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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***IFA grant helps Arcola School provide safer water for students***

INDIANAPOLIS – The students at Arcola School in Northwest Allen County School District are drinking safer water, thanks to a \$20,375 Arsenic Remediation Grant from the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA).

The IFA awarded the grant to pay for the installation of an arsenic removal system last spring. The arsenic level in the school's drinking water had previously been detected at 13 parts per billion (ppb), which was well within the previous limit of 50 ppb. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently lowered the Maximum Contaminant Level for arsenic allowed in drinking water to 10 ppb, causing the school to make modifications.

“After the standard was tightened, we were just at the breaking point. We wanted to make sure we were providing the safest drinking water for the kids, and now we are confident we are doing that,” said Tom Schipper, Building and Grounds Director for Arcola School. “With the grant money, we were able to come into compliance with no cost to the taxpayers, so it has worked out very well.”

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.

“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 water possible without the strain on their budgets.”

“As a former teacher and current legislator, health and safety in our schools is of paramount concern to me,” said Rep. Phyllis Pond. “I am encouraged that the IFA and our local school districts are remaining vigilant in order to keep our children safe.”

“I am glad this grant money was available to help solve Arcola's problem,” said Sen. Tom Wyss. “This is a life lesson for students there – an example not only of how their government works to protect them, but of how government efficiencies can improve their lives.”

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](mailto:sahudson@ifa.in.gov), or visit our website at [www.in.gov/ifa/srf](http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf).