

Agreement Reached in Flint Requiring Lead Pipe Removal and Safer Water

A lawsuit brought by Flint citizens has ended in a court-ordered agreement that will force removal of the lead pipes at the heart of the city's water crisis. The State of Michigan and City of Flint have agreed to replace the city's lead and galvanized steel water pipes in three years. A state program, employing Flint residents, will help you install and maintain water filters in your home. There will also be broad testing of tap water to

make sure drinking water does not contain lead at levels above what is allowed under the law. A federal judge will ensure that the State and City meet their deadlines and fulfill their obligations.

This agreement does not provide all of the justice Flint residents deserve. But we believe it will make tap water safer and hope it will help the community begin to recover from this crisis. Additional details of the agreement are below.



Ryan Garza / Detroit Free Press / Zuma

Lead Pipe Replacement

The State will provide \$87 million to the City of Flint to replace lead and galvanized steel service lines. An additional \$10 million will be held in reserve to make certain there is enough money to complete the pipe replacement project. This money will cover the costs of finding and removing these pipes for at least 18,000 homes, the current estimated total number of lead and galvanized steel service lines. Your home will qualify for a pipe replacement as long as you had an active water account as of March 28, 2017—you do not have to be up-to-date on your water bill payments.

Tap Water Monitoring for Lead

You will be able to get your tap water tested for lead, free of charge, for at least the next four years. The State will also fund two programs to monitor for lead in Flint's water. One program will measure lead levels at more than 100 Flint homes to make sure they go down after lead pipes are replaced. Another will be run by an independent monitor who does not work for the City or the State, and will make sure that lead levels in homes with lead service lines are accurately measured and reported.

Filter Inspection and Installation

The State will be required to expand its Community Outreach and Resident Education (CORE) filter program. Through December 2018, CORE staff will visit all Flint homes regularly to ensure that everyone's water filter is properly installed. These staff will teach people how to take care of their water filters. CORE teams will make a record of their attempts to visit every home and will have materials available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Hmong. You can make an appointment for a visit to your home by calling 810-238-6700.

Bottled Water

You will be able to pick up bottled water from distribution sites until at least September 1, 2017. Starting May 1, 2017, the State may close some water distribution sites if an average of less than 20 people visit the site every day for three weeks in a row. Through at least June 2017, the State must continue to provide bottled water deliveries to people who are unable to leave their homes and to residents who request delivery through the 2-1-1 helpline. The State will also deliver free filter replacement cartridges to people unable to leave their homes for a year after the pipe replacement project is completed.

The agreement is part of the case *Concerned Pastors for Social Action v. Khouri*. Concerned Pastors for Social Action, Melissa Mays, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan brought the case. They did not ask for money damages

in this case—just a solution to the lead contamination. The agreement reached with the City and State does not address every issue relating to the water crisis, including your high water bills and concerns about bacteria in the water, but we believe it will help fix the lead problems in Flint.

For more information on the agreement, visit WWW.NRDC.ORG/FLINT