APRIL 23, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**STATUS OF BOIL ORDER FOR THE CITY OF YATES CITY, ILLINOIS**

Many of our citizens have expressed their concern about the length that the current boil order has been in effect. With this notice we hope that most of your concerns are addressed.

**Overview**: Water department staff noticed several weeks ago that the flow from the villages’ only well was decreasing. It was discovered during an inspection that the well casing had deteriorated to a point that it had developed several holes that was allowing pumped water to escape and flow back into the well instead of into the water plant for treatment.

A well firm was contacted to replace the deteriorated pieces of pipe. This replacement took place on Wednesday April 14 and Thursday April 15. Usually when this type of work performed the well is taken off-line until all work has been completed and the water supply has proof of two satisfactory sample results. However, this work had to be completed within a 48 hour time period since the elevated tank and clearwell only holds two days of the villages’ water needs and the village has no backup water source.

The well was returned to service on Friday before the first set of samples on the well was collected. If the well had not been placed back on-line the entire village would have been without water. We were required to issue a system-wide boil order since it was not known if the water from the well showed any levels of coliform growth.

We received the results of the first set of samples on Saturday morning. All three samples from the distribution system were satisfactory. However, the well samples showed coliform growth. A second well sample collected on Monday April 19 also showed coliform growth. The decision was made to disinfect the well using high levels of chlorine to eliminate any coliform growth. We pumped a chlorine solution of 400 parts per million into the well on Thursday April 22 and we are allowing it to set overnight. The well firm will arrive Friday to perform work that will allow us to flush this highly chlorinated water out of the well which will be transported to an approved location.

At that time we will again be collecting both the well and distribution system for coliform analysis. Once we get two satisfactory well samples and one set of distribution system samples we will be able to lift the boil order.

The Village of Yates City is required by the Illinois EPA to issue these orders for both the well and system. However, it can be noted that all of the samples from the distribution system were satisfactory. We will keep you informed on the progress of this situation.