

## **Contracted Assistance Program for Service Line Inventories (SLI) and Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plans**

1. How do I know if my water system is eligible for this contracted assistance?
  - a. Water Systems (NTNCs and Community) that serve 1,000 or fewer customers.
  - b. If your water system serves over 1,000 customers and has over 250 connections, then your system is not eligible for this program. Please email [ANR.SLI@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.SLI@vermont.gov) for more information.
2. Can my water system choose which contractor will work with us?
  - a. No, DEC will assign the contractor to the water system.
3. Are contractors DEC employees?
  - a. No, contractors are third party consultants or engineering firms hired by the DEC to assist water systems with meeting the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) inventory and replacement plan compliance directives.
4. How soon will my water system be able to start working on an SLI and LSLR Plan after applying for this program?
  - a. DEC assigns contractors on a rolling basis. DEC and/or the contractor will contact you once a contractor is available to work with your water system.
5. If an LSLR Plan is necessary, will my water system be paired with the same contractor from the SLI?
  - a. Yes.
6. If my water system has already started an SLI in-house, can we be reimbursed for this work?
  - a. Water systems may apply for a DWSRF Planning Loan to complete the SLI. Water systems may use loan funds to hire their own contractor or to pay in-house staff. Please email [ANR.DWSRFInvLoan@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.DWSRFInvLoan@vermont.gov) for more information.

7. Should the water system still complete the training classes offered by the Vermont Rural Water Association (VRWA)/DEC?
  - a. To receive contracted assistance, this training is not required.
  - b. If the water system is receiving loan funds through a force account agreement for SLI work, then this training is required either through the VRWA live class offering or DEC's recorded video.
  - c. These classes do count towards Training Contact Hours (TCH) for drinking water operator certification.
  
8. What are the contractor's responsibilities for this assistance program?
  - a. The contractors are responsible for the following tasks:
  - b. Records Review
    - i. Meet with water system personnel, review all water system documents for details on service lines
    - ii. Conduct external review of any available documentation (Municipal Clerk, permits and files, plumber contacts, etc.)
  - c. Visual Inspection
    - i. Data collection of property owner side of service line via property owner survey
    - ii. Visual inspection of property owner side of service line
  - d. Develop Service Line Inventory and Replacement Plan, if necessary.
    - i. Using the appropriate DEC developed spreadsheet, inventory each service line in the water system
    - ii. When applicable, develop the lead service line replacement plan using the DEC template
    - iii. Submit service line inventories and lead service line replacement plans on behalf of the water system via ANR Online
  
9. How is my water system expected to assist the contractor and how much time should we expect to allocate for this project?
  - a. Water systems are expected to collaborate with the contractor to make the assistance program successful. The contractor will coordinate with water systems to schedule site visits, review records, and if necessary, draft an LSLR plan. The time necessary for water system staff participation will vary. Many factors including system size, available and reliable records, and property owner responsiveness will affect the success of the project.