jones took action to give him and his team as much time as possible to complete their preliminary inventory ahead of the EPA's deadline of October 16, 2024.

The City of Smyrna serves a population of over 55,000 people, meaning they have to account for the material type of nearly 15,000 service line connections on the public and private sides of the line. Rather than tackle this massive data project alone, Bo Jones contracted 120Water to support the city's inventory development.

120Water led the effort of a historical records review. During this process, our team evaluated Smyrna's GIS and billing data as well as an entire filing cabinet of paper-based tap cards. All the city's information was loaded into 120Water's platform from which Bo and his team were able to see they had a significant number of service lines with an unknown material type.

The revised LCR states that any service line on the public or private side with an unknown material type at the time of the October 16, 2024 deadline must be classified as lead. Additionally, all the residents connected to an unknown service line must be sent communication sharing that information. However, service lines can be validated using an EPA-approved verification method.

450

informational
postcards
mailed to
residents

400

1st/5th liter
sampling kits
sent to
residents for
LSL verification

1,200%
savings using
verification
methods vs
replacing all
unknowns

Jones wanted to avoid potholing and excavating residents' yards as much as possible, which is why he decided to run a verification program through his 120Water account.

Jones and his team chose to run a verification program with sequential sampling. The team used 120Water's Communications Module and Program Hub to notify residents and ship sampling kits. By using their 120Water account, they were able to:

- **Send 450 informational postcards to residents prior to sampling**
- **Mail 400 5-liter testing kits to homes, along with detailed instructions for taking the sample correctly**
- **Secure 1,200% savings as a result of this verification method**

The sampling results from the lab were uploaded into 120Water's platform from which Bo and his team were better able to determine whether those homes might have a lead line on either the public or private side.

Powered by 120Water, the City of Smyrna was able to send 450 informational postcards to residents, informing them of the verification program as well as mail 400 profile sequential sampling kits to residents with detailed instructions for how to correctly take the sample. Ultimately, verifying service lines in this manner equated to 1,200% savings for the City of Smyrna.

Smyrna's initial verification program is an example of the many programs utilities will need to run in order to meet LCRR compliance. Fortunately, by purchasing 120Water, the City of Smyrna now has a centralized, dedicated platform where they can manage their inventory data and effectively run these types of programs, send customer communications, and submit their compliance reports to the state and federal agencies.

