

# THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK!

**Outline Of Need:** The City of Bridgeport was under an administrative order issued June 13, 2005 by the Nebraska Health and Human Service Department of Regulation and Licensure. The community was out of compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act MCL limits for uranium in their water supply. The acceptable standard of uranium is 30 parts per billion, and the City's water supply was five times that number.

**How Rural Development Helped:** The project received funding through several partners. The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development provided a Water and Environmental loan and grant, leveraged with a State of Nebraska Health and Human Services State Revolving Loan fund loan and grant and a Community Development Block Grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

**The Results:** After providing reverse osmosis systems to businesses, medical facilities, and schools, and providing bottled water to all residents of the City for the past five years, the water is safe to drink in Bridgeport whether it comes out of the tap or out of a hose in the backyard!



The City of Bridgeport started working with the engineering firm, Olsson Associates, in 2005 to provide a solution for the water problem. The solution was a five-phase, \$6.6 million project that included installation of water meters at all addresses in the city, construction of a water treatment plant and three new wells, as well as the installation of several blocks of water main. The final phase includes additional water mains.

***“This project would never have happened without the funding agencies. With their assistance, we were able to make the necessary upgrades and still keep water rates at an affordable level.”***  
***-- Bridgeport Mayor J.W. “Jack” Berg***

The treatment plant facility was put into operation. Random water samples were taken and the uranium levels were well under the 30 parts per billion. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services notified the City that the requirement of providing an alternative water supply had been lifted.

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