



**BOROUGH OF CHATHAM
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PRESS RELEASE

Chatham Borough water utility launches program to identify, replace lead water lines. Program will be discussed at the March 13 Borough Council meeting.

As part of an effort to meet new stringent requirements related to lead in water service lines, Chatham's Department of Public Works is compiling an inventory of all water lines servicing homes in the Borough.

This inventory is a first step in a 10-year project to identify and replace lines comprised of lead or galvanized materials, which is a requirement for all water utilities in the state under new regulations passed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Chatham Borough's DPW director Tony Torello reassures residents: "we regularly test our water for lead and other contaminants and have had no issues in over ten years. Our drinking water is of exceptional quality - some of the safest in the state."

Patrick K. Cole, Vice President at H2M Architects + Engineers, is assisting the Borough with the program and will be speaking to the Council on Monday. "The Borough has an excellent track record in terms of water quality, and they are being pro-active in beginning this process now," Cole stated.

The inventory will be used to establish priorities for service line replacement – identifying the areas with the most lead service lines and addressing these first. Another element of priority setting will be to reduce costs by combining the projects with other efforts that involve opening roads and sidewalks, and to replace multiple service lines in one area at the same time.

"While it is important to ensure that our water remains absolutely safe and to stay on top of our infrastructure, this project and this timeline do amount to a large, unfunded mandate from the state," according to Jocelyn Mathiasen, who is Chair of the Borough Budget and Finance Committee. "Also, because we run our own water system, we can't just pass this problem on to a private utility." While there are some state and federal grant funds for these projects, the bulk of these funds are currently allocated to communities with a higher need, according to Mathiasen.

To compile the inventory, the Borough is sending a letter to all residents asking them to look at their service lines and submit information on the materials used via e-mail or a form. Residents who need help locating their service lines or identifying the material can contact DPW directly for guidance.

Residents can submit this information directly using a link found on the Public Works page of the Borough's web site: [Lead data collection link](#).

Residents with questions regarding this process should contact DPW directly at 973-635-5242 or e-mail the Borough's utilities supervisor, Pete Atkinson, at patkinson@chathamborough.org.

Residents can use the below guides to determine what material is in the lines leading to their homes:

	Lead	Galvanized Iron	Copper	Brass
Outer Appearance	Dull Gray, Bendable; Often Curves Between Wall/Floor and Valve	Dark Gray or Black; Straight, Rigid Pipe	Brown; Can Have Green Corrosion Spots	Brown; Can Have Breen Corrosion Spots
Threads at Connections	None	Yes	None	Yes
Scratch Test (Coin or Key)	Shiny Silver	Hard to Scratch, Remains Gray	Copper Shine - Like a Penny	Gold Color
Magnet Test	Does Not Stick	Magnet WILL Stick	Does Not Stick	Does Not Stick

Additional information is available on a new web page dedicated to this initiative: [Lead water service information](#)

