

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM52.4	ACTION			Ward:All
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Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Strategy - by Councillor Janet Davis, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Janet Davis, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with General Manager, Toronto Water, to submit a report to the August 18, 2014 meeting of the Board of Health, such report to include:
 - a. recent research findings on health impacts of lead in drinking water;
 - b. an update on the implementation of Toronto's public education programs on lead in drinking water;
 - c. test results and protocols required by the Ministry of Education with respect to lead pipes in schools; and
 - d. any recommended improvements to the Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Strategy from a public health perspective.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Toronto Water, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, to submit a report to the August 13, 2014 meeting of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the implementation of the Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Strategy, including implementation updates on the Corrosion Control Program, Water Service Replacement Program, and Faucet Filter Program.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Toronto Water and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to submit a report to the August 13, 2014 meeting of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the feasibility of developing a Lead Service Replacement Loan program with installments paid through water bills or property taxes based on a model similar to the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP);

4. City Council request the General Manager, Toronto Water to report to the August 13, 2014 meeting of Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the feasibility and estimated cost of:
 - a. restoring the 5,000 "planned" lead service replacements on streets scheduled for resurfacing and "stand-alone" service replacement in conjunction with the Water Meter Replacement program that were cut in 2011; and
 - b. reducing the service standard of "up to 12 weeks" and increasing the number of Priority "High-Lead" service replacements.

Summary

In 2007, Council approved a strategy to accelerate the replacement of water pipes made of lead that remained in an estimated 65,000 homes built before 1951. The plan was to replace 11,000 water service connections over a nine year period, starting in 2008. Of those, 9,000 would be "planned" and replaced on a street-by-street basis as part of the City road and water capital program. Another 1,500 replacements would be "on demand" and replaced on a case-by-case basis, most often because of high-lead test results or broken pipes.

In January 2011, Council adopted a new Lead in Drinking Water Strategy. The revised Water Service Replacement Program budget was cut from \$38.5 million to \$17.5 million annually. The total number of service replacements was reduced by 6,000 (from 11,000 to 5,000 annually). All replacements that were to be coordinated with water meter installation and non-arterial road resurfacing were eliminated.

In August 2011, as part of the Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Strategy, Council also approved a "Corrosion Control Plan" to introduce "orthophosphate" into drinking water which will, over time, build a protective coating on the inside of all water pipes. The plan, which was originally estimated for completion in 2013, involves installing new infrastructure at all four water treatment plants at an estimated capital cost of \$6 to \$8 million, and an annual operating cost of \$1.6 million. The Strategy also includes a \$50 and \$100 Faucet Filter Rebate program to assist eligible residents with the cost of installing an NSF/ANSI-053 certified filter.

Recent media reports have demonstrated that many areas of the City continue to have high-lead levels in their water. Reports from Toronto Water staff also appear to show that the number of water service replacements has fallen short of our targets, and the Corrosion Control plan is behind schedule.

Despite the new strategy to implement Corrosion Control, replacing the entire lead pipe, both private and public portions, is the best way to fully eliminate the risk of lead in water. Full replacement remains the recommended approach of public health officials across North America and around the world. Council has a responsibility to oversee and initiate additional measures to encourage the full replacement of lead pipes in Toronto. In light of the recent public concern about lead pipes, I believe Council should receive a comprehensive update on the status of this program.

(Submitted to City Council on June 10 and 11, 2014 as MM52.4)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM52.4