



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***State grant pays for arsenic removal at
Westview schools***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) awarded two Arsenic Remediation Grants to the Westview school system this week totaling more than \$89,000. Westview Junior/Senior High School received \$39,595; Westview Elementary School received \$49,476. The schools used the funds to install arsenic removal systems.

“Both arsenic removal systems were recently installed, and our contaminant levels are close to zero now,” said Jim Hostetler, Director of Buildings, Grounds and Transportation for the school district. “This was an unplanned expense that was not in our budget, so having grant money was very nice. It ended up costing us almost nothing and it was something we had to do with the new requirements.”

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Drinking Water Branch had identified arsenic levels in the untreated drinking water as high as 23 parts per billion (ppb) at Westview Elementary School and as high as 12 ppb at the Westview Junior/Senior High 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.

“Instituting this measure to safeguard students in the Westview Public School system is vital to ensure adequate standards of protection are met for our children,” said Rep. Marlin Stutzman.

“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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