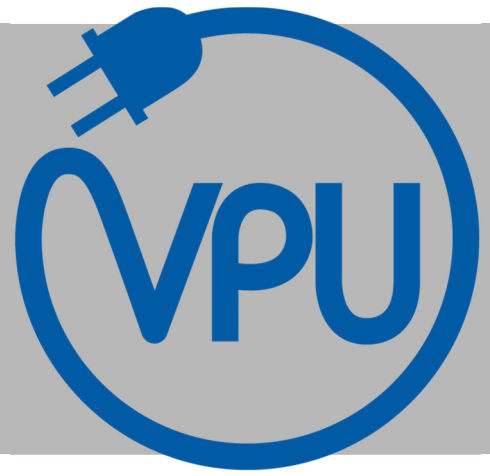


# The VPU Quarterly

January 2025



## Water Service Line Inventory Update

Virginia Public Utilities has been working on creating an inventory of the water service materials that are in the water system. If you recall, we have sent out multiple notices and information to help residents identify their water service material and how to get that information to us for documentation. This is a federal requirement set in place by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Residents can find information on service line material information on addresses located in Minnesota at: Minnesota Service Line Material Tool (umn.edu) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>). This tool was last updated in October.

At the time of writing this article, we have the following numbers documented in the City of Virginia:

- 0 – Lead Services
- 67 – Galvanized Services
- 1979 – Non-lead Services
- 1738 – Unknown

We are going to continue to document service materials to account for the remaining unknowns. If you have not yet submitted your water line information, please send photos to [water@vpuc.com](mailto:water@vpuc.com). If you need assistance or are unsure of the information VPU is required to collect, please reach out to our Customer Service Department at (218) 748-7540 to schedule an appointment for a Customer Serviceperson to come to your property. Any lead or galvanized services will eventually need to be replaced and State funding is available to help replace them. Virginia Public Utilities will be working on a plan to help facilitate that replacement process.

Thank you for your assistance with this requirement!

## Quick Notes:

### The office will be closed on the following dates:

January 20th  
February 17th  
April 18th

### Know the smell of natural gas!

If there is a faint smell, call the VPU at (218) 748-7540.

If in doubt, exit the building & call 911!

### Sign up for Direct Pay and eliminate the need to write a check each month!

Forms are available in the VPU office or on our website at [www.vpuc.com](http://www.vpuc.com).

## Core Conversion Update

It's been just under a year since VPU announced its plan to stop providing steam heat and effectively shutter the steam plant. Here's a quick breakdown of the numbers after the year one:

**110**—applications have been received for natural gas.

**25**—customers have been fully converted off of steam.

**33**—interest-free loan applications have been received.

**6**—grants have been disbursed by AEOA, effectively reducing the amount of loans that must be repaid by over \$60,000.

**5**—customers have opted to receive rebates on 75% of their steam costs for 2023 (in lieu of utilizing the loan program).

As of this writing, VPU has about 20 gas installations slated to kick off the 2025 construction season in the spring. **We are again asking customers who are in the Core District to submit your applications to our office as soon as possible.** Conversions take time and coordination between your contractor(s), the Utility, and the City of Virginia, and when we reach the deadline of October 31, 2026, we don't want any of our customers to be left out in the cold.

## Utility Rates—2025

**Virginia Public Utilities:** On December 23rd, VPU's budget was approved by the Commission, and we were able to pass it with no rate increases to the electric, steam, or gas commodities. Last year, VPU was diligent in controlling costs and making repairs to minimize leaks in the Water Department, but despite our best efforts, the water rate will see a \$0.70 per-unit increase beginning with the January bills. This rate increase is projected to cost the average residential water customer less than \$5 per month. If you have questions on your Virginia Public Utilities charges, please reach out to our Customer Service Department at (218) 748-7545.

**City of Virginia:** The monthly bill you receive from VPU includes the following charges that are billed on behalf of the City: sewer, sewage condensate, city garbage, county tipping fee, storm sewer fee, county solid waste fee, and solid waste management (SWM) tax.

In November, the City Council passed Resolution No. 24178 and Resolution No. 24179 to modify their storm sewer fee and sewer rates, effective January 1, 2025.

The storm sewer fee will no longer be billed annually. It will now be billed at a monthly rate based on the type of property you own.

Additionally, the base service charge for sewer will be increasing to \$6.27 per month, and the per unit charge will be increasing to \$12.83 per unit.

If you have questions on your City of Virginia charges, please reach out to City Hall at (218) 748-7500.