

## Leadership Message

### Lead Service Line – New Federal Requirements

By Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance

Lead in drinking water is an important topic of discussion at the national level in the U.S. Lead is a naturally occurring soft metal used in a wide range of products and can be found throughout the environment and in our homes. Lead in drinking water is primarily caused by leaching from plumbing materials containing lead in home plumbing or a home's service line, the pipeline between the public water main and a customer's house.

Thurston PUD delivers customers lead-free water, however, lead can accumulate in water as it sits or passes through internal plumbing systems or fixtures that contain lead. Older homes are more likely to have plumbing systems that contain lead.

#### New Federal Requirements

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and are coming out with Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) that Group A Community water systems are required to follow. Group A water systems are classified as systems with 15 or more connections or systems that serve 25 or more individuals for 60 or more days per year.

**What does this mean for Group A water systems?** The rule states that each community water system must have an inventory of all water service line material types by October 2024.

The PUD's Planning and Compliance staff has started working on these inventories. We must determine the pipe material not only for our side of the meter, but also the customer side of the meter to the foundation of the home. The plumbing from the meter to the house is the homeowner's responsibility to install and maintain. Due to this, we have no records of customer-owned water service materials and are starting from scratch to document the material type to all 8,593 homes on our 78 PUD-owned Group A water systems.

Staff is completing these inventories using various types of research. Currently, we are looking at what year the water system and homes on that system were built. If the water system and homes were built after Congress amended the Clean Water Act in 1986, which banned lead in drinking water pipes, no further research is needed to complete the Lead Service Line Inventory Report.

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Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance

### Thurston PUD Commissioners

#### District 1

Linda Oosterman

#### District 2

Russell E. Olsen

#### District 3

Chris Stearns

## In This Issue

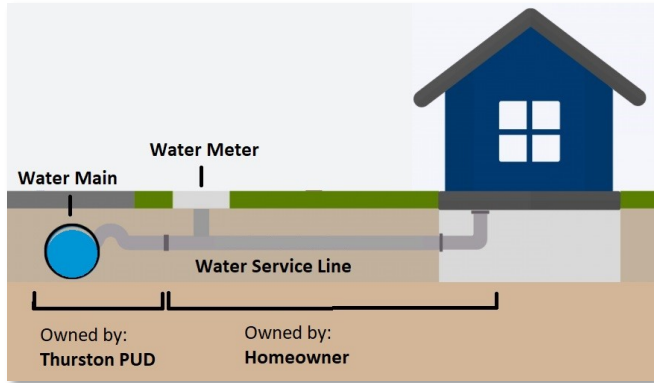
- **Do you know how to turn your water off in case of an emergency? Read Page 2 for more information**
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## Lead Service Line – New Federal Requirements (*Continued from Page 1*)

If the system was built before 1986, we will need to conduct more research, which may include requesting information from customers or performing field inspections to dig up the pipes for visual inspection.

Staff has developed a plan to complete all Thurston PUD owned Group A water systems Lead Service Line Inventories by the required date. Planning and Compliance staff will keep up to date with Department of Health trainings and work groups on how to best complete the inventories going forward.



A typical water service line from the main to the house.

**To help us now**, if you know your home was built before 1986 and you know what material your service line is (plastic, galvanized steel, lead or copper) please email us at [PUDPlanning@thurstonpud.org](mailto:PUDPlanning@thurstonpud.org) or call (866) 357-8783

Option 3 and provide us with:

- Service Address
- Year home was built
- Year service line was installed or replaced
- Type of material service line is (plastic, galvanized steel, lead or copper)

## How To Turn Off Your Water

**If a water pipe in your home or yard breaks, do you know how to shut off the water to avoid flooding?**

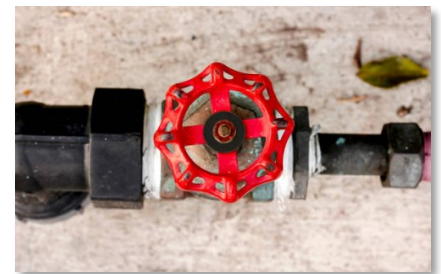
Should an emergency occur, it may be necessary for you to shut off the water supply coming to your home. Customers should generally shut off their water with their home valves. If your home does not have a water shut-off valve, we highly recommend that you contact a plumber to install one.

You should familiarize yourself with the location of your meter on your property and the location of your shut-off valve at the house. We recommend you locate the water shut-off valve at the house and label it with a large, visible tag. These valves are typically located at the base of your foundation, in a basement, or inside your home or garage. Ensure the valve can be fully turned off. If the water valve requires the use of a special tool, make sure the tool is readily available.

In the event you are unable to locate or operate your house valve, you must contact the PUD at 866-357-8783 and request personnel to shut off service on the PUD meter. The meter is not to be operated by anyone other than a PUD employee.

Water meters, owned and maintained by Thurston PUD, are located in a small meter box in the ground near the street or edge of the property so they can be easily read by an PUD staff member. Often these boxes, wherever they are located, can be overgrown with vegetation. It is the customer's responsibility to keep the area free of vegetation. Keeping your meter box clear of debris and vegetation will help you in case you need your water shut off—PUD meter reader staff also appreciate it! Knowing how to shut off your water ahead of time can prevent water damage to your property in the event of an earthquake, winter freeze, or other emergency.

**Reminder! For afterhours emergencies, please call (866) 357-8783. Your call will be answered by a third-party answering service who will notify our the Field Operations staff we have on-call. As a public entity, we are here to serve you 24/7.**



Example of a gate valve, a standard shut-off valve for a house



## Thurston PUD Wins Two 2023 Excellence In Communication Awards



Earlier this year, Thurston PUD submitted communication material to the Pacific Northwest Section (PNWS-AWWA) of the American Water Works Association. The submittals were judged by a committee on how the materials met stated communication goals and the quality of the material submitted. The PUD's submissions were judged with other water utility entries in several categories.

We are proud to announce we won both submissions in our categories and brought home two 2023 Excellence in Communication Awards! Our Finance and Customer Service Manager, TaSeana Tartt, and Customer Service Supervisor, Mariah Montague, pictured left, accepted the awards at the PNWS-AWWA Conference in Kennewick on May 4, 2023.

## Ways to Save Water (and Money!) This Summer

Increased water use often correlates with summer's rising temperatures, primarily due to an increase in lawn, landscape, and garden watering. There are ways to conserve water and save money while you irrigate your lawn or garden this summer! Read the below tips we have compiled for our customers that water their property this season.

- **Water your yard in the morning or evening.** Water evaporates quickly when the sun is high, so irrigate your lawn or garden during cooler temperatures, early in the morning or late in the evening.
- **Water deeply but less frequently.** Lawns only need about one-inch of water per week in the summer to stay green. Scatter tuna cans or other small containers to measure the amount of time it takes you to water one-inch so that you can irrigate accordingly.
- **Tune up your system.** If you have an irrigation system, inspect the system and check for leaks or broken/clogged sprinkler heads. Make sure that your sprinklers are not spraying areas you do not want to irrigate, like the sidewalk, street, or your driveway.
- **Use timers or weather-based irrigation controllers.** Timers and weather-based irrigation controllers can help conserve thousands of gallons of water annually. When purchasing weather-based controllers, look for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense-labeled devices to ensure efficiency and performance. The PUD is currently offering a limited amount of garden timers and soil moisture meters to customers. Visit our website at [www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm](http://www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm) to request these devices before they are all gone.
- **Install mulch in your garden or yard.** Mulch prevents evaporation by shielding your soil from the sun.
- **Cover your pool.** If you have a pool, be sure to cover it when not in use to prevent water evaporation.
- **Go to the car wash.** Washing a car at home can use 100 gallons of water or more. Commercial car washes often use much less water, repurposes or recycles the water that is used, and disposes of cleaning products and pollutants properly and efficiently.



For information on how to conserve water, visit [www.thurstonpud.org](http://www.thurstonpud.org) and click on the "Water Systems" tab at the top of the webpage. Not only will you find ways you can conserve water during hot summers, but you can also check out the PUD's current Conservation Programs.

## Public Meeting for the Updated Umbrella Plan, Water System Plan Part A

An Umbrella plan identifies major policies and processes consistent throughout all water systems owned by Thurston PUD. Part A includes the information required to meet Chapter 246-295 WAC.

Thurston PUD's Umbrella Plan, Water System Plan (WSP) Part A, has been updated and will be submitted to the Washington State Department of Health Drinking Water (DOH).

The changes include the following:

- Updating our water policy, standard drawings, and Cross Connection Control Plan.
- Adding climate change, cyber security, accessory dwelling units, lead service line inventories, sampling for PFAS and UMCR, and emergency response planning and mitigation.

You can find the draft WSP on the PUD's website at [www.ThurstonPUD.org](http://www.ThurstonPUD.org).

The public is welcome to provide feedback on the Water System Plan. Listed below is information on how to attend the Public Meeting held in person at the District's headquarters located at 1230 Ruddell Rd Se, Lacey, and via the Zoom video conference application.

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, July 10, 2023
<b>Start Time</b>	5:00 p.m.
<b>Phone Number</b>	(253) 215-8782
<b>Webinar/Meeting ID</b>	841 4741 6477
<b>Meeting Link</b>	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147416477">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147416477</a>

Members of the public are welcome to join this meeting in person, or from a personal computer or mobile device. If you wish to attend by telephone audio only, please use the information above to dial into the meeting. If you have comments and are not able to attend the meeting, please email us at [PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org](mailto:PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org) or mail comments to Thurston PUD at 1230 Ruddell Rd Se, Lacey, WA 98503.

## Don't Let Your Summer Bill Surprise You!

When customers are billed, the consumption that is listed on the bill reflects consumption from the month prior to when the bill is received. For example, the bill you receive in July, for June charges, may reflect consumption from mid-May to mid-June.

For this reason, we encourage customers to pay attention to the 'Meter Reading' portion on the right side of their statement to have a good understanding of the timeframe of their usage charges. If you have any questions about your bill or water usage, call our Customer Service Team at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or email us at [PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org](mailto:PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org).

### METER READING

Serial No	Previous Reading		Current Reading		Cons
	Date	Reading	Date	Reading	
123456789	3/8/2023	100	4/10/2023	200	100

Example of the 'Meter Reading' portion of your monthly statement.

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