**Notice of Service Line Replacement Refusal**

You are receiving this notice because the owner of this property has refused or not responded to two attempts from [Public water system name] to replace service lines (pipes)that were found to contain lead. Service lines supply drinking water from the water main to the building. If a service line is made with lead, lead can get into the drinking water. Lead is toxic and can cause long-term health problems, especially for children younger than six years old and people who are pregnant.

**Why should I be concerned?**

[Public water system name] inspected the service line where it connects to your building to determine if it contains lead and found that it does. [Public water system name] is replacing lead service lines that are found to contain lead in order to meet the requirements of the *Rhode Island Lead Poisoning Prevention Act*. The property owner of this building has been offered a replacement twice but has refused.

Because the service line to your building is made of lead, lead could be getting into the drinking water. Drinking water with lead in it can cause lead poisoning.

Lead is most dangerous to children younger than six years old and people who are pregnant. Lead poisoning can hurt a child's brain and nervous system and slow down growth and development. Children can have difficulty learning and behaving well and may have trouble paying attention. Even small amounts of lead can harm a child. Lead poisoning is preventable. **For more information about lead poisoning, visit health.ri.gov/lead.**

**What can I do?**

As a tenant, you can request the property owner have the lead service line replaced. If the property owner refuses or does not respond to your request, you may make a second request. The property owner has 60 days to respond to your second request. If they refuse or fail to respond to your second request, you can choose to end your lease. Under the *Lead Poisoning Prevention Act*, the property owner cannot keep your security deposit because you chose to end your lease.

**How can I protect my family from lead in drinking water?**

* Request a water filter that will remove lead from [insert public water system name] by [insert contact information instructions].
* Run the cold water for 3 to 5 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. This is called “flushing” the tap.
* Only use cold water for cooking or drinking.
* For more information, visit [health.ri.gov/water/about/lead/](https://health.ri.gov/water/about/lead/).

**If you have questions about this notice, visit the Department of Health website at** [**health.ri.gov/water/about/lead/**](https://health.ri.gov/water/about/lead/) **call the Rhode Island Department of Health’s Center for Drinking Water Quality at 401-222-6867.**