



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***State grant assists in arsenic remediation at
Cedar Springs Apartments***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) has awarded an Arsenic Remediation Grant of more than \$16,000 to Cedar Springs Apartments in Cedar Lake to lower arsenic levels in its drinking water supply.

“It was definitely a big help to have the grant. It gave peace of mind to all involved parties because remediation is expensive and the property owner no longer has to be concerned about monitoring. The overall water quality has also improved,” said Brienne Meehan, Agent for Sheehy Well & Pump, Inc., the contract water operator for the system.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Drinking Water Branch identified arsenic levels in the untreated drinking water of the Apartments of 11 parts per billion (ppb), well within the original legal limits. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered the permitted 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. Recognizing that many of the State’s smaller systems would have trouble complying with the new rules, the IFA created the Arsenic Remediation Grant Program.

In response to the findings, the apartment complex has connected to Robins Nest, a nearby public water system that meets the current regulations for arsenic.

“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 Program. The SRF Program is a division of the IFA, which was created by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage state finances under one entity.

“Public safety is always a concern of the government,” said Rep. Don Lehe. “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered the permitted levels in the interest of public safety because they realize that it is vital for citizens to have safe water to drink. At the same time, the IFA created the Arsenic Remediation Grant Program because they realize that new requirements put a strain on the State’s smaller systems. I appreciate Governor Daniels’ administration for their support on this initiative and I commend the IFA for their efforts.”

Eligible entities for the 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 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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