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2015 Vinyl Lined Asbestos Cement (VLAC) Pipe Survey

As of January 2015, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program records indicated that sixty six (66) public water systems had vinyl-lined asbestos concrete (VLAC) pipe in their distribution system. Every five years we survey public water suppliers in order to update our records on the amount of vinyl-lined asbestos cement (VLAC) pipe still in use in distribution systems in Massachusetts. The last survey was in 2009. On February 25, 2015 the MassDEP Drinking Water Program distributed a brief electronic survey to public water suppliers through SurveyMonkey.

Of the 66 public water suppliers surveyed in 2015, we received 55 replies, a response rate of 83.3%. Of the 55 replies, there were three that were unsure of the quantity of VLAC pipe in their distribution system.

Comparing survey results over the years, in 1992, 580.2 miles of VLAC pipe were reported; in 2009, 496.15 miles were reported; and in 2015, 572 miles were reported. The increase in number of miles between 2009 and 2015 is due to the increase in the number of responses.

MassDEP will continue to conduct outreach to public water suppliers about VLAC pipe. VLAC pipe information is posted on MassDEP's web site at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html#20>. The next VLAC survey will be conducted in 2020.

2015 VLAC Pipe Survey Questions*

1. Public Water System Name
2. Public Water System ID #
3. Have you removed all vinyl-lined asbestos cement (VLAC) pipe in your distribution system?
4. If yes, please enter the date(s), since the last survey in 2009, that VLAC pipe was removed.
5. If no, how many miles of VLAC pipe remain in your distribution system?
6. What is your plan for removing VLAC pipe from your distribution system?
7. Do you conduct water quality monitoring for tetrachloroethylene (PCE) where VLAC pipe is located at a dead end or similar location in your distribution system?
8. Do you currently use bleeders to reduce PCE levels at a dead end or similar location in your distribution system?
9. Comments:
10. Name and Job Title of Person Completing This Survey:

* Survey sent via SurveyMonkey