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Illinois American Water Partners with Senator David Koehler, Tazewell County Health Department and Pekin Police Department to Implement Pharmaceutical Disposal Program

Disposal box located in Pekin Police Department lobby

Pekin, Ill. (November 2, 2009) – Illinois American Water has partnered with Senator David Koehler, the Tazewell County Health Department and the Pekin Police Department to implement a pharmaceutical disposal program in Pekin. In addition to providing the pharmaceutical drop box, which will be installed at the Pekin Police Department on Thursday, November 5; Illinois American Water also donated \$2,500 to the program.

Residents are encouraged to drop off their unwanted meds so they can be incinerated, which is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended approach for pharmaceutical disposal. Flushing medications down the toilet or the drain as well as throwing them in the trash are discouraged.

"By disposing of unwanted medications properly, we are able to keep them out of the hands of our children and our water supply," said Anthony Hall, operations superintendent for the Pekin District. "We are protecting two of our most valuable resources."

Illinois American Water has partnered with local pharmacies, police departments and government officials to support pharmaceutical disposal programs across the state. Community disposal programs supported by Illinois American Water are located in Champaign, Urbana, Pontiac and Pekin. Illinois American Water is currently working to create additional programs in Peoria and Streator.

"Our goal is to establish a greatly expanded network of secure pharmaceutical collection centers throughout the state," said Hall.

Illinois American Water is also a member of Illinois EPA's Medication Education Disposal Solution (MEDS) program, which brings together environmentalists, pharmacists, water utilities and healthcare providers on the subject of pharmaceutical disposal. The group works together to develop local pharmaceutical disposal programs and promote proper disposal practices.

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About Illinois American Water

Illinois American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 1.2 million people. American Water also operates a customer service center in Alton and a quality control and research laboratory in Belleville.

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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