



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND ANADARKO PETROLEUM PARTNER TO BRING CLEAN WATER TO WATTENBERG RESIDENTS

WELD COUNTY, CO – The residents of the unincorporated town of Wattenberg, located in south western Weld County, are once again in need of safe water for drinking, washing dishes, brushing teeth, food preparation and making ice. Water in this area has become unsafe due to elevated nitrate levels in their water system. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern, especially for infants less than six months old and the elderly.



Last year, elevated nitrate levels were a result of failed membranes in the water plant. There are about 12 membranes in the plant, which are responsible for filtering out nitrates and other materials in the water. Those were removed and sent to California for testing to discover why they were failing. In the meantime, new filters were purchased and installed, and now, the elevated nitrate levels are a result of the new filters not working properly. Wayne Ramey, Water Plant Operator for the Wattenberg Improvement Association, is currently working on the system to find a solution.



In 2014, Anadarko Petroleum stepped in as good neighbors and offered to cover the costs of bringing safe drinking water to this area. Upon hearing about the issue this year, they generously offered to cover the costs of providing potable drinking water to the residents.

Replacement water will be obtained from McDonald Farms and brought to the Wattenberg area in a stainless steel truck, which is capable of holding 6,000 gallons of water.

“Unfortunately, the Wattenberg area is dealing with this issue again,” said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. “We are assisting the community to get safe drinking water out to the residents, and we are pleased that Anadarko has offered to cover the costs.”

Weld County has co-applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$648,000 to provide a permanent solution for this problem.

It is estimated the Wattenberg water system could be down for six to eight weeks.

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