



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Brian C. Rockensuess
Commissioner

August 8, 2024

Nicholas Recupito
P.O. Box 707
7408 Constitution Avenue
Cedar Lake, Indiana 46303

Dear Mr. Recupito:

Re: Cedar Lake Water Works
PWSID #IN5245047
System Capacity

Representatives of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) have conducted a review of Cedar Lake Water Works public water systems located in Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana. This review was pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) and Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) found at IC 13-18-16-6 and 327 IAC 8-3. The capacity of the Cedar Lake Water Works under various public water system identification (PWSID) numbers has reached a point where additional capacity is needed.

Since 2020 there have been twelve (12) notices of intent (NOI) submitted to construct water main extensions for PWSID IN5245047. The housing units contained in the various NOIs number 647 plus a restaurant and a business park. The total number of service connections for Cedar Lake Water Works PWSID # IN5245047 as currently noted in our database is 2030. With the addition of 647 housing units contained in these NOIs the number of service connections increases to 2677. This is an increase of over 30%. Please provide information on how the water system will be capable of supporting these additional housing units.

There is some consideration by the town of additional capacity with the activation of the Paradise Cove wells. To date there has not been a complete application for the construction of a plant and pumping equipment to provide water to the planned units. Until these wells are fully operational with treatment they cannot be used to calculate capacity. Further no construction approval for new units which will rely on these wells can be approved either as a NOI or a full construction permit application.

Cedar Lake must maintain a continuous supply of water that is adequate in quantity. A public water system's daily capacity is determined by adding together the production capacity with the largest pump out of service. Capacity is the sum of the rated daily capacity of the plant with the largest unit out of service. This applies to each PWSID number.

The numbers list on the NOIs are the total capacity of the plant(s), and not the firm capacity. In February 2020 the firm capacity was listed as 1.08 mgd. In February 2022 the firm capacity was listed as 1.209 mgd. In October 2022 the firm capacity was listed as 1.322 mgd. In April 2023 the firm capacity was listed as 1.872 mgd. During the time frame between January 2022 and April 2023 there have been no permits issued which included additional capacity construction. The only construction permit issued during this time frame was in November 2022 and that permit was for a mixer in the Parrish Ave Tank.

The firm capacity is calculated based on the components at each plant, the water use over the past 2 years, and taking the largest unit out of service. The firm capacity of Robin's Nest PWSID Number IN5245063 is 0.26 mgd and the firm capacity of Cedar Lake Water Works PWSID Number IN5245047 is 1.46 mgd. The Paradise Cove wells cannot be included in the calculations until the wells and any treatment are placed in service. Insufficient data has been provided for the Paradise Cove wells to make any conclusions about the capacity.

For PWSID number IN5245047 the capacity in use is currently at ninety-two percent (92%). The commissioner may issue an early warning order to a public water system when the public water system's highest daily pumpage, as reported over the previous two (2) year period as contained in the system's monthly report of operation (MRO), on record with IDEM exceeds ninety percent of this system's capacity (327 IAC 8-3-4.2). Without additional capacity there is insufficient capacity to serve the additional units Cedar Lake has already agreed to serve.

Water main projects that meet the following criteria are not eligible for a general construction permit. The corresponding public water system has a two (2) year average peak that is between ninety percent (90%) and 100% of the system's firm rated capacity. An individual construction permit issued under 327 IAC 8-3 is required for all other water main extension construction meeting the criteria of 327 IAC 8-3-2(a) that is not eligible for a general construction permit in accordance with this section. Cedar Lake Water Works PWSID Number IN5245047 is not eligible to submit NOI applications.

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, you are to submit a written detailed explanation of the town's plans for increasing capacity to meet demands in the Cedar Lake Water Works Public Water System. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by phone at 317/234-7437 or by email at mprater@idem.in.gov or Liz Melvin at 317/234-7418 or by email at lmelvin@idem.in.gov.

Also, please contact us to schedule a meeting so we can discuss future planning to increase capacity. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Prater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Matt Prater, Branch Chief
Drinking Water Branch
Office of Water Quality

cc: Lake County Health Department (electronic copy)
Stan Diamond, IDEM (electronic copy)
Lucio Ternieden, IDEM (electronic copy)
Liz Melvin, IDEM (electronic copy)
Jean Kocher, IDEM (electronic copy)
Alex Powers, IDEM (electronic copy)
Ryan Kuiper, Cedar Lake, Certified Operator (electronic copy)
Jeff Bunge, Cedar Lake Town Manager (electronic copy)