

December 17, 2014

**SOUTH SANGAMON WATER COMMISSION STATEMENT REGARDING
CITIZENS' WATER QUALITY CONCERNS**

The South Sangamon Water Commission welcomes citizen input regarding water quality issues. The Commission thought it appropriate, in connection with tonight's meeting of a Citizen's Committee regarding such issues, to provide some information to further inform the public discussion.

The Commission has been working in partnership with the Villages of Chatham and New Berlin since it started producing water to be responsive to concerns and issues that have been raised by water customers.

While tonight's citizens meeting may raise additional concerns, in general, concerns raised thus far have fallen into one of three categories:

- white deposits left behind on surfaces;
- chlorine smell; and
- dark stains or particles in bathroom fixtures.

Analysis of the white dust suggests that the new water produced by the Commission was loosening calcium deposits left on the Chatham distribution pipes after decades of lime-softened surface water supplied by CWLP. To address this issue, the Commission used an IEPA-approved additive to accelerate the removal of these deposits for approximately eleven months. During that time the Village of Chatham implemented a water main flushing program to help remove the deposits from the system. Further activities (e.g. "pigging", or physically reaming the inside of the Chatham water lines) are under investigation.

Complaints about chlorine smell led to revisions in the treatment process and the installation of a new pump that could more accurately infuse the proper dosage of chlorine.

The dark stains and particles are related to the mineral content of the ground water. While the public is assured that the plant is producing water that meets and/or exceeds EPA health standards, the Commission is addressing customer concerns about such mineral deposits by moving forward with the design and permitting of a "greensand" filtering system that will greatly reduce the mineral content of the finished water supplied to the two member communities. Such a filtering system was not possible for the plant as it was originally permitted, but due to changes in the regulatory environment, the Commission has every reason to believe it can be permitted now and will hopefully be on line in the latter part of 2015.

Other activities being explored include the hiring of a water quality expert to review the issues, the data and the actions already taken and provide guidance on future efforts.

The Commission invites further public input as to these issues.

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