State advances arsenic remediation for Kingman residents

INDIANAPOLIS – Thanks to a $100,000 Arsenic Remediation Grant award from the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), the Town of Kingman will have cleaner water.

“The grant took a huge burden off of the town to pay for this project,” said Melissa Griffin, Deputy Clerk for the Town of Kingman. “Once all is said and done, the water quality will be greatly improved.”

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)’s Drinking Water Branch had discovered that arsenic levels in the town’s untreated drinking water were as high as 40 parts per billion (ppb).

In response to these findings and more stringent arsenic standards recently implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Kingman Water Works applied for the grant to pay for installation of chlorination and aeration along with the expansion and modification of the existing well house. The system also installed 5,300 feet of transmission main to customers, some of which were previously receiving water directly from the well house before treatment.

Earlier this year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered the permitted MCL for arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb to further 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 it would be difficult for many of Indiana’s smaller systems to comply with the new standard, the IFA created the Arsenic Remediation Grant Program.

“One of Governor Daniels’ top priorities is to promote the health of Hoosiers. Although Indiana’s drinking water systems do their best to stay in compliance with all of the state and federal requirements, new rules can sometimes cause a financial burden for our smaller systems,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director. “This incentive helps these systems provide the safest drinking water possible without the strain on their budgets.”

“One of the priorities for Indiana government is to make certain that our environment is safe for our citizens,” said Senator Phil Boots. “I am happy that the state will provide the funding to make this project possible for the residents of Kingman.”
The SRF Program, a division of the IFA, administers the Arsenic Remediation Grants Program. The IFA was created by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage state finances under one entity.

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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