

## ANACOSTIA 2<sup>ND</sup> HIGH RESIDENTIAL PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE INSTALLATION PROJECT

### OVERVIEW

As part of its Capital Improvement Program, DC Water has initiated the Anacostia 2<sup>nd</sup> High Residential Pressure Reducing Valve Installation Project to address long-standing issues and community concerns regarding low water pressure in Ward 8. To address the low pressure issue in area homes and in the vicinity of Hadley Hospital, Greater Southeast Hospital, Saint Elizabeths Hospital and Congress Heights, DC Water has started work on the Saint Elizabeths Water Tower and Large Diameter Transmission Main project, which is scheduled for completion in spring 2018. This project will be the last in a series of projects that will result in the formation of a new pressure zone in the areas stated above. There will be an increase in water pressure of 22 pounds per square inch (psi) across the service area following completion of the work. The benefits of this project will not only include increased water pressure, but also increased flow from local fire hydrants.

### SCOPE OF WORK

DC Water has identified homes and other buildings within the service area that will likely experience water pressure exceeding 80 psi following the implementation of the 22 psi pressure increase. According to the District of Columbia Plumbing Code, pressure at this level requires installation of a pressure reducing valve (PRV) inside the property. As part of this project, DC Water is contacting affected property owners to make them aware of the future water pressure increase and the need to have a PRV installed. If permitted by the property owner, DC Water's contractor will purchase and install a PRV in eligible residential properties at no cost to the property owner. DC Water's contractor will schedule an appointment with the owner or his/her representative to install the PRV prior to the scheduled water pressure increase.

Information will also be provided to affected property owners whose homes will experience increased pressure but will not require PRV installation.

### SCHEDULE

- Estimated construction start (PRV installations): spring 2017
- Estimated construction completion (PRV installations): spring 2018
- Construction completion (Saint Elizabeths Water Tower and Water Mains): spring 2018
- Normal work hours: 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday
- Weekday appointments for PRV installations can be made between 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., with all work completed by 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday appointments for PRV installations can be made between 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., with all work completed by 5:00 p.m.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Information on water quality

- The increase in water pressure can potentially cause problems in homes which have galvanized pipes. Galvanized pipes are made of iron and are a dull, silver-gray color. Over many years, the iron can corrode, making the pipe brittle. These pipes can experience new leaks under the increased pressure. The corroded iron inside the pipe can easily break off and release iron and other metals in water, causing discolored water. This plumbing material was installed in many homes built before the 1960s. Owners who have galvanized pipes should contact a local plumber. Replacement of galvanized pipes is outside the scope of DC Water's PRV offer and will be at the owner's expense.
- Lead sources, including lead service pipes, solder, brass faucets, valves or fittings, and galvanized iron pipes could release lead particles when the pressure increases.
- At the time of PRV installation, DC Water will provide a free water filter pitcher for your use.

#### Customer actions prior to PRV installation

- After we receive your signed Private Property Pressure Reducing Valve Agreement, our contractor will call you to schedule an installation appointment. The contractor will also contact you to confirm your scheduled appointment 48 hours in advance. You, as the homeowner, or your representative must be present during the installation.

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- On the scheduled appointment date, we will come to your home to install the PRV. Based on past experience, installations typically last two hours. Occasionally, work cannot be completed within a two-hour window. Those scenarios include uncommon plumbing, a cluttered work area, or a work area that is not easily accessible. In cases where additional time is needed, we will schedule a follow-up appointment with you at your convenience.

### Other PRV related information

- To install a PRV, DC Water will require access inside the building at the point where the existing water service line enters the building, near the water shut-off valve. Water service will need to be temporarily turned off during the installation.
- If no shut-off valve is located inside the building, DC Water will turn off the water using a curb-stop located outside the building and install a new internal shut-off valve in addition to the PRV.
- Where both shut-off valve and curb-stop do not exist, a new shut-off valve and curb-stop will be installed in addition to the PRV.
- All work associated with installation of the PRV will be completed at no cost to the homeowner.
- Per the District of Columbia Plumbing Code, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure immediate access to the building's water shut-off valve and surrounding area. This includes a requirement that the owner not cover the valve with a wall, floor/ceiling surface, or owner belongings.
- DC Water's contractor will not be allowed to assist the property owner with movement or relocation of any property owner belongings, neither prior to nor following installation of the PRV.
- During instances where shut-off valves are inaccessible due to any of the aforementioned causes, DC Water reserves the right to do any of the following:
  - Provide notice to the owner that DC Water will need to reschedule the installation once the work area has been cleared of owner belongings.
  - With the consent of the property owner, remove a portion of the wall or floor/ceiling surface in order to gain access to the shut-off valve and perform the PRV installation. Restoration to any disturbed wall or surface will be the responsibility of the owner, not DC Water.
  - Cancel the Agreement and elect not to complete the installation if:
    - The owner or his/her representative fails to provide direct access to the shut-off valve;
    - A properly functioning PRV already exists in the property;
    - Ownership of the property has changed;
    - The owner or his/her representative denies DC Water or its contractor access to the property;
    - Neither the owner nor his/her representative is present at the time scheduled for the replacement, and an alternative date and time cannot be coordinated; or
    - DC Water determines for any reason that installing a PRV would be unsafe or impractical.
- Once work is complete, DC Water's contractor will flush faucets in the home to remove particles loosened by the construction.
- Please note that homeowners who elect not to have a free PRV installed as part of DC Water's PRV installation program, or fail to return a signed Agreement prior to Monday, May 1, 2017, will still be responsible for installation of a PRV by a DC licensed plumber in order to be in compliance with the District of Columbia Plumbing Code. To ensure Code compliance, the PRV will need to be installed prior to completion of the Saint Elizabeths Water Storage Tower Project, which is projected to be spring 2018. The installation would not be considered part of DC Water's program at that time, and would be at the property owner's expense.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DC Water Project Manager: Peter Tinubu (202) 787-4065 (weekdays, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

DC Water Project Contractor: To be determined

DC Water 24-hr Emergency/Command Center: (202) 612-3400

DC Water Drinking Water Division: (202) 612-3440 (weekdays, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

DC Water Office of External Affairs: (202) 787-2200

Project Email: [pzip2ndhigh@dcwater.com](mailto:pzip2ndhigh@dcwater.com)

Project Website: [dcwater.com/pzip2ndhigh](http://dcwater.com/pzip2ndhigh)