

PLENARY SESSION

Questions and Answers

- **U.S. EPA:** Do you have any other variables you might consider when a utility needs to determine whether to flush or replace the surface lines? You mentioned that it might take a long time for some situations; are there other factors you might consider?
 - **Kevin Morley, American Water Works Association:** The challenging thing is really the fact that the service line is not part of the utility's footprint – it is private. I think that created a complex response 'in paradise' as to who is responsible for providing guidance to the homeowner. It is obvious that the premises has a role in providing guidance to the utility for their system; however, who is responsible for providing guidance as to clearing premise plumbing, including the service line? It sounds like EPA is developing some guidance along those lines; but what is the role of local public health and the primacy agency? In some cases, the decisions associated with how the utility should deal with things took significant amounts of time. When really in these cases, we do not have time for a blue-ribbon panel to figure it out; we need to make rapid decisions and recognize that there is some risk vs. tradeoffs, and that is where federal partners can provide a really important role in providing that decision-making support because the utility does not have all the information at the local level, and it cannot just be the utility's decision.
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