

## **ENHANCED TREATMENT IMPROVES WATER QUALITY AS CREWS REMOVE THOUSANDS OF LEAD SERVICE LINES**

SUEZ made significant progress in addressing lead in 2019 – and the work continues for our customers.

The company's aggressive \$23 million lead line replacement program reached a milestone in December, when crews removed the 2,517<sup>th</sup> lead service line of the year. More than 20 crews, some working six days a week, swept through 43 municipalities in 2019.

Our crews have not slowed down. Nearly 40 lead lines were replaced in the first three weeks of January alone. SUEZ plans to remove more than 2,000 lines in 2020.

"We will not rest because our work is not done," said Mark McKoy, Vice President and General Manager of the system. "We are attacking this issue on many fronts – from removing lead lines and enhancing water treatment to educating customers about the need to replace lead fixtures inside their homes. We want customers to be assured that we will continue this important effort."

Recent water quality tests found the drinking water meets federal standards for lead. The testing, performed between July and December in homes with lead plumbing and service lines, found that the lead level was 11 parts per billion, below the 15 ppb level the government considers safe.

Leading water quality experts continue to analyze and adjust corrosion control. The dosage of zinc orthophosphate was increased and pH was raised to improve treatment, which essentially coats pipes to prevent lead from entering the water. Cutting-edge testing equipment has been installed throughout the system to monitor the effectiveness of the corrosion control.

As part of our commitment to customers, SUEZ continues to offer free water tests to those with a utility-owned lead service line or gooseneck or line of unknown material. Customers can go online at [www.SUEZWQ.com](http://www.SUEZWQ.com) or call our customer service representatives at 1 800-422-5987 for more information.

While that work continues, the company is strongly encouraging customers to address lead inside their homes. Lead plumbing, lead solder, faucets that contain lead, even grounding electric wires to lead pipes can cause elevated lead levels in the water. Customers should also replace their service lines – they own the section from the curb to the home – if made of lead.

"We are taking every action to remove lead and control corrosion," McKoy said. "But customers have to take a look inside their homes and act now."

## 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

