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For Immediate Release: Oct 6, 2005

Test results released for recent Indianapolis Water Company sampling

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) received test results on water samples taken on Friday, September 30, 2005, at 19 sampling sites served by Indianapolis Water Company. IDEM sent the samples to Underwriter Lab, an independent, certified lab in South Bend.

Laboratory results do not indicate a violation of state or federal drinking water quality standards. However, the tests results did show elevated levels of disinfection byproducts in some of the samples.

IDEM Commissioner Thomas W. Easterly will be issuing a letter to the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (IDPW) informing them of IDEM's findings. Easterly will ask the department to investigate whether the IDEM samples for disinfection byproducts levels are representative of normal system conditions.

Disinfection byproducts levels are often at their highest during late summer months due to factors such as increased temperatures. Most drinking water must be treated with disinfectants in order to inactivate or kill bacteria. Disinfection byproducts form when disinfectants such as chlorine, chlorine dioxide or ozone react with organic and inorganic substances present in source water.

State health officials say that the September 30 levels, according to federal guidance, are not likely to be a public health concern.

For more information on disinfection byproducts visit: www.idem.IN.gov/water/dwb/whpp/factsheets/disinfectbyprod.doc.

For additional information and results from the testing samples, visit www.idem.IN.gov/macs/mmceneter/index.html.

IDEM (www.idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting and improving Indiana's environment. IDEM pursues enforcement action when a party disregards safety and endangers human health.

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