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December 18, 2025

RE: **Notification of Lead Status**
Unknown (Unknown) Service Line
2025 Required Notification

Dear Water Customer,

The City of Oregon is the public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water to this location. This notification is being sent because this home or building has a lead status unknown service line. This means that your service line material is unknown and may be lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or a non-lead material. The service line is the customer owned portion of the pipe that connects the curb shut off valve (normally located near the sidewalk or right-of-way line) to the water meter located at (or in) the building.

We should all be aware that lead is not in the water itself as it leaves the water treatment plant. Lead is found throughout this country in water pipes, connections and in fixtures produced and sold prior to 2014.

Responsible water systems, including Oregon, use an additive in the treatment process that coats the inside of our lines and fixtures to protect the water from leaching metals and end up in our drinking water. Oregon has been using a polyphosphate to successfully do this for many years. This additive ensures that our water is not corrosive and that any lead that might be in the consumer's system or fixtures will remain separated from the water. Operators at the treatment plant also check the water for stability (or corrosiveness) at a minimum of twice weekly as an additional check.

All residents must be aware that water faucets or other fixtures purchased in this country up until 2014 frequently contained lead in their construction. Our additives protect our residents from that lead, but only if the fixtures are being used and water is routinely running through them in order for the coating to properly work.

What is the purpose of this Notice?
Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires us to notify water consumers who are served by a lead status unknown service line. A lead status unknown service line is where the service line material is not known to be lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or a non-lead service line, and there is no documented evidence supporting the material classification.

What are the Health Effects of Lead?
There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to Lead if Found in My Drinking Water?

- ***Do not boil water to remove lead.*** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- ***Flush your tap if it has been unused for 6 or more hours.*** Lead levels increase over time as water sits in lead-containing plumbing materials. Regular water usage in your home or building can reduce lead levels in drinking water. When water has not been used for 6 hours or more, homes and buildings served by lead or a galvanized requiring replacement service lines should be flushed until you note a temperature change, then flush for one more minute.
- ***Use cold water for cooking, drinking, and preparing baby formula***. Do not cook with, drink, or make baby formula from your hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily in hot water. Always use cold water and heat if needed.

- ***Use an ANSI certified lead filter***. Filters certified to the ANSI/NSF 53 standard for lead removal can be effective at reducing lead levels in water.
- ***Regularly clean your faucet aerators.*** Over time, particles containing lead can build up on the inside of aerator screens. Cleaning aerators regularly will help eliminate this source of lead.
- ***For pregnant persons, infants, and young children.*** Some populations such as pregnant persons, infants, and young children may be more at risk from the harmful effects of lead. These populations may consider taking extra precautions if their home is served by a lead or galvanized requiring replacement service line. These extra precautions may include having their drinking water analyzed for lead, using an alternative source of water (such as bottled water), or utilizing a filter certified to ANSI/NSF 53 standard for lead removal.
- ***Replace lead containing plumbing fixtures.*** Many old faucets, valves and other plumbing fixtures may contain lead. Identify if your building's plumbing fixtures contain lead, and replace them when appropriate.
- ***You may wish to have your child's blood tested for lead***. Your local county health department can be reached for additional assistance.
- ***If your service line is identified as lead material***, you may wish to test your water for lead. To request this, please contact the Water Department for more information.

What Can You do About Your Lead Status Unknown Service Line?
The first and foremost request is to assist the City in identifying the material of your service line as it comes into the home at your water meter.

To self-identify your water service line, find the pipe near the water meter, then use a magnet and a coin to test its material: **Lead** is dull gray, easily scratched to reveal shiny silver, and a magnet won't stick; **Copper** is brownish-orange, scratches easily, and a magnet won't stick; **Galvanized Steel** is dull silver/gray, hard to scratch, and a magnet will stick; and **Plastic (PVC/PEX)** is white, gray, blue, or black, doesn't scratch easily, and a magnet won't stick

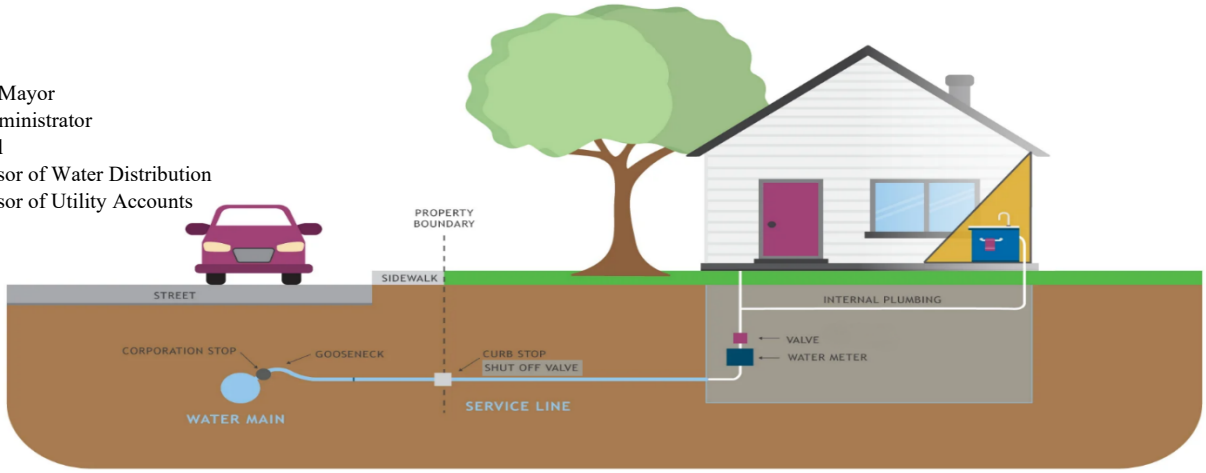
Then simply take a picture of the piping at the meter and email the picture with your address to waterservice@oregonohio.org. You can also call the Water Department to set up an inspection to identify the material.

For More Information, Please Contact: City of Oregon, Water Department at 419-698-7039 or by email at waterservice@oregonohio.org, visit U.S. EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or visit Ohio EPA's Learn About Lead | Ohio Environmental Protection Agency website. For information about other lead exposure, please visit the Ohio Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning website.

Please share this information with all the other people in this home or building, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Sincerely,

Paul Roman, P.E.
Director of Public Service

PR:alb

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Steven R. Salander, Mayor
Joel Mazur, City Administrator
Oregon City Council
Mary Wolf, Supervisor of Water Distribution
Kellie Jack, Supervisor of Utility Accounts