



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 617-292-5500

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Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
Secretary

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, Jr.
Commissioner

May 15, 2006

Dear Public Water System:

The MassDEP is in the process of updating the status of the number of miles of vinyl-lined asbestos-cement (VLAC) pipe still in use. Attached to this cover letter you will find a survey on VLAC used in PWSs. **Please complete and return the survey by June 17, 2006.** Your assistance in updating this information will greatly contribute to our ability to work with PWSs to decrease the concentrations of PCE from VLAC pipe in drinking water, which directly improves public health protection.

VLAC pipe is a source of tetrachloroethylene, also known as perchloroethylene or PCE, a chemical that has been shown to be detrimental to public health when ingested and inhaled. Leaching of PCE from the VLAC pipe to drinking water is therefore a public health concern and every effort should be made to identify PWSs that still have VLAC pipe and encourage those systems to reduce the amount of pipe. This will minimize and eventually eliminate this source of PCE. According to our records, your system is in this category and therefore this survey has been sent to you.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VLAC pipe monitoring has been updated and can be found on the web at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/leadothe.htm>. Changes to this SOP include:

1. A background section describing the regulation of VLAC pipes,
2. An additional option for monitoring frequency when three consecutive samples have non-detect results, and
3. Guidance for requesting an alternate sampling schedule.

Please contact Nicholas Anastas at (617) 556-1157 if you have any questions regarding the SOP or this survey.

Sincerely,

(signed original on file in Boston office)

David Y. Terry
Program Director
BRP Drinking Water Program
Encl.
P/dwparchive/pcesurvey/2006-5-10

This information is available in alternate format. Call Donald M. Gomes, ADA Coordinator at 617-556-1057. TDD Service - 1-800-298-2207.

DEP on the World Wide Web: <http://www.mass.gov/dep>

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A Survey of the Amount of Vinyl-Lined Asbestos–Cement Pipe (VLAC Pipe) in Massachusetts Public Water Systems

The MassDEP's Drinking Water Program (DWP) is conducting this survey to update its records on the amount of vinyl lined asbestos-cement (VLAC) pipe, still in existence in the Commonwealth. According to our records, VLAC was used in your public water system (PWS). If your system has replaced *all* of the VLAC pipe, please indicated the date of completion and mail back the survey. If you *still have* VLAC pipe, please answer all of the survey questions and mail it back to MassDEP. The DWP appreciates your help in updating the information that will assist us with controlling tetrachloroethylene (also called perchloroethylene or PCE) in drinking water.

PWS Name	City/Town
PWSID	
Have you replaced all VLAC pipes?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date Completed <i>(return this form)</i>
	No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(Continue with survey)</i>

Table - Estimated Length of VLAC Pipe (miles)

Location	1992* Survey Amount (if known)	2006 Survey Amount	Decreased miles of VLAC pipe (1992 to present)

Estimate total length of VLAC pipe (miles)
Number of distribution system PCE samples required by MassDEP
Frequency of distribution system PCE sampling
Date of last distribution system PCE sample(s)
Results of last distribution system PCE sample(s)

* Date of last survey

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

*Please return this form by **June 17, 2006** to: MassDEP; 1 Winter Street – 6th Floor; Boston, MA 02108; Attn: Drinking Water Program-PCE Survey*