

Sierra Los Pinos



Property Owners' Association

950 Forest Rd 10
Jemez Springs, NM 87025
October 15, 2024

To: SLPPOA Membership

Subject: Notice of Unknown Service Line Material

Dear SLPPOA Member

As required by the Code of Federal Regulations and the New Mexico Drinking Water Bureau, we are writing to inform you of an important matter concerning the water service lines in your area. The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 141.80 ([40 CFR 141.80](#)), adopted in January 2021, requires every drinking water system in the United States to inventory the water supply lines and document the presence or absence of lead pipe in the system. The initial inventory must be submitted by October 16, 2024. As part of our ongoing compliance efforts to ensure the safety and quality of the drinking water supply, we have recently completed an initial survey of service lines within our community.

Sierra Los Pinos HOA is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water. Please share this information with anyone who drinks and/or cooks using water at this property.

Notice of unknown service line material

In Sierra Los Pinos, the service lines were installed by contractors, builders, and homeowners as homes were built. Consequently, SLPPOA has no records about the materials used in the service lines and therefore currently must classify the water supply lines as **unknown material**. Because your service line material is unknown, there is the potential that some or all of the service line could be made of lead or galvanized pipe that was previously connected to lead. People living in homes with a lead or galvanized pipe previously connected to a lead service line have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.



As required by the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 141.80 ([40 CFR 141.80](#)), Sierra Los Pinos HOA is beginning a process to inspect and inventory every service line in the water system. We have 5 years to complete the inventory. We will need homeowners assistance at various times during the inventory and will contact you about specific properties and questions.

Identifying service line material

If you wish to identify the service line material to your property in advance of the official inventory, there are resources to assist you. To help determine the material of your service line, please contact **water-inventory@slppoa.org**. EPA has developed an online step-by-step guide to help people identify lead pipes in their homes called Protect Your Tap: A Quick Check for Lead. It is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>.

Please note that after 1987, lead was banned in construction. We will be using this timeframe as a guide in performing the service line inventory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tersa Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Tersa Hansen
Lead Service Line Inventory Project Leader

General Information on Lead and Water Systems

Health effects of lead

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Steps you can take to reduce lead in drinking water.

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

Use filters properly. Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, see EPA's <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

Clean your aerator. Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

Use cold water. Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

Run your water. The more time water has been sitting in pipes providing water to your home, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, as well as the length and diameter of the service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. [Include tailored flushing information, if appropriate, or add following language] Residents may contact us at [phone number and/or email address] for recommendations about flushing times in their community.

Learn what your service line material is. Contact us at water-inventory@slppoa.org or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead, galvanized, or other materials. [For systems replacing lead service lines consider the following text.] To find out about what we are doing to replace lead service lines, please visit [website] or contact us at [phone number and/or email address]. [Protect Your Tap: A quick check for lead](#) is EPA's on-line step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

Learn about construction in your neighborhood. Contact us at water-inventory@slppoa.org to find out about any construction or maintenance work that could disturb your service line. Construction may cause more lead to be released from a lead service line or galvanized service line if present.

Have your water tested. Contact us, your water utility, at water-inventory@slppoa.org for information on having water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Alternatively, you may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>. Get your child tested to determine lead levels in their blood.

Although there is no confirmation of having a lead service line, you may wish to speak with a healthcare provider to see if your child's blood lead level is elevated and/or if there is a need for blood testing, if you are concerned about potential exposure. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/advisory/acclpp/actions-blls.htm> for information on these actions.