INDIANAPOLIS – The residents served by Glenn Hills Non-Profit Corporation near Selma, Indiana are drinking safer water, thanks to a $41,162 grant from the state’s Arsenic Remediation Grant Program.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Drinking Water Branch had identified arsenic levels in the untreated water to be as high as 13 parts per billion (ppb); the U.S. EPA had recently lowered the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) to 10 ppb.

In response to the stricter standard, the Delaware County system installed point-of-use reverse osmosis reductions systems at its 31 residential service connections and five pressure tanks to treat arsenic as well as installing needed appurtenances at the well house. The treatment systems have removed arsenic levels to well below the MCL, improving water quality for the residents.

“The water quality is better. It really made a difference,” said Bruce Johnson, certified operator for the water system. “We tried blending the water from our two wells, which put us below the MCL for arsenic, but for fear of one well going bad, we decided we needed to treat the water. After much research, it was decided that putting in reverse osmosis systems at each connection was the best option.”

The grant program, which was started in 2007, is managed by the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program and awards funds to small systems that must make improvements to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s lowered arsenic limits.

“Indiana’s drinking water systems do their best to stay in compliance with all of the state and federal requirements, but new rules can sometimes cause a financial burden for our smaller systems,” said Jennifer Alvey, Public Finance Director. “Governor Daniels is intent on improving the health of Hoosiers, and this incentive helps these systems provide the safest drinking water possible without the strain on their budgets.”

“When we’re talking about $40,000 in upgrades needed, it is hard on a small system,” Johnson said. “The grant program really helped us.”

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“Nothing is more basic to health than safe drinking water,” said Senator Sue Errington. “It was important that drinking water be made safer for these residents, and I’m glad that the state has helped make it happen through this grant program.”

"I'm glad the IFA has provided funding to help Glenn Hills Non-Profit Corporation improve their drinking water," said Rep. Bill Davis. "The state of Indiana is continually working with small communities to ensure they are on equal footing with the larger areas in the state, this is another example of that work."

Governor Mitch Daniels created the IFA in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related financial programs such as the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs under one entity.

Entities interested in more information about the Arsenic Remediation Grant Program can contact Sarah Hudson, DWSRF Program Administrator, at (317) 232-8663 or sahudson@ifa.in.gov, or visit www.srf.in.gov.

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