FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2018

Temporary stop drinking water order issued for El Paco Manor Subdivision

ELKHART (November 15, 2018) – As a precautionary measure, the City of Elkhart Public Works and Utilities Department has issued a temporary stop drinking water order for 293 water utility customers in the area known as El Paco Manor Subdivision. While water testing continues, the Utility will be providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to all affected customers.

The area of concern is limited to the area outlined on the attached map. These customers are county residents who were previously serviced by a private utility. Residents and businesses in this area are strongly advised to STOP CONSUMING TAP WATER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. This includes drinking for humans and pets, tooth brushing, and cooking/food preparation. Boiling the water DOES NOT eliminate the potential risk.

On October 25, the Water Utility discovered sediment plugging a residential water meter, which is not uncommon. On November 7, a second sample was pulled from a plugged water meter prompting the Utility to further investigate. A sample of the sediment was sent for analysis. Preliminary results of the analysis found excessive levels of barium, nickel, lead, thallium, iron, copper, and manganese.

After obtaining these initial results from the sediment, the City has started conducting extensive drinking water collection and analysis in this area. The Utility is waiting for results of the quality of the actual water from these lines and will publish them as soon as they are available.

Bottled water has been delivered directly to the homes/businesses in the affected area. The City will supply bottled water for consumption to all affected customers until further notice. Additional water may also be picked up at Public Works, located at 1201 S. Nappanee Street in Elkhart during normal business hours.

Additional information will be posted at www.elkhartindiana.org/elpacomanor as soon as it becomes available.

For health related questions and concerns, please contact the Elkhart County Health Department at (574) 971-4600. For other questions on the temporary stop drinking water order, please contact the Public Works Administrative Office at (574) 293-2572.

Media inquiries should be directed to Mike Machlan, City Engineer, at 574-293-2572.

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