




Tacoma Water Regulatory Update

Joint Study Session of the Tacoma City Council and the Public Utility Board

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August 20, 2024




Updates Related to Two Drinking Water Regulations



- Final PFAS Rule
- Lead and Copper Rule
- Service Line Inventory and Inspections

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



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- Large family (thousands) of human-made chemicals in use since the 1940s to make a wide variety of stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick consumer products
- Used in certain types of firefighting foams utilized by the US military, local fire departments, and airports
- PFAS are widespread, do not break down easily in the environment, and are found in people, wildlife, and fish all over the world
- Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects




Image from Seattle Times





Image from wateronline.com

FINAL EPA PFAS Rule



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- EPA announced final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS on 4/10/2024
- Regulates six PFAS compounds, including PFOS and PFOA
- Compliance required by 2029

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Two of the most common PFAS chemicals

| Compound | Final MCLG | Final MCL (enforceable levels) |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| PFOA | Zero | 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L) |
| PFOS | Zero | 4.0 ppt |
| PFHxS | 10 ppt | 10 ppt |
| PFNA | 10 ppt | 10 ppt |
| HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals) | 10 ppt | 10 ppt |
| Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS | 1 (unitless) Hazard Index | 1 (unitless) Hazard Index |

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

Federal Register / Vol. 89, No. 82 / Friday, April 26, 2024 / Rules and Regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Final Rule: PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

Regulation

Summary: In March 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule to regulate six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The rule sets enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for these six PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (GenX). The rule also sets a hazard index MCL for mixtures of these six PFAS. The rule is effective on January 1, 2029.

Tacoma Water PFAS Sampling – 2023



- **Lab analyzed 28 samples for 29 different PFAS chemicals**
- **Green River and North Fork Wells (in watershed) continue to have no detections for the regulated PFAS chemicals**
 - In town, Deep Aquifer wells also have no detects
- **South Tacoma Wells had detections for one or more PFAS chemicals**
 - Aside from wells taken out of service in 2018, all other representative well samples were below WA State Action Levels
 - Several key wells had samples just above new EPA limits



Next Steps on PFAS



2024

- Final PFAS Rule Announced (April)
- Kicked off PFAS planning project with engineering consultant (April)
- Adjusted well operations and improvement projects
- Update Tacoma Water PFAS website

2025

- Complete PFAS management strategy and implementation plan
- Collect first compliance samples

2025 to 2029

- Initiate implementation plan
 - Modify operations as necessary
 - Design and construct treatment when it is needed

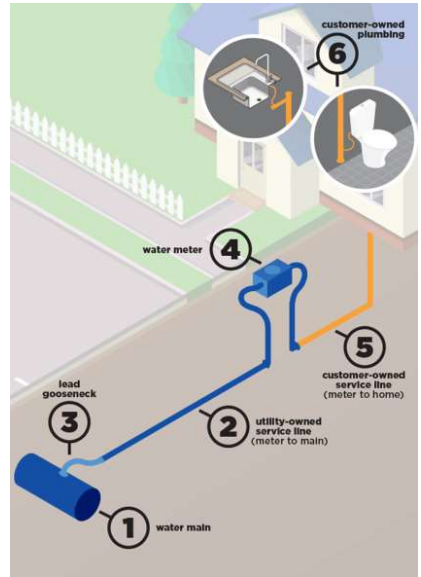
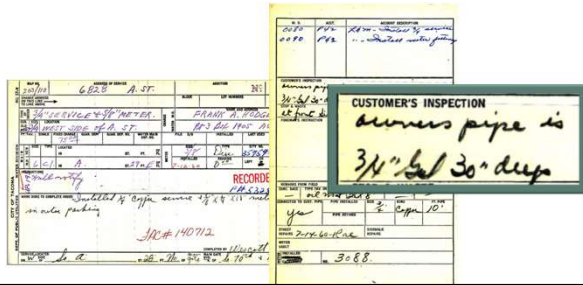
April 2029

- MCLs become enforceable standards
- Must be in compliance with PFAS Rule

Lead and Copper Rule Service Line Inventory



- EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions requirement to prepare an inventory of service line materials by 10/16/2024
 - Requires water system to identify the material of BOTH utility-owned and customer-owned sides of water meter for all ≤ 2 -inch service lines installed before 1987
- No evidence – recorded or anecdotal – of lead pipe ever being used for water lines in service area (except lead goosenecks)



Lead and Copper Rule Service Line Inspections




In lieu of verifying every service line, a statistical validation procedure is allowed to demonstrate a minimum 95 percent level of statistical confidence that all lines are non-lead.

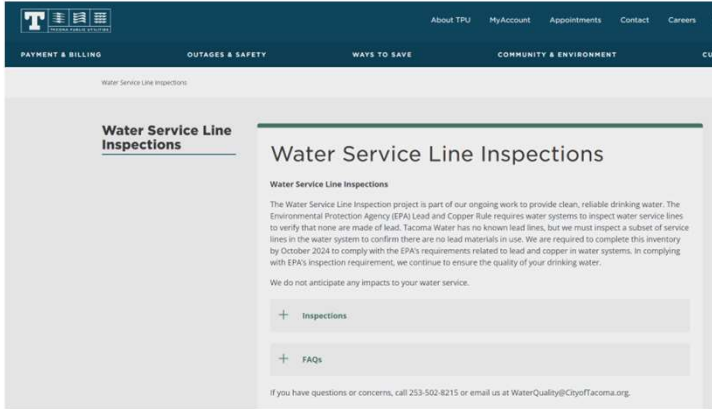
- Identify a random pool of 384 service lines of unknown material
- Attempt to notify customer through postcard, door hanger, and in person
- Dig a small hole on one or both sides of the meter, exposing the service line
- Record the material of the pipe
- Restore area



Service Line Inspections Communications



• Water Service Line Inspections - Tacoma Public Utilities (mytpu.org)



We must inspect your water service lines

Your address was randomly selected for a required inspection of customer and utility-owned water service lines to verify that none contain lead. We have no known lead lines but must inspect a subset of service lines in the water system to confirm.

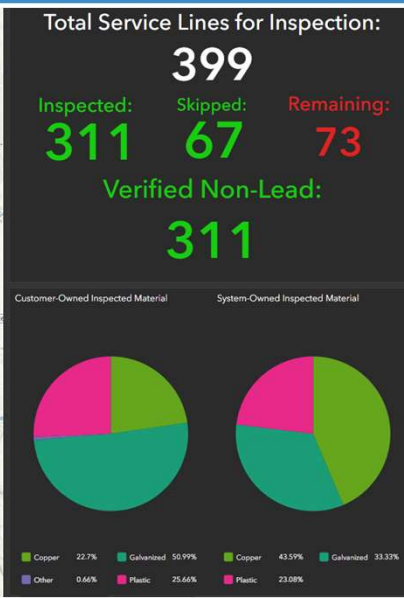
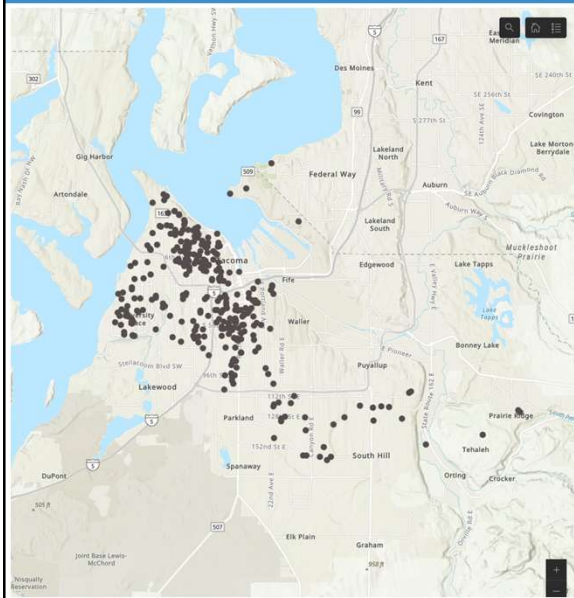
We do not anticipate any impacts to your water service.

Learn more at MyTPU.org/ServiceLineInspection.



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Inspections Completed



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