

LEAD PIPE HARVESTING PROCEDURE FOR LOOP STUDIES

The following protocol is recommended for removal and transport of lead service lines (LSLs) from the distribution system for pipe loop studies:

1. Avoid the pull method if possible and use a trench type pipe removal method. To the greatest extent possible, minimize impact and vibration to the LSL when removing from the trench. If necessary, field cut the LSL so that a 54 plus inch length is available. Cut the pipe with a pipe cutter or pipe shearing device. Do not use a saw.
2. Label the pipe's location by tying a tag to it with the house address and extraction date. Note the direction of flow on the pipe. It can be useful to also note the top of the pipe and when placing the pipe in the loop put the top on top and keep flow direction the same.
3. Try to get data for WQP data from near the site.
4. Place the section as carefully as possible in bubble wrap for transport to the office/plant.
5. At the plant clean the outside of the pipe of dirt and debris. Again, careful not to disturb the scales inside.
6. Within 24 hours of harvesting, at the shop or plant:
 - a. Trim the harvested section to a 48-inch length such that there are good straight edges for later securing in the rig.
 - b. Carefully drain any water in the pipe.
 - c. Cut one commercial or utility sponge such that it will fit in one end of pipe and submerge in system water until saturated. Squeeze excess water from sponges.
 - d. Insert one sponge into end of the LSL, and seal with parafilm and tape.
 - e. Insert remaining sponge into other end of the LSL, and seal with parafilm and tape.
 - f. Carefully store the pipe where it will not be disturbed.
7. Every 10 days to 2 weeks re-wet sponges and replace and seal.
8. Try to get the pipes on the loop system as soon as possible with flowing water after harvesting.

