



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IFA grant helps mobile home park provide safer water to residents

INDIANAPOLIS – Hickory Grove Mobile Home Park in LaGrange can now provide safer water to its tenants, thanks to a \$23,996 Arsenic Remediation Grant from the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA).

The IFA awarded the grant to pay for the installation of arsenic reduction filters at each of 12 residences. Arsenic reduction filters, also known as Point-of-Use devices, are approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and must be owned and operated by the public water system. The grant funds were also used to add a centralized pressure tank and water softener.

“With the new filters and softeners, our tenants have a much higher quality of water,” said Andrew Communings, the park’s owner. “We were definitely surprised that the grant paid for as much as it did, allowing us to avoid a rate increase for our tenants.”

Although readings from the well at the mobile home park detected arsenic levels that would have been well within the previous limit of 50 parts per billion (ppb), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently lowered the Maximum Contaminant Level to 10 ppb. The more stringent standard has forced many smaller systems, including Hickory Grove Mobile Home Park, to take action to decrease their arsenic levels.

“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 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 possible without the strain on their budgets.”

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan 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.

“Never should anyone in our community have to sacrifice safe drinking water for their families because the financial burden is too great for the water system that supports them,” Rep. Marlin Stutzman responded. “I am grateful the IFA supplied this grant for Hickory Grove’s residents. Grant programs like this one are crucial in maintaining a high quality of life for every Hoosier in all areas.”

“This grant program is an effort of the state to make sure drinking water is safe for residents,” said State Senator Bob Meeks. “It’s just another example of how state government can help Hoosiers.”

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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