

New Jersey American Water is beginning an important project in your neighborhood to identify or confirm the material of your water service line and install a meter pit for future water meter upgrades. Even if you received a new meter in the last few years or had similar work done before, this work will take place at every property in South Orange to meet the latest New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements. Our contractor, Montana Construction, will complete this work by digging small test holes in the public right-of-way and installing a meter pit near the property line. Montana Construction crews will carry photo identification and will never request payment at your door.

This project supports New Jersey's law requiring all water providers to replace both utility-owned and customer-owned lead and galvanized steel service lines by 2031. While the water we deliver meets all state and federal water quality standards, removing these types of service lines is the long-term solution to reducing potential exposure. The water service line connects your home to the main in the street, and part of it is owned by New Jersey American Water while the remaining portion is owned by the property owner.

If we identify lead or galvanized steel on either the New Jersey American Water-owned portion or the customer-owned portion of the service line, we will work with you to schedule replacement. The cost of customer-owned replacements is not billed directly to individual customers. It is funded through the Lead Service Line Replacement Charge (LSLRC) on customer bills, which helps make this work possible across our service area is completed in an efficient and equitable way.

You will receive a package with more information in the coming days. For project questions, contact Michael Oliviera, Montana Construction at 201-232-7624 or via email at moliveira@montanaconstructioninc.com. Thank you for your cooperation as we work to upgrade the water system in your community, improve long-term reliability and safety, and support New Jersey's goal of removing all lead and galvanized steel service lines statewide.