



ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2026

To: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
Peggy A. LaGree, Vice Chair
Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer

From: Mark D. Jarmuz, Senior Distribution Engineer

Subject: Service Line Investigations and Lead Line Replacement – ECWA Project Update

Executive Summary

The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) continues to make substantial progress in implementing its Get the Lead Out Program in response to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Through a combination of historical records, customer outreach, predictive modeling, field investigations, and lead service replacements, ECWA has significantly improved the comprehensiveness and accuracy of its service line inventory while reducing the number of lead and unknown service lines throughout the distribution system.

The Get the Lead Out Program is one of the largest customer-facing infrastructure initiatives in Authority history. Through June 2026, the Get the Lead Out Program has completed service line investigations at more than 11,500 houses, identified nearly 2,000 lead service lines, completed more than 1,100 lead service replacements, significantly reduced the number of unknown service line materials in the inventory, and positioned the Authority to complete the program by the end of 2027. As the Board is aware, the goal of this phase of the program is to remove all known lead from the system by the end of 2027 to avoid changing our corrosion control methodology.

As the Get the Lead Out Program progresses, predictive modeling has become an increasingly valuable tool for identifying and prioritizing the remaining locations most likely to contain lead service lines. By combining historical records with verified field investigation results, predictive modeling supports the efficient deployment of construction resources and helps guide future investigation and replacement efforts.

ECWA has awarded approximately \$27.3 million in construction contracts. Through June 2026, approximately \$13.1 million has been expended.

Additional work remains to complete the Get the Lead Out Program. ECWA anticipates advertising one additional Investigation and Replacement Contract and two additional Replacement Contracts later in 2026. The estimated value of these future contracts is approximately \$10 to \$12 million, with construction beginning later in 2026 and ECWA

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anticipating completion of the Get the Lead Out Program by the end of 2027.

The work completed to date demonstrates ECWA's commitment to public health protection, regulatory compliance and infrastructure improvement.

Program Strategy

The Get the Lead Out Program was established in response to evolving federal and state Lead and Copper Rule requirements. These regulations require water systems to develop and maintain accurate service line inventories while identifying and replacing lead service lines throughout their service areas. The goal of this phase of the program is to remove all known lead from the system by the end of 2027.

The first step in the program was to evaluate the existing service line inventory. While the ECWA had a significant amount of historical data, large holes remained. At the start of the program in May of 2024, the inventory included approximately 69,000 unknowns.

The reduction in unknown service line segments and continued inventory refinement has been achieved through a combination of predictive modeling, field investigations, and additional records research. Predictive modeling uses historical records, investigation results, installation-era information, and surrounding service line data to estimate the probable material of unknown service lines. These analytical tools improve inventory accuracy, support service line classification where direct field verification has not yet occurred, and help prioritize investigation and replacement efforts. Field investigation results continuously improve inventory accuracy, while the refined inventory strengthens predictive modeling efforts. In turn, predictive modeling helps prioritize future investigations and replacement activities, creating a data-driven approach for completing the remaining work. As the number of unknown service lines decreases, predictive modeling becomes increasingly valuable by directing resources toward locations with the highest probability of containing lead service lines. The inventory serves as the foundation of the construction program outlined below and directs investigation and replacement resources toward the locations most likely to contain lead service lines.

The construction program has been developed to support two objectives at the same time: physically replacing lead service lines and generating the field information necessary to plan remaining work. As the inventory becomes more complete, future contracts can be targeted more effectively and replacement resources can be directed to verified lead services requiring replacement.

ECWA is implementing the Get the Lead Out Program using a multi-contract construction strategy. Rather than relying on a single large contract, the program was divided into multiple contracts by work type and geographic area. This allowed construction resources to be deployed across several municipalities and enabled investigation and replacement work to advance concurrently. This strategy allowed ECWA to focus early program efforts on areas with the highest probability of containing lead service lines.

The contract structure includes Investigation and Replacement Contracts, Investigation Only Contracts, and Replacement Only Contracts. This approach provides ECWA with the flexibility to adapt to field conditions, customer coordination requirements, and evolving inventory information. It also allows the Authority to efficiently allocate resources by separating investigation-focused areas from replacement-focused areas where lead service lines have already

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been identified or are anticipated based on historical records and prior investigation results. The program also affords a larger pool of contractors depending on work scope.

Construction Contracts

Contract & Location		Contract Value at time of Award
Investigation and Replacement Contracts		
A	City of Tonawanda	\$ 4,395,425.95
B	Village of Depew	\$ 3,072,637.50
C	City of Tonawanda	\$ 6,461,570.00
D	Village of Lancaster	\$ 2,947,840.00
E	City of Lackawanna and Town of West Seneca (ds)	\$ 3,350,585.00
F	Village of Williamsville and Town of Amherst (ds)	N/A
G	Miscellaneous	N/A
Investigation Only Contracts		
1	Village of Blasdell, Village of Hamburg, Town of Hamburg	\$ 3,168,250.00
2	Town of Cheektowaga, Village of Sloan	\$ 1,179,850.00
3	Various Locations	\$ 1,045,150.00
4	Miscellaneous	N/A
Replacement Only Contracts		
1A	Village of Blasdell and Village of Hamburg	\$ 1,681,420.00
2A	Town of Cheektowaga, Village of Sloan (w/ Earmark Funding)	N/A
3A	Various Locations	N/A
4A	Miscellaneous	N/A
	TOTAL	\$ 27,302,728.45

From a construction management perspective, the program requires daily coordination among contractors, construction inspectors, property owners, municipalities, and internal engineering and administrative staff. In addition, ECWA staff coordinate customer access, restoration activities, contractor scheduling, municipal notifications, and resolve any field issues. These efforts are critical to maintaining construction progress while minimizing impacts to residents and ensuring a positive customer experience throughout the duration of the program. To date, in addition to ECWA staff, the program includes three consulting engineering contracts for construction inspection services and construction administration support.

Construction Accomplishments

Since May 2025, ECWA contractors have completed service line investigations at 11,500 houses. Investigation work generally includes locating the service, completing vacuum excavation (potholing), verifying material type, documenting public-side and private-side service materials, coordinating with property owners, and updating program records.

The investigation effort identified nearly 2,000 lead service lines and 900 galvanized service lines requiring replacement. These investigations also substantially reduced the number of unknown service line materials within the inventory and generated the verified field data necessary to support predictive modeling and future replacement planning.

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ECWA has completed 1,100 lead service replacements and 90 galvanized service replacements. These replacements include both Public Side and Private Side.

The successful implementation of this work required extensive coordination among ECWA staff, contractors, municipalities, engineering consultants, and property owners. Service line investigations and replacements frequently occur in front of occupied residences and require advance customer communication, traffic control, restoration planning, and coordination with municipal stakeholders. Construction Inspectors provide daily oversight to ensure compliance with contract requirements, maintain quality standards, and address field conditions as they arise. These are the first ECWA contracts that involve extensive work on private property and within private residences.

Work Completed to date (May 2025 – June 2026)

Contract & Location		Work Completed to Date - June 8, 2026								
		Investigations (Number of Houses)	Service Investigation Results				Service Replacements			
			Lead Public Side	Lead Private Side	Galv. Public Side	Galv. Private Side	Lead Public Side	Lead Private Side	Galv. Public Side	Galv. Private Side
Investigation and Replacement Contracts										
A	City of Tonawanda	1,308	643	92	5	40	498	34	3	17
B	Village of Depew	1,311	97	52	51	92	63	33	26	27
C	City of Tonawanda	1,927	599	33	19	27	381	17	7	7
D	Village of Lancaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E	City of Lackawanna / Town of West Seneca	829	146	3	21	63	71	6	0	0
Investigation Only Contracts										
1	Village of Blasdell, Village of Hamburg, Town of Hamburg	5,110	119	109	47	224	n/a (investigation only)			
2	Town of Cheektowaga and Village of Sloan	1,077	44	6	159	148	n/a (investigation only)			
TOTALS		11,562	1,648	295	302	594	1,013	90	36	51

Contract 1 and Contract 2 are investigation-only contracts focused on areas with a lower likelihood of finding lead. Their value extends beyond the investigations themselves, as these contracts generate the verified field data necessary to support future replacement contracts and continuously improve predictive modeling accuracy. Replacement activity in those areas will be addressed through replacement-only contracts.

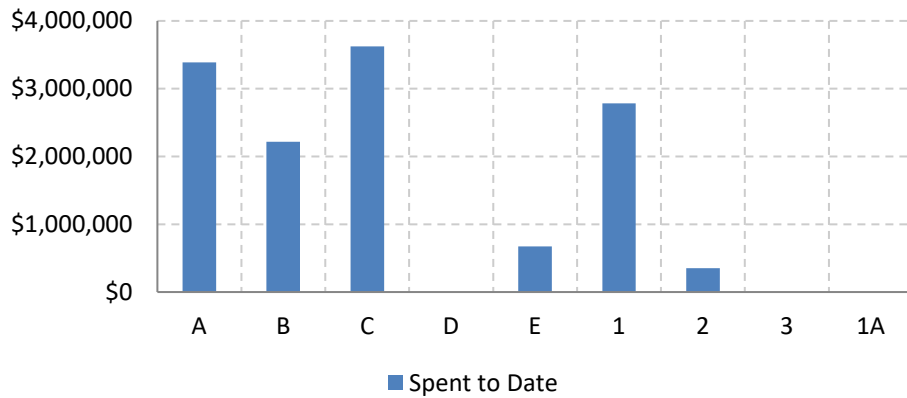
Financial Performance

ECWA has awarded approximately \$27.3 million in construction-related contracts for the Get the Lead Out Program. These contracts include investigation work, Public Side and Private Side service replacements and restoration. ECWA is utilizing engineering consulting firms for assistance with construction inspection and construction administration efforts. These consulting contracts reflect an additional \$2.5 million investment in the program.

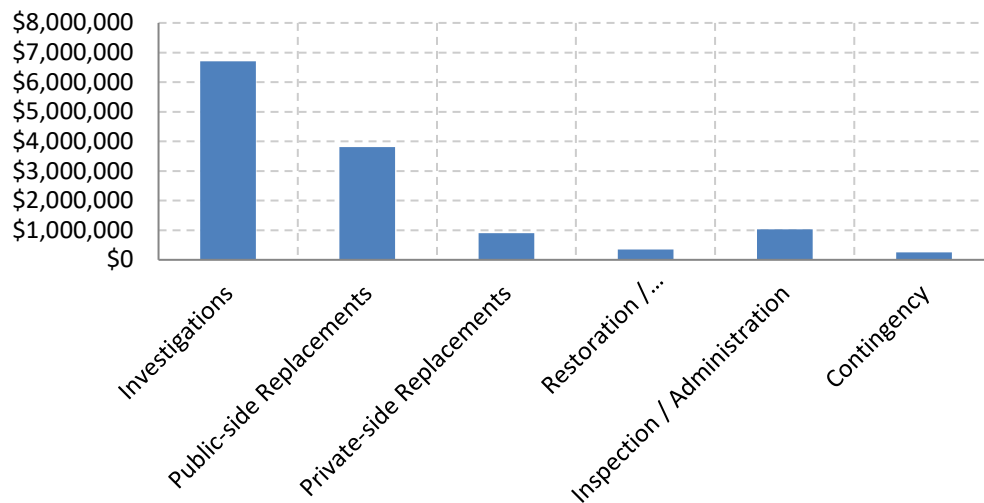
As of June 2026, approximately \$13.04 million has been expended for construction and \$1.0 million for engineering services. Approximately 50 percent of the awarded contract value remains available for continued investigations, service replacements, restoration activities, and program administration.

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Spent to Date by Contract



Spent to Date by Work Category



In addition to the current contracts, ECWA anticipates future contracts with an estimated value of approximately \$10 to \$12 million. These future contracts will be used to complete remaining investigation and replacement work.

Next Steps and 2027 Construction Outlook

To finalize the Get the Lead Out Program, ECWA anticipates advertising one additional Investigation and Replacement Contract and two additional Replacement Contracts later in 2026. The estimated budget for these future contracts is approximately \$10 to \$12 million.

The future contracts are expected to focus on replacement work identified through investigation-only contracts, inventory analysis, and predictive modeling. As the number of unknown service lines continues to decrease, predictive modeling will play an increasingly important role in prioritizing the remaining locations requiring field verification and replacement. Construction associated with these contracts is anticipated to continue throughout 2027.

Based on current projections, ECWA anticipates completing the Get the Lead Out Program by the

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end of 2027. This schedule provides a clear path for completing remaining construction activities while continuing to support compliance with federal and state Lead and Copper Rule requirements. Collectively, the investigation, replacement, and predictive modeling efforts completed to date have established a clear framework for successfully completing the program and eliminating all known lead service lines from the distribution system.

Current ECWA Inventory

ECWA Service Line Inventory Summary - June 8, 2026										
PWSID	Municipality	Total Services	ECWA Side				Customer Side			
			Lead	Galvanized	Non-Lead	Unknown	Lead	Galvanized	Non-Lead	Unknown
1400399	Amherst	24,743	0	1	23,993	749	3	55	23,675	1,010
1421897	Boston	2,634	0	0	2,597	37	0	2	2,592	40
1400443	Direct	113,092	575	307	107,201	5,009	325	5,302	101,846	5,619
1400445	Evans	5,424	0	0	4,881	543	0	50	4,774	600
1400421	Lancaster	9,286	0	0	9,068	218	1	12	8,994	279
1422651	Newstead	2,079	0	0	2,045	34	0	5	2,057	17
1421762	Orchard Park	8,638	0	0	8,351	287	1	11	8,312	314
1400515	V. Hamburg	3,225	103	35	3,010	77	104	275	2,748	98
1404543	West Seneca	8,825	0	0	8,616	209	1	21	8,380	423
TOTAL		177,946	678	343	169,762	7,163	435	5,733	163,378	8,400

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