



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State grant pays for arsenic removal at North Webster Elementary

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) awarded an Arsenic Remediation Grant to the North Webster Elementary School last week for \$30,018. The school will use the funding to install an arsenic removal system.

“When EPA changed their standards, we were suddenly out of compliance, and the grant money enabled us to take care of the issue more quickly than we could have,” said Superintendent Mark Stock. “The money would have had to come from our Capital Projects Fund, which is made up solely of local property taxes, so the grant definitely saved money for our community’s taxpayers.”

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Drinking Water Branch had identified arsenic levels in the untreated drinking water as high as 18 parts per billion (ppb) at the school. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered the MCL for arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb earlier this year to protect the public against the potential effects of long-term, chronic exposure to arsenic that may exist in the State’s drinking water. Arsenic has been linked to various types of cancer.

“It is important that all of our schools conform to federal regulations,” stated Rep. Bill Ruppel. “Working with the Indiana Finance Authority allowed local taxpayers to save a lot of money while maintaining a healthier environment for our children.”

“Indiana’s drinking water systems do their best to stay in compliance with all State and federal requirements. However, new rules can sometimes cause a financial burden for our smaller systems, and that is why this incentive has been targeted specifically for those systems,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program administers the Arsenic Remediation Grants. The SRF Program is a division of the Indiana Finance Authority, which was created by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage state finances under one entity.

Eligible entities for the recently-created Arsenic Remediation Grant Program include municipalities, political subdivisions, privately-owned Community Water Systems and non-profit

Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems. Systems applying for the Arsenic Remediation Grant must serve less than 10,000 residents. Eligible projects for the grant funds include construction of treatment facilities, system consolidation, system restructuring and/or the associated planning and design costs.

Entities interested in applying can contact Sarah Hudson, DWSRF Program Administrator, at (317) 232-8663 or sahudson@ifa.in.gov, or visit our website at www.in.gov/ifa/srf.

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