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SWL&P, City of Superior announce joint agreement to help customers replace lead water service lines

Superior residents would receive access to public funds to eliminate the use of lead pipes

Superior, WI. —Superior Water, Light and Power (SWL&P) and the City of Superior today announced an agreement to work together to offset costs for customers to replace the remaining lead water service lines within the city. The partnership, approved unanimously by the Superior City Council, establishes a joint approach to reduce costs and ensure access to federal funding for area residents.

Early in 2024, SWL&P pledged to help customers reduce their costs to replace lead services lines by accessing dedicated federal funds. While these federal funds are available in Wisconsin, current state law prevents privately owned water utilities from accessing them, leaving SWL&P customers without the financial assistance available to every other resident in the state.

SWL&P water customers are responsible for replacing the water lines from their house to the property line. SWL&P owns all water lines outside the customer's property boundary and has been regularly replacing the lead pipes in its inventory as part of ongoing maintenance projects.

"The support for this change in state law by Sen. Quinn and Rep. Green, along with labor and business leaders, has been tremendous. We also appreciate the city's willingness to join us to ensure our customers will receive the cost savings they deserve," said President of SWL&P, Rob Sandstrom. "This is truly a win-win for the residents of our community and a reflection of how much we can accomplish when we work together."

Sandstrom also said State Rep. Angela Stroud played a critical role in helping put the joint agreement together.

"Rep. Stroud has worked hard to find a solution for Superior residents, and her participation was crucial as negotiations with the city began. We greatly appreciate the open-minded and collaborative approach everyone took to getting to an agreement," he said.

"From the beginning, the City of Superior sought to partner with SWL&P to provide the transparency and local public oversight that every other city in Wisconsin brings to these projects," said Superior Mayor Jim Paine. "I've also been committed to passing no costs onto homeowners and removing lead lines as quickly as possible. I'm deeply grateful to Rep. Angela Stroud for her leadership and determination. This deal wouldn't have been possible without her work to bring all of the parties together."

The joint agreement outlines a framework for how the utility and city will work together to implement the lead line replacement effort. Key elements include:

- Authorizing the city of Superior to administer projects to replace residential customerowned lead water lines through a public bidding process that follows all state and federal guidelines.
- Requiring SWL&P to take the necessary steps to access federal funding and reimburse the city for replacement costs of residential customer-owned lead water lines, with oversight from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
- Acknowledging that the city agrees to bear the remainder of any costs of residential customer-owned lead water lines, beyond what is covered by the federal funding.

SWL&P has identified about 800 residential service lines that contain lead. More could be identified as lines start to be replaced.

Superior Water, Light and Power provides electricity, water and natural gas in the city of Superior and adjacent areas in northwestern Wisconsin. The company has served the area since 1889 and provides services to approximately 15,000 electric customers, 13,000 natural gas customers and 10,000 water customers. More information can be found at www.swlp.com.

ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition to its electric utilities, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power of Wisconsin, ALLETE owns ALLETE Clean Energy, based in Duluth; BNI Energy in Bismarck, North Dakota; and New Energy Equity, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland; and has an 8% equity interest in the American Transmission Co. More information about ALLETE is available at www.allete.com.

Superior Water, Light and Power calculates and reports carbon emissions based on the GHG Protocol. Details in ALLETE's <u>Corporate Sustainability Report</u>.

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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