

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Detroit City Council  
FROM: Gary A Brown, Director, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department  
DATE: May 6, 2025  
RE: Proposed Agreement with United States Army for Detroit Lead Service Line Cutting Project

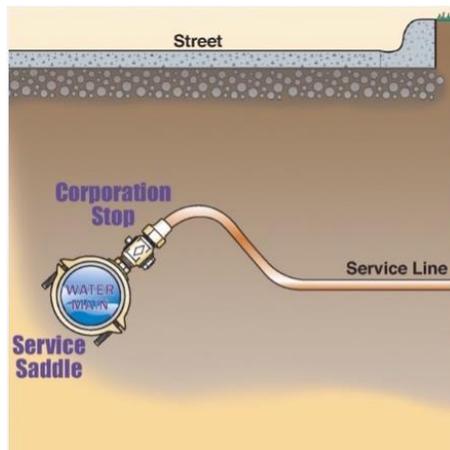
Dear Honorable Detroit City Council:

Coming before you for consideration is an agreement between the Department of the Army and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for Design and Construction Assistance for the Detroit Lead Service Line Cutting Project. This memo serves to provide you with background on the project and the agreement. We are happy to answer any questions you may have and if you desire to meet with us in person for further discussion, we are happy to oblige.

### BACKGROUND

There are over 50,000 properties in the City of Detroit where a structure has been demolished. Historically, the lead service line at demolished properties remained connected to the water main, was cut at the structure, “crimped” at the cut, and then left in the ground.

To protect public health and to comply with both state and federal lead and copper rules, abandoned lead lines must be cut at the corporation stop to ensure there is never a backflow or surge of potentially lead-tainted water from the abandoned lead lines into the public water system. The corporation stop is located at the main within the city’s right of way, primarily in the street or the berm. (See below graphic)



The United States Army’s authority to provide design and construction assistance to cut lead service lines from the main is through Section 219 (f)(157) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580, as amended (hereinafter “Section 219”). Section 219 allows the Army Corps to assist non-federal entities in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure projects, including design and planning assistance for projects like wastewater treatment facilities, water supply systems, and related resource protection initiatives; essentially allowing

the Corps to help local communities with environmental infrastructure development through technical support and design work.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS AGREEMENT**

Highlights of this proposed agreement include:

1. Detroit Water and Sewerage Department will provide GIS mapping that overlaps the list of demolished homes with its current lead service line inventory to identify worksites.
2. U.S. Army Corps will:
  - a. Conduct preliminary planning, including site assessment, obtaining all permits and approvals, and locating utilities.
  - b. Prepare the site, excavate the ground to expose the corporation stop, and perform required shoring and trenching activities.
  - c. Expose the lead service line at the point of connection to the water main. Use appropriate cutting tools to sever the lead service line as close as possible to the existing corporation stop.
  - d. Backfill and restore the site.
  - e. Document the entire process, including photographs, permits, inspection reports, and other relevant records.
3. Project to begin during 2026 construction season.
4. We anticipate 1,500 lines can be removed from the DWSD lead line inventory with the first funding increment.

## **PROCUREMENT METHOD**

The U.S. Army Corps will handle the procurement process and select contractors.

## **BUDGET**

Construction costs for the initial increment of work are projected to be \$4,000,000, with the amount of Federal funds available for the work limited to \$3,000,000. DWSD's share of construction costs for the initial increment of work is projected to be \$1,000,000. Increments of work going forward will share costs at 75% Federal and 25% DWSD. Additional funds can be added to the project/this agreement. For new increments, DWSD and the City will need to coordinate through the Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding process. The agreement terminates when there is no funding for further increments.