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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The New York State Department of Health is requiring all Water Districts to complete an inventory of service line materials. The service line runs from the water main in the street into the house or business.

The Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA) has hired the construction firm of Empire Building Diagnostics, Inc. (EBD) to assist with the development of this lead service line inventory. The company will be using a vacuum excavation truck that uses suction to remove soil around shut-off valves, usually located between the curb and the sidewalk or lawn. This program will continue until late July of 2025.

Service line investigations will consist of EBD excavating a hole (approximately 4' x 2') at the shutoff location with vacuum excavation equipment. Vacuum excavation equipment is designed to be non-destructive and mitigate the risks of damage to underground utilities during excavation. Once the service line is excavated, EBD will document the pipe material and the excavation will be backfilled. EBD will return to each site to apply topsoil and seed on all disturbed areas and ensure that new grass growth is achieved.

All EBD employees will possess an MVWA Visitor ID Card, and all EBD vehicles will be equipped with a magnetic MVWA sign to confirm work is being completed in conjunction with MVWA. EBD Work hours will consist of Monday through Friday 7:00AM – 3:30PM.

Holes will only be opened at homes where our records indicate that the service pipe going into the house might contain lead or a material other than copper pipe. The purpose of the hole is to visually verify and photograph the existing service line material. However, this does not necessarily mean there's a problem at that address requiring immediate attention.