

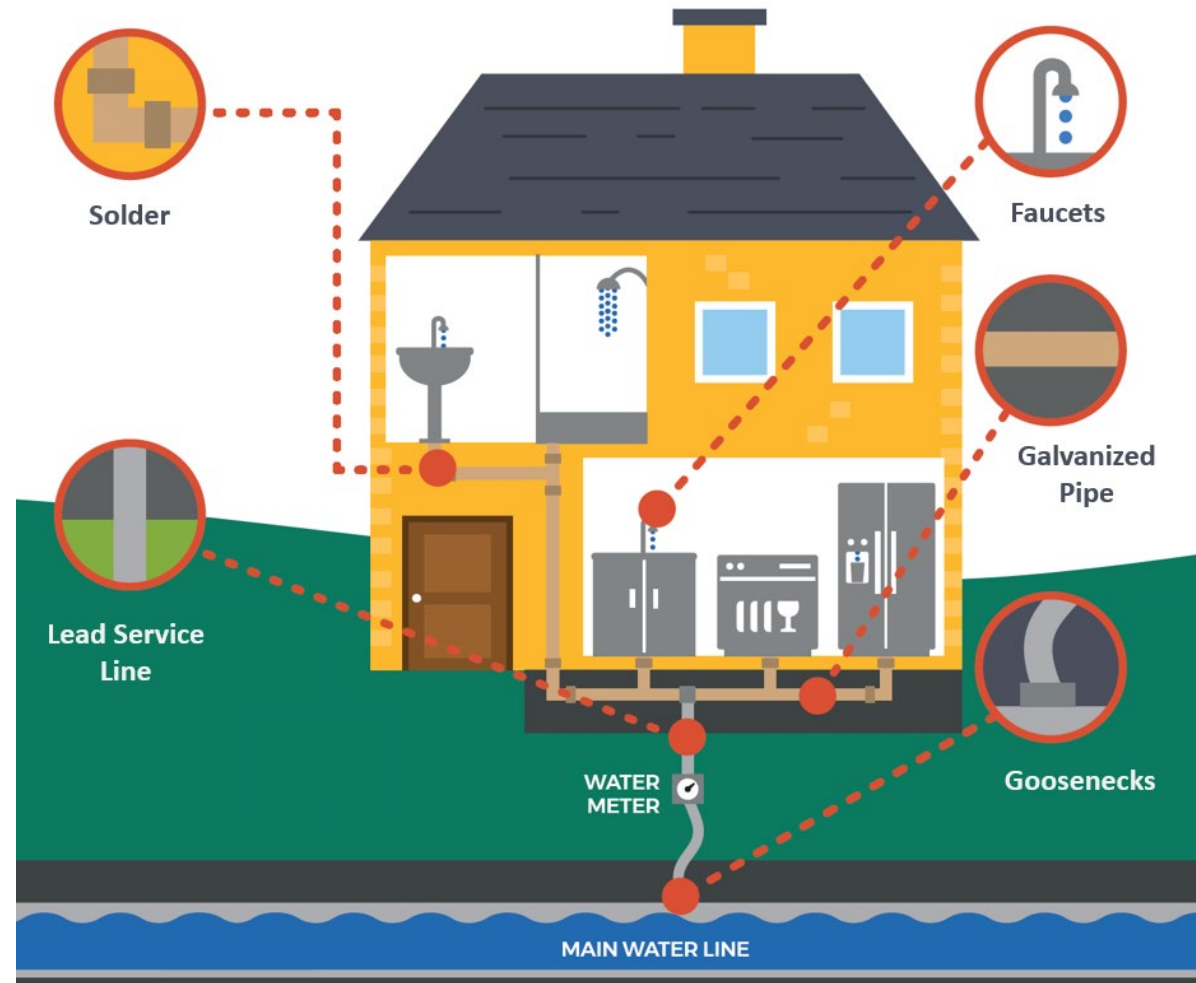


# Final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements

## October 8, 2024

# Lead in Drinking Water

- Lead in drinking water irreparably harms the health of children and adults and disproportionately impacts lower-income communities and communities of color.
- Legacy lead pipes have exposed generations of Americans to health-harming lead and will continue to do so until they are removed.
- EPA estimates that up to 9 million homes are connected to water mains through lead pipes, posing an ever-present risk to Americans' health and wellbeing.



# Key Messages

- Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) strengthens nationwide requirements to protect the public from lead in drinking water. These advancements are commonsense, achievable, and built on actions taken by states and cities.
- The final rule establishes additional requirements to better protect communities from lead in drinking water including requirements to,
  - Locate legacy lead pipes,
  - Improve tap sampling,
  - Lower the lead action level,
  - Strengthen public health protection through filter requirements, and
  - Improve communication.

# Key Messages

- The health and economic benefits of the Rule exceed the costs by **more than tenfold**. Investments in removing lead pipes will create good-paying local jobs.
- Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and funding programs like Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), there has never been more federal funding available to remove lead pipes.
- The Biden-Harris Administration is taking a whole of government approach to get the lead out of our communities, deliver clean water for all, and advance environmental justice.

# Key Provisions in the Final LCRI

- Replacing lead services lines within 10 years
- Locating existing lead pipes
- Strengthening tap sampling
- Lowering the threshold for taking action and eliminates the overly complex trigger level
- Reducing exposure at home
- Communicating transparently and frequently



# Lead Service Line Replacement

- Where lead service lines are present, they represent the greatest source of exposure to lead in drinking water.
- Water systems will be required to replace lead services lines under their control within 10 years.
- In limited circumstances, additional time for systems with a high proportion of lead service lines will be provided to complete service line replacement.
- Systems must create a service line replacement plan and make it publicly available.
- Lead service line replacement removes the greatest lead in drinking water risk to many communities.



# Locate Existing Lead Pipes

- Knowing where lead pipes are is critical to replacing them efficiently and equitably.
- Water systems are currently required to provide the state with an initial inventory of their lead service lines by October 16, 2024 that must be made publicly available.
- Under the LCRI, all water systems are required to regularly update their inventories and identify the materials of all service lines of unknown material.
  - Systems are required to complete baseline inventories 3 years after the publication date of the LCRI in the *Federal Register*.

# Strengthen Tap Sampling

- Changes to tap sampling requirements, informed by best practices already being used by leading states like Michigan.
- Requires water systems to collect first-liter and fifth-liter samples at sites with a lead service line.
- Systems must use the higher of the two values when calculating the system's 90<sup>th</sup> percentile lead level.



# Lowers the Action Level and Eliminates the Trigger Level

- The LCRI lowers the threshold for taking action, known as the lead action level from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L
- Eliminates the overly complex trigger level
- When a water system's 90<sup>th</sup> percentile lead sampling result exceeds this level, the system would be required to:
  - Notify the public
  - Install or adjust corrosion control treatment
  - Conduct public education program
- Note that systems must expeditiously replace all lead service lines irrespective of whether or not they exceed the action level

# Supports Reducing Exposure at Home

- Water systems with multiple lead action level exceedances are required to conduct additional outreach to consumers and make filters available to all consumers.
- Water systems must also provide filters following disturbances of lead service lines and lead service line replacements.
- The filters must be certified to reduce lead.



# Communicating Transparently and Frequently

- Requires more frequent and proactive communications on lead service lines and the system's plans for replacement.
- Requires communities to include clear health language about the dangers of lead in Consumer Confidence Reports and public education materials.
- The Consumer Confidence Reports will also provide information about
  - Testing for lead in schools and child care facilities.
  - Inform consumers where they can find the water system's lead service line replacement plan.
  - The corrosion control efforts the system is taking.

# Benefits and Costs

- EPA estimates that on average, each year after the LCRI is issued it will:
  - Protect up to 900,000 infants from being born with low birthweight, which puts them at risk of longer and more expensive hospital stays after birth.
  - Prevent Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in up to 2,600 children.
  - Reduce up to 1,500 cases of premature death from heart disease.
  - Prevent up to 200,000 IQ points lost in children.
- There are other avoided health impacts that EPA could not quantify including cancer, reproductive and developmental, immunological and neurological effects.
- The estimated annual benefits of the rule are up to 13 times greater than its estimated annual costs.
  - EPA estimates benefits to be \$13 to \$25 billion per year.
  - EPA estimates the costs to be \$1.5 to \$2 billion per year.

# Available Funding Sources

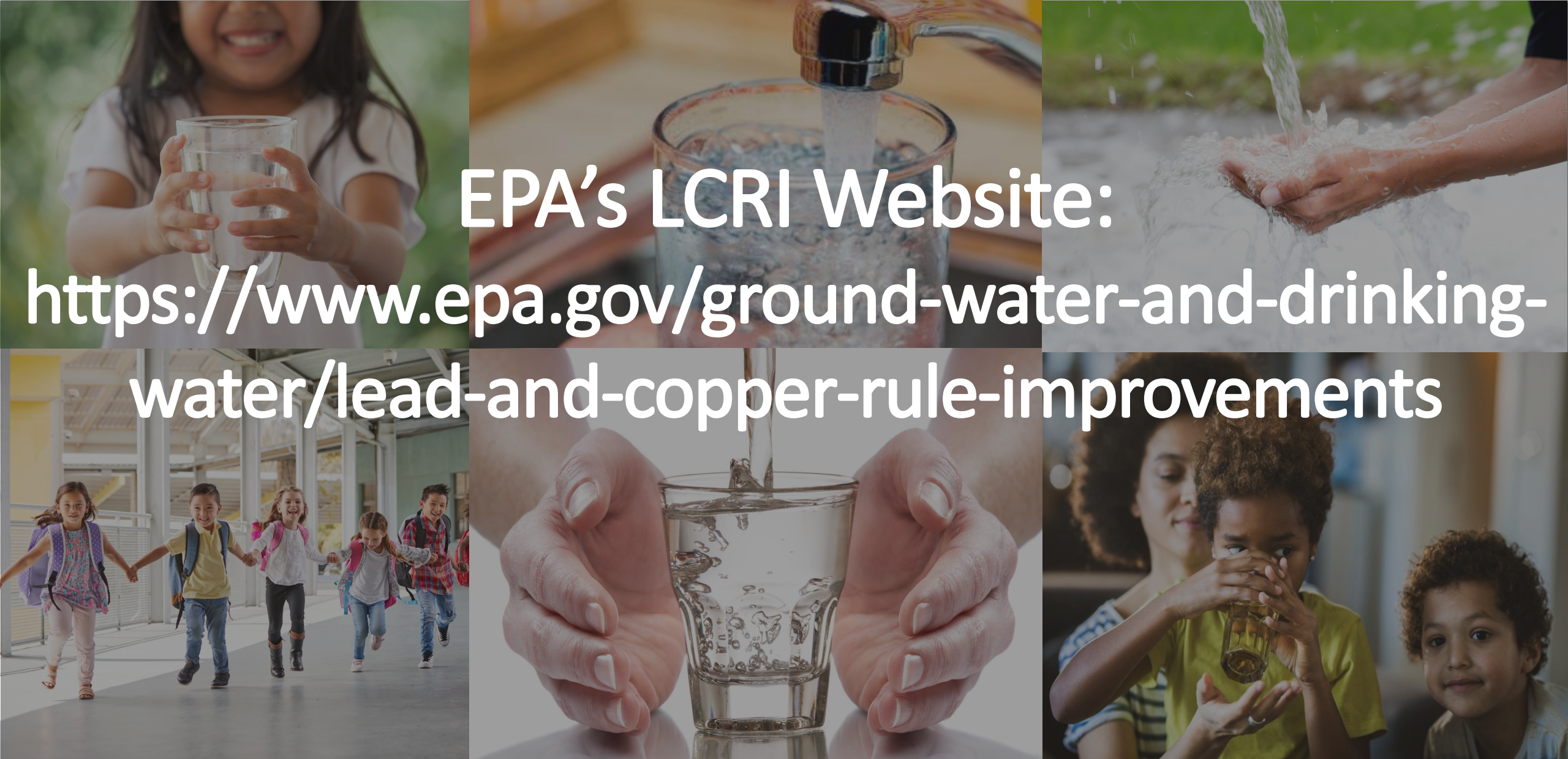
- There are a number of pathways for systems to receive financial support for lead service line replacement.
  - Low- to no-cost financing through annual funding provided through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).
  - Low-cost financing from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.
  - Funding may also be available from other federal agencies, state, and local governments.
- Funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, includes:
  - \$26 billion over five years in drinking water infrastructure funding for lead-related activities.
    - \$15 billion over five years for lead service line replacement activities;
    - \$11.7 billion over five years, \$2.6 announced with LCRI, additional funding to the DWSRF program.
- Water Infrastructure for the Nation Act (WIIN) Grants
  - EPA announced \$35 million for communities to apply directly for removing sources of lead in drinking water, such as lead pipes and reducing lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities.

# WaterTA

- The EPA's water technical assistance ([WaterTA](#)), including the Get the Lead Out Initiative, helps disadvantaged communities identify lead services lines, develop replacement plans, and apply for funding to get the lead out.
- This effort is changing the odds for communities that have faced barriers to planning and accessing funding for lead service line replacements.
- Communities seeking to access GLO Initiative resources can request assistance by completing the [WaterTA request form](#) on [EPA's WaterTA website](#).

# Resources

- Fact Sheets
  - General Overview
  - Information for States and Systems
  - Service Line Replacement
  - Inventory Validation Requirements
  - Replacement Rate
  - Deferred Deadlines for Service Line Replacement
  - Tap Sampling Protocol
  - Costs and Benefits
  - Corrosion Control Treatment
  - Public Education
  - Sampling in Schools and Child Care Facilities
- Small Systems
- Utility Case Studies
- Questions and Answers
  - External Q&A
  - Detailed Q&As for States and Systems
- Briefing Presentation
- Webinars:
  - General Public – October 24th, 2014
  - Drinking Water Professionals – November 14th, 2024



EPA's LCRI Website:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/lead-and-copper-rule-improvements>