



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***State advances arsenic remediation at
Orange Elementary School***

INDIANAPOLIS – Orange Elementary School in Glenwood has improved the quality of its drinking water, thanks to an Arsenic Remediation Grant award from the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA). The IFA awarded the Fayette County School Corporation \$51,000 after the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)'s Drinking Water Branch discovered that arsenic levels were exceeding the new federal standard.

“We began the 2006-2007 school year with a new arsenic removal system in place, which is now providing safe drinking water for the students and staff at Orange Elementary School,” said Bob Cloyd, Maintenance Supervisor for the school corporation. “The corporation would like to take this opportunity to thank the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program for their help in financing the project.”

IDEM inspections had found levels in the school's untreated drinking water to be as high as 21 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 so that small systems would not feel the financial burden.

“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.”

In response to the findings, the Orange Elementary installed an arsenic removal system and appurtenances, including construction of a new 20 ft. by 24 ft. building.

“Through the Arsenic Remediation Grant Program, the State of Indiana is able to help the smaller cities and towns that would not otherwise be able to keep up on federal requirements,” stated Rep. Tom Knollman. “I applaud local leaders for working to improve the Orange Elementary water

supply and I'm glad that the State can provide increased health and safety at a lower cost to our local taxpayers."

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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