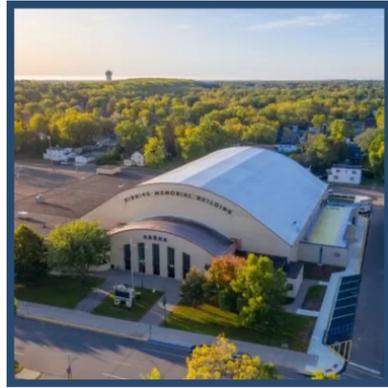


LEAD INFORMATIONAL TOWN HALL



- **Date:** January 12th, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- **Location:** Memorial Building, Little Theater
400 E 23rd St., Hibbing, MN 55746
- **Topics:**
 - Lead Testing Results
 - Reducing Personal Exposure
 - System-Wide Response
 - Community Q&A

Presenters



St. Louis County
Public Health



Hibbing Public
Utilities



Minnesota Dept. of
Health

Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-0248

1902 E 6th Ave.

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Utility Updater

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Getting the Lead Out:

Understanding the Lead Issue & HPU's Path Forward

In late October of 2025, Hibbing Public Utilities issued a Lead Action Level Notice after the completion of annual lead and copper level testing. This notice came as a result of high lead levels revealed by the testing. While this notification was required to be distributed across HPU's full system, **this issue is**

not city or system-wide. Lead levels vary **building-to-building** depending on each building's service line and plumbing. Throughout this process, HPU has focused on three goals:

1. **Inform all residents** about the test results.
2. **Provide clear steps** people can take to reduce their personal exposure to lead.
3. **Take system-wide action** to identify and reduce sources of lead throughout Hibbing.

Analyte	System 90 th Percentile (ppb)	EPA Action Level (ppb)
Lead	32	15
Copper	987	1300

Reducing Personal Lead Exposure

Here are some simple steps to reduce the risk of lead exposure in your home:

- **Purchase and use a certified lead filter** to reduce lead from drinking water, especially in houses with children, pregnant women, or individuals with high blood pressure.
- **Let the water run** before using it for drinking or cooking. If you have a lead service line, let the water run for 3-5 minutes. If you do not have a lead service line let water run from 30-60 seconds. The more time water has been sitting in lead plumbing, the more lead it may contain.
- **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and mixing baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water. Boiling water does not reduce lead levels.
- **Clean your aerator regularly.** Your aerator may capture lead particulates and can be a potential source of lead contamination.
- **Identify your service line.** HPU is continuing its service line inventory. Scan the QR code to perform it yourself or schedule an inspection with HPU staff at 218-262-7700.



**Service Line
Inventory.**

Scan here or
contact HPU at
218-262-7700

HPU's Path Forward - A System-Wide Response

Since high lead levels were identified during the October testing, HPU has been taking steps across the entire water system to **find possible sources of lead** and plan projects that **reduce the risk of lead exposure** and **remove lead water lines** from Hibbing's drinking water system.

Identifying Lead Sources

The primary source of lead across Hibbing's Water system is lead or galvanized steel water service lines. The service line is a pipe connecting an individual building to HPU's water mains. On every service line, there are two sections, the "public side" and the "private side". HPU is working to identify all service line materials across Hibbing's water system. This investigative work will provide HPU with information about where replacement efforts are most needed and will be most impactful.



HPU is continuing its **Service Line Surveys**. These surveys identify the private side of the service lines and can be performed by HPU staff or homeowners. These surveys are a fast and cost effective way to identify areas where lead is likely. To sign up for this service, please contact HPU at 218-262-7700.

Pot Holing is a small, exploratory excavation to physically identify both the public and private sides of your water service line. HPU has performed **506** digs since Nov. 6th and has identified **125** service lines that require replacement. This work will begin again in the Spring with "at-risk" sections prioritized by age of neighborhoods and Service Line Survey Results.



Project Planning

By utilizing the information gained in its investigative work, HPU is preparing for the 2026 Construction Season with the removal of lead water lines as a top priority.

Reducing Risk



The complete elimination of lead from Hibbing's water system is going to take time. HPU will also not be able to replace in-home plumbing which will continue to impact our community members. However, HPU can implement a corrosion control process into its water treatment system that will reduce the risk of lead contamination across the full system. Working directly with MDH HPU is currently completing the design of its corrosion control system at the South Water Treatment Plant. This measure is expected to be completed and implemented in late Spring.

Getting the Lead Out



The only way to completely eliminate the risk of lead contamination is to remove all sources of lead from Hibbing's water system. As HPU has been pursuing its Water Main Capital Improvement Plan, it has been selecting projects based upon the criteria of age, number of recorded breaks, and importance to system operation. In 2026, a new priority of lead service line concentration has been added. With this in mind, HPU is preparing for a construction season that will replace both outdated water mains and lead service lines.

2025 in Review

Core Principles

Mission Statement: Hibbing Public Utilities' mission is to serve the Hibbing community with the most reliable utility service at the most affordable rates, while catalyzing the regional economic transition with sustainable, renewable energy.



RELIABLE SERVICES



COMPETITIVE RATES



GREATEST BENEFIT

Water Works

HPU completed another year of its Water Main Capital Improvement plan. These projects secure a safer and more reliable water system. Here are some highlights of our 2025 work:

- 4 projects completed
- 19,402 feet of water main replaced
- 11 lead service lines replaced
- \$10.3 million total investment
- \$5.76 million in grant funding

Looking forward to 2026, HPU has reevaluated projects to prioritize the identification and removal of lead from Hibbing's Water System.

Electrical Upgrades

2025 marks one of the most productive years for Hibbing's electrical system in decades. Here are some highlights from our work:

- 5 miles of Line Rebuilding
- Completion of 2 state-of-the-art substations
- 11 miles of Vegetation Management
- Project development for 3 miles of transmission line & 2 new grid connections

These projects are set to continue into 2026 as HPU continues investments into Hibbing's electrical infrastructure.

Planning for 2026 & Beyond

Your Voice Matters:

HPU is beginning a new round of strategic planning for 2026. The HPU Commission, Management, and staff will be working together to review our current goals and set new priorities that best serve the community of Hibbing.

This work is only possible with help from the people we serve. Community input has shaped HPU's priorities in the past, and your ideas and concerns continue to guide our decisions. We invite you to stay involved and share what matters most to you by contacting HPU through any of the following ways:



info@hpuc.com



218-262-7737



www.hpuc.com



Attend Public Meetings