



# NORTH BALDWIN UTILITIES

## Water Distribution System Materials Inventory

*May 2016*

**North Baldwin Utilities (NBU)** is a municipal utility structured in 2005 and is the successor agency to the Utilities Board of the City of Bay Minette, Alabama established in 1945. NBU is an independent municipal utility governed by a five-member Board of Directors appointed by the City of Bay Minette.

The “Utilities Board” oversaw the initial elements of the community’s water system providing service primarily within the then corporate limits of the City of Bay Minette. As the community grew, the water system expanded in kind. Rural water supply systems developed in the neighboring communities of Whitehouse and Pine Grove. The “Utilities Board” served as the wholesale water supplier to both the Whitehouse Water System and the Pine Grove Water System. Additionally, supplemental water supply was provided to the nearby Stockton Water System and, via a connection with Pine Grove Water System, to the Stapleton Water System.

In the early 2000’s the Pine Grove and Stapleton water systems were merged into the “Utilities Board” system. Subsequent to the establishment of NBU in 2005, the Stockton Water System, which had recently absorbed the Tensaw Water Authority, was merged into NBU in 2006. The North Baldwin Water Authority serving the Rabun Community was merged into NBU in 2007. Upon completion of a major northern and eastern expansion of the NBU water system in 2008 via a County sponsored CDBG project, the Perdido Water Authority was also merged into NBU.

NBU continues to serve as the sole supplier of water to the Whitehouse Water System. In the mid-2000’s NBU accomplished a major southward system expansion that supported supplemental water supply connections to the Spanish Fort Water Authority that remain active. The absorption of the old Perdido water system included an interconnection with the City of Atmore water system which has since been inactive.

The varied histories of the several formerly independent water supply agencies assembled into today’s NBU present a wide array of system materials characteristics. During their independency each of the systems adopted and incorporated unique system materials requirements. NBU has standardized materials specifications for new work but the extensive in-place infrastructure remains as an amalgam of the varied original protocols.

At least since the early 1990s, NBU (and previously as the “Utilities Board”) requires pipelines to be constructed of PVC or ductile iron pipe with gasketed joints or HDPE pipe. Service lines are required to be copper with special consideration of HDPE and PVC service piping. Service brass and meters are to feature low/no lead characteristics.

It is recognized that pipeline permitting requirements of agencies external to NBU but with jurisdiction over elements of NBU system actions (e.g. ALDOT) mandate the use of copper tubing in certain instances. Such dictate materials installations are common throughout the NBU service area.

The understood historical materials characteristics of the water infrastructure within the various sections of the NBU water system are generally summarized in the following paragraphs.

## BAY MINETTE:

---

Elements of the water system within the core areas of Bay Minette are understood to date from the post-World War II era and possibly earlier. As the community grew during the 60s and 70s the system expanded. System materials of construction can be anticipated to be those common to this area during such periods. Piping is understood to be primarily galvanized iron and cast/ductile iron with service lines primarily of galvanized iron or copper.

Beyond the older, postwar, 'downtown' area, the pre-1980 water system consists primarily of PVC or cast/ductile iron pipe with gasketed joints. Service lines are a mixture of galvanized pipe and copper tubing.

Since about the 1980's all water system extensions within the "Utilities Board" service area have been accomplished primarily using PVC pipe. Limited sections of ductile iron and HDPE have been utilized where special circumstances dictated. Services lines are primarily constructed using copper tubing with some instances of PVC and HDPE. Water meters are specified to have low/no lead characteristics.

Senior staff and inquiries to available retired staff affirm that the initial "Utilities Board" service area (generally pre-1980) is understood to feature a variety of pipeline and service line materials. Retired staff have reported and excavation experiences generally affirm that within the old 'downtown' areas – those generally within about a 5 or 6 block perimeter from Courthouse Square – pipelines are primarily cast/ductile iron. Such interviews and experiences indicate the potential exists to encounter cast iron pipelines with lead packed joints within this area. The majority of the pre-1980 system is reported to feature primarily PVC and cast/ductile iron pipe with gasketed joints.

Service lines observed in these areas are characterized by galvanized pipe and copper tubing. Former and senior employees have reported encountering one lead service gooseneck on 4<sup>th</sup> Street that has long since been removed. These former staff advises that they had not encountered nor were aware of any other such installations within the system. Additionally, during the 1990's, water services within substantial portions of the 'downtown' area were renovated. The program included installation of copper service lines and replacement of all service brass with low/no lead components. During this program no reports of encountering lead gooseneck service assemblies were recorded.

During the 2000's virtually all system water meters were upgraded to remote read devices with low/no lead characteristics. Personnel active in this program did not report any encounters of lead gooseneck service assemblies.

## STAPLETON:

---

The initial core of the water system within the Stapleton community is understood to have been constructed in the 1960's primarily using ductile iron pipe with gasketed joints. Service lines are understood to feature a mixture of galvanized, copper, and PVC piping. Subsequent excavation experiences within the Stapleton area appear to affirm these circumstances.

Beyond the extent of the initial system service area, water system expansion have been accomplished using predominantly PVC. Water services have been of PVC or copper.

During the early 2010's all services were upgraded to remote read low/no lead meters and service brass changed to low/no lead components.

---

**PINE GROVE | STOCKTON | TENSAW | RABUN | LITTLE RIVER | PERDIDO:**

---

Distribution systems within these segments of the NBU system generally do not pre-date 1960. It is understood that these systems primarily feature PVC piping with special circumstances utilization of ductile iron and HDPE. Water services are understood to be either PVC or copper.

Excavation experiences within these system areas affirm the understood materials histories.

---

**WHITEHOUSE:**

---

While the Whitehouse Water System does not exist as a part of the NBU system under NBU ownership, NBU is the sole source water supplier to Whitehouse. The Whitehouse System dates from the early 1970s. System piping is understood to be primarily PVC with special circumstance uses of ductile iron. Water service lines are understood to be either of PVC or copper. Water meters and service brass are understood to date from initial installation.

---

This materials inventory does not address conditions possibly extant within the Spanish Fort Water Authority system as it exists as an independent and separately ADEM-permitted utility. While NBU does supply water to Spanish Fort, the supply is only supplemental and Spanish Fort maintains other sources of supply. It is anticipated that pertinent information regards the Spanish Fort Water Authority efforts at LCR compliance will be sourced from the Authority.

NBU (and its predecessor "Utilities Board") has and continues to endeavor to utilize the safest, most reliable, and most cost-efficient materials to construct the infrastructure comprising our water distribution system. In particular regard to the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), from the earliest days of its implementation NBU adopted and continues an aggressive program to upgrade and renovate all system water services to assure compliance with both the spirit and letter of the Rule.

Provision of effective, reliable, affordable, and trustworthy water service to our customers has and will continue to form the basic principle of our service philosophy.

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** regards this Water System Materials Inventory or how it was assembled, please contact:

Mr. Daryl Long  
NBU Water Treatment Supervisor  
[dlong@nbumail.com](mailto:dlong@nbumail.com)  
251/580-1626

or

Mr. Jason M. Padgett  
NBU General Manager/CEO  
[jpadgett@nbumail.com](mailto:jpadgett@nbumail.com)  
251/580-1626