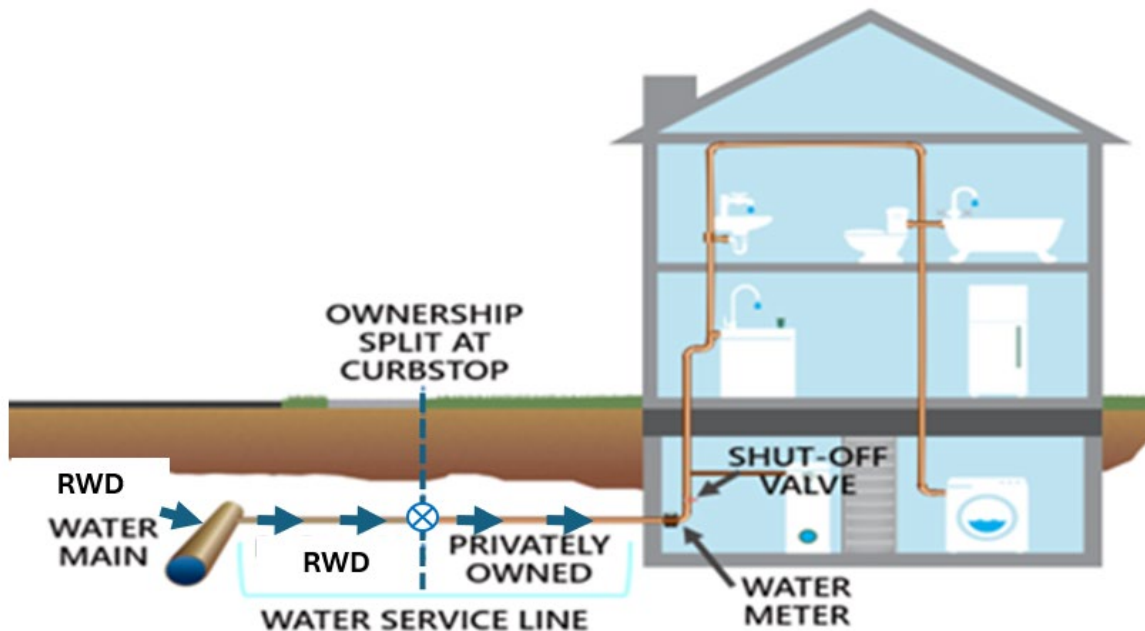




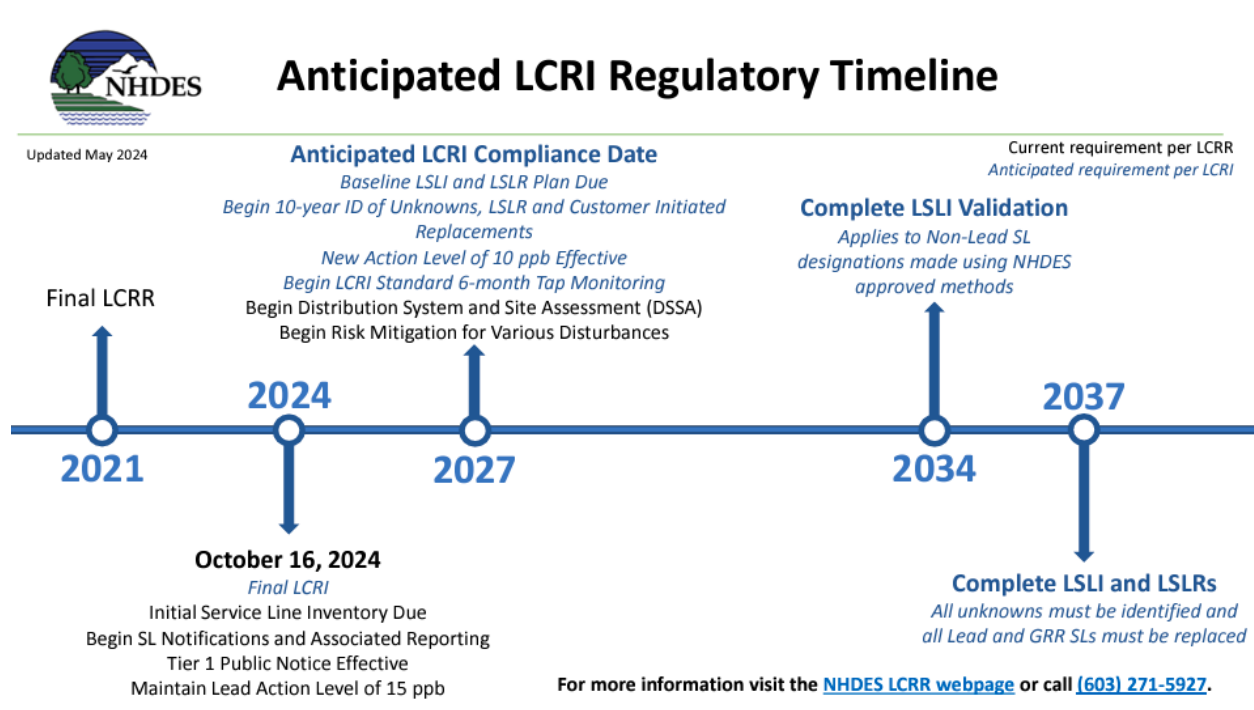
## WATER SERVICE LINE INFORMATION

Rye, NH - The Rye Water District (RWD), a public drinking water system serving customers in Rye, New Hampshire, is advising the public that as part of a new federal requirement associated with lead in drinking water, RWD customers may receive a letter in the mail indicating that our water system either does not have records of the materials used in their water service line (the pipe connecting the water main to the service line curbstop valve), or has information indicating the service line could contain lead components. This effort is meant to raise awareness of service line materials to help customers avoid possible exposure to lead in their drinking water.

A water customer's service line is the pipe that connects their indoor plumbing to the RWD's water main in the road. A portion of this line is owned by the RWD, up to a curbstop valve. The other portion is privately owned from the curbstop to the customer's building. The following graphic shows this detail:



New federal Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) have been issued to require all water systems across the United States create and maintain a public inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024, in compliance with the revised Environmental Protection Agency’s Lead and Copper Rule. This new regulation was developed to better protect communities from possible exposure to lead in drinking water by providing the public with information on what material each water line service is made of for every home on a public water supply in the country. The new rule proposes a 10-year timeline to remove all lead pipes from water systems across the United States, beginning by 2027 as shown on the following timeline:



Water service lines can be made of copper, plastic, brass, galvanized steel, or lead. The use of lead pipes and solder became banned in 1986, but older homes may still find lead present in the original plumbing. In Rye, water service lines are typically made of copper pipe.

The Rye Water District’s Service Line Inventory Project started in 2023 for all 1,796 service connections in our system. The Water District, together with our engineering consultant, researched records or physically inspected all customer service line materials on the customer’s side of the curbstop. As of October 16, 2024, all services on the privately owned side are known. There are no customers in the system with lead

service lines. There is one customer with a galvanized line that the District will be working with to replace. Currently, all service line materials on both sides of the curbstop valve for 1,584 customers are known. 211 customers have unknown materials on our side of the service line curbstop valve.

The following links summarize the District's inventory summary and detailed list:

**[Rye\\_NH\\_2041010\\_LSL\\_Inventory\\_101124\\_Summary.pdf](#)**

**[Rye\\_NH\\_2041010\\_LSL\\_Inventory\\_101124\\_Full\\_System.pdf](#)**

The District has mailed letters to the property owners with unknown material service lines to let them know that we will be doing further investigations, which may include digging near their curbstop valve.

The letters being sent out about unknown water service lines are just one aspect of ongoing initiatives throughout the country to reduce lead levels in drinking water. New federal regulations require that all service lines containing lead be replaced. The action level for lead in drinking water has also been lowered from 15 to 10 parts-per-billion.

The next steps outlined in the are as follows:

- Customers that do not receive a letter are ones that all the service line material has been identified and it does not contain lead.
- Customers who receive a letter that states the water system does not have a record of the service line material on the District's side of the line are being notified that the District will be doing further investigations to determine that material. This may include digging down to the line to physically see and inspect the material. Given the history of the water system's construction, there is no indication that the District will encounter lead piping when we investigate, however, it is a requirement of the Federal regulations that we and all other public water systems in the country, identify every pipe in our system. Until then, customers can follow the simple steps below recommended for everyone to prevent potential exposure to lead in drinking water. **Customers with unknown service line materials can also contact the District to arrange for a free water test.**

Lead is not normally found in drinking water at the source. Typically, lead gets into drinking water from the service lines and from plumbing and fixtures inside the home

that contain lead. As a result of corrosion, lead and other metals from the pipes slowly dissolve into the water. Many factors affect the amount of lead that leaches into the water, including lead content of pipes, water use/flushing patterns, fixtures, and solder, along with water temperature, pH and alkalinity.

For decades, water systems (including the Rye Water District) have rigorously tested the drinking water they provide to their customers throughout the water system and per state and federal law, have implemented measures to reduce lead levels when elevated levels were present. Over time, federal and state regulations have become more protective in reducing lead in drinking water. This recent regulatory change is another step toward that goal.

The Rye Water District has complied with the federal Lead and Copper Rule since its inception in 1991. It's our mission to provide our customers with drinking water that meets all current state and federal water quality standards. For more information about your water quality, please visit our website at: <https://ryewaterdistrict.com/water-quality-report-and-sanitary-survey>

Additionally, the public should also be on-guard for potential fraudulent efforts by unscrupulous entities to take advantage of this initiative. Customers are encouraged to confirm they are working directly with their water system and/or its designated contractors when responding to the communications they receive. Whenever they are uncertain, they should contact the Water District or the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services directly before responding to written or verbal communications. Any letters requesting personal and/or financial information should be reported to your water system and local law enforcement officials immediately.

- For additional information, please visit the [NH Lead in Drinking Water](#) page or contact us at [DWLead@des.nh.gov](mailto:DWLead@des.nh.gov) and [\(603\) 271-2513](tel:6032712513).
- Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>