



**Stoughton Utilities**

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*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

# News Release

## Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jill Weiss, Utilities Director

### **Stoughton Utilities Eliminates Lead Service Lines in Stoughton**

On October 21, 2021, Stoughton Utilities will be replacing the last lead water service line in the City of Stoughton. This final removal will occur at 1124 E Academy Street, Stoughton, at 9:00 a.m. Stoughton Utilities will be commemorating this final removal by hosting a ceremony at the property, with representatives from the project contractor, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, engineering consultants, and the City of Stoughton in attendance. Media and members of the public are invited to attend.

The replacement of this last water service line marks the end of an effort to locate and remove all lead water service lines. Throughout 2021, a total of 698 water service lines were replaced, making Stoughton's water distribution system completely lead free.

Stoughton Utilities began working with the Stoughton Utilities Committee and the Stoughton City Council to enact an ordinance declaring lead service lines as a public nuisance and mandating the replacement of all public and privately-owned lead service lines.

The utility also worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to obtain grant funding to replace all privately-owned lead service lines in 2021 at no cost to individual homeowners. A grant in the amount of \$3,561,281 was received, which funded the full cost to replace the privately-owned portion of all lead service lines. The utility will spend

approximately an additional \$2,600,000 to fund the cost to replace the publicly-owned portion of all lead service lines.

Beginning in April 2021, the utility began working closely with its construction contractor, Five Star Energy Services, to schedule and replace all of the 698 lead service lines in the city. This large-scale project will conclude ahead of schedule on October 21, 2021.

“To complete a project of this magnitude in such a short time is a huge undertaking, but it’s important to ensure that everyone in Stoughton has safe drinking water,” said Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss. “Lead service line replacements typically cost homeowners thousands of dollars, and through the efforts of Stoughton Utilities, Five Star Energy Services, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, we were able to complete this project quickly at no cost to individual homeowners.”

### **Background:**

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that can be toxic to humans and animals if ingested. It can be found in the air, soil, water, and inside of our homes. Stoughton’s water does not have lead present when the water leaves the wells and the water mains do not contain lead. However, water can be contaminated as it travels through lead service pipes that connect some older homes to the water mains, since these service pipes can slowly corrode over time. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much is ingested, especially in pregnant women and young children.

Lead has been used in many products found around the home in the form of paint, ceramics, plumbing materials, gasoline, batteries, and cosmetics. When lead is released into the air, it can travel long distances before settling to the ground.

Stoughton Utilities tests the cities drinking water each year for contaminants, including lead, to ensure that the drinking water continues to be safe to drink. In 2019, six of thirty drinking water sites tested returned samples that contained elevated concentrations of lead.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area, and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.