

December 6, 2023

### Testing and Sampling of Conditions at the Former Water Plant Continues

In November, with input from Ohio EPA, the City of Piqua contracted with a third-party independent contractor for sampling and a certified laboratory to test the City's water sources and treated water supply. The sampling results from the City's drinking water plant confirmed the water is safe for drinking, bathing, and cooking; and results from sampling of source waters in the area show there are no concerning contamination levels.

A work plan for soil sampling is being reviewed by the City and the Ohio EPA and will be shared on the City's website later in December. The sampling plan is expected to include soil borings and surface wipe samples in and around the battery testing areas. The goal is for sampling work to take place in January 2024. Results will be shared with the community.

The contractor used by the City of Piqua for the water sampling and soil sampling is WSP Global, Inc., an internationally recognized environmental consulting company with local offices.

### Energy Safety Response Group Has Fully Vacated the Site

Energy Safety Response Group (ESRG) vacated the City's former water treatment plant in November 2023 and has no access to the site.

Before vacating the site, ESRG had leased a portion of the site to conduct fire safety research on how lithium-ion batteries are affected under significant stress. The research involved pushing these batteries to failure to simulate real-world situations where, occasionally, these batteries catch fire. "The City is aware there is some misunderstanding of the activity at the site," said Brent Pohlschneider, Chief of the Piqua Fire Department. "The site was definitively not being used to incinerate any type of battery for disposal, as we have heard some rumors."

### Future Use of the Site for Firefighter Training

"Through a grant from the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Fire School, the site will be used for technical and fire certification training. This is a separate activity from the ESRG

operations,” said Pohlschneider. “Our plan is to host community members for an open house at the site in 2024.”

Pohlschneider further noted that a clause in the current contract with BGSU Fire School will be amended in January 2024 to prohibit battery testing at the site. “I want to be clear; this is a historic clause of the existing agreement with BGSU Fire School; the City no longer has any contractual agreement with ESG,” added Pohlschneider. “The site will be used only for firefighter and first responder training.”