



ILLINOIS  
AMERICAN WATER

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## SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

The sale of the Village of Ransom water system to Illinois American Water made good sense for customers and the community.



# SOLUTIONS AT WORK



Illinois American Water eliminated Ransom's USEPA Consent Decree within 9 months of acquiring the system.

## VILLAGE OF RANSOM WATER SYSTEM ACQUISITION

The Village of Ransom is located about ten miles northeast of Streator, Illinois. The system serves approximately 170 customer connections with two groundwater wells providing the source of water supply. The Village does not have a sewer systems and existing homes are on separate septic systems.

### CHALLENGES

- **Water Quality:** The wells were supplying poor quality drinking water and could not be utilized in the future without mitigation to eliminate high radium levels exceeding US EPA standards.
- **Regulatory:** US EPA had issued a consent decree for the Village to comply with radium removal. This presented additional challenges since there was no wastewater system to address discharge components of treatment for the radium removal.
- **Rates:** Significant rate increases would be required for the +\$1 million infrastructure improvements needed. To help address the issue, grant funding was explored but there were no guarantees as well as timing to comply with the US EPA consent decree.
- **Operational:** The system had no dedicated staff and was operated by Village trustees.

### SOLUTION

Village officials met with Illinois American Water to discuss options of constructing a new treatment system or an acquisition. They determined that through the selling of the system, Illinois American Water would be able to more efficiently address water quality challenges and the US EPA consent decree.

### BENEFITS

- **Water Quality:** Illinois American Water committed to provide a new water source to the village through the construction of a transmission main from its Streator District bringing high-quality drinking water to residents.
- **Regulatory:** Illinois American Water worked with Village officials and the US EPA to develop a compliance schedule acceptable to all parties and avoid further regulatory action. Within the first year of ownership, Illinois American Water was able to eliminate the consent decree.
- **Rates:** Initially customers experienced an average \$8 decrease on their monthly bill.
- **Operational:** Ransom is now part of the Streator operations that has a staff of water professionals to care for their system.

## QUESTIONS?

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