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October 4, 2023

Daniel Harter, Jr., Mayor
Village of Florida
PO Box 505 - 33 South Main Street
Florida, NY 10921

Subject: Drinking Water Quality

Dear Mayor Harter:

The drinking water for the Village of Florida is sourced from Glenmere Lake. The water is pumped through the water treatment plant where water treatment chemicals are added to coagulate solids and oxidize the organic material prior to the filtration process. After the filtration process, the water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite and stored in a clearwell for distribution to the water system.

The finished water is safe for domestic use and consumption. It is routinely tested to ensure that it meets the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) standards for drinking water. If a DOH standard is exceeded, the Village is required to notify the public. The DOH-approved notification would explain the exceedance and provide guidance regarding precautions that should be taken. Critical parameters, such as chlorine residual for disinfection, are continuously monitored at the facility. If the chlorine residual falls below safe levels, the facility is automatically shut down, and an alarm is sent to notify the operator of the situation.

After going through the water treatment process, the finished water may still have an objectionable taste and/or odor due to the remaining organic material in the water. This is an aesthetic concern, and it does not signify that the water is unsafe.

There are two types of organic material in the water: dissolved and non-dissolved. Currently, the non-dissolved organic material is effectively removed by oxidizing the water prior to filtration. Unfortunately, the dissolved organic material cannot be removed by way of oxidation, and it requires enhanced treatment.

Recently, there have been complaints of discolored water in the Village. The primary reason for this discoloration is the rapid fluctuation in the raw or source water quality. Glenmere Lake is a shallow reservoir that is prone to seasonal changes, temperature swings and impacts from rain events. The raw water quality can change overnight, requiring adjustments to be made to the chemical treatment. The adjustments must be made slowly to ensure that all other DOH standards continue to be met. There may be times when the water may become discolored due to rapid changes in raw water quality and the time required to adjust the treatment to the raw water. Similar to taste and odor, this discoloration is also an aesthetic concern, and it does not indicate that the water is unsafe.

A major upgrade is scheduled at the facility to replace the aging filtration equipment and improve the removal of the dissolved organic material. A pilot study was conducted to determine the most suitable

treatment, and the piloted treatment process will be implemented as part of the project. The water filtration upgrade project is scheduled to commence later this fall. Due to equipment lead times, it is anticipated that the project will be completed in the fall of 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact our office.

Very truly yours,

Darren D. Doetsch, PE
Vice President

DDD/km

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