Indiana American Water Completes First Seasonal Algae Treatment at Prairie Creek Reservoir

MUNCIE, Ind. – April 27, 2026 — Indiana American Water completed a state approved algaecide treatment at Prairie Creek Reservoir as part of ongoing efforts to improve source water conditions and address elevated levels of 2-methylisoborneol (MIB), a naturally occurring compound that can cause earthy or musty taste and odor in drinking water. This event is an uncommon occurrence that is periodically observed in surface water systems across Indiana and the country.

This treatment approach represents just one phase in Indiana American Water's ongoing efforts to address MIB levels in the reservoir. While this treatment may help reduce MIB levels, it is especially important given the unusually high concentrations observed this year. The company continues to work tirelessly towards a comprehensive solution to help ensure water quality.

"Prairie Creek Reservoir is the foundation of Muncie's drinking water supply, and treating the reservoir is part of our responsibility to protect that source. When natural conditions create challenges like increased algae and MIB, taking action at the reservoir helps us improve water quality before it even reaches our treatment plant." said Barry Suits, President of Indiana American Water. "This is about using science-based solutions, industry best practices as well as doing what's right for our customers, the Muncie community, and the long-term health of the reservoir. When conditions in the reservoir improve, the quality of water entering Indiana American Water's treatment plant also improves."

Muncie's drinking water continues to meet all state and federal drinking water standards and remains safe to drink. Since taste and odor concerns first emerged, Indiana American Water has strengthened treatment operations by increasing carbon treatment, increasing frequency of water filtration backwashing, and enhancing monitoring and reporting to state agencies. These transparent efforts have helped mitigate the levels of taste and odor in the source water from the river and reservoir. The company is also taking steps on land it owns around the reservoir to provide stronger, natural buffers that help protect water quality along the reservoir's boundaries.

Contributing Factors to MIB at Prairie Creek Reservoir
Natural conditions may be contributing to increased MIB levels, including seasonal changes, heavy rainfall, and reservoir "turnover," a process where deeper water rises to the surface. In addition, Prairie Creek Reservoir is fed by tributaries that flow downstream to the White River, which is why Indiana American Water continues to emphasize the importance of watershed protection.

Safety Guidelines During Work at Prairie Creek Reservoir Applications
Safety is a top priority for Indiana American Water. Should future treatments be required, boaters are asked to avoid close proximity to treatment watercraft and equipment while work is underway. No swimming is allowed in designated treatment areas during application, and signage is posted around the reservoir to inform the public. These safeguards help prevent unacceptable impacts on fish, wildlife, the aquatic ecosystem, and the people who use the reservoir.

About American Water
American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886 and celebrating 140 years in 2026, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable, and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to approximately 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's approximately 7,000 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors, and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

About Indiana American Water
Indiana American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest regulated water utility in the state,

providing safe, clean, reliable, and affordable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.5 million people.

For more information, visit amwater.com/inaw and join Indiana American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

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