FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASED: August 4, 2014  12:00 pm

RELEASED BY: Wood County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
Northwestern Water & Sewer District

As of approximately 9:30 am Monday, August 4, 2014, the City of Toledo officially announced that the “do not drink” advisory for the City of Toledo public water is lifted. This includes the public water supplied to the City of Perrysburg and the service areas of the Northwestern Water & Sewer District who are supplied by the City of Toledo public water system.

The City of Toledo has informed the public that the public water supply is now safe to consume. Prior to using the public water, the City of Toledo, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, and the Wood County Health District have provided recommended procedures for residents, restaurants, and healthcare providers to follow as a precaution before consuming the water. The precautionary procedures are as shown on the following attachments from the Wood County Health District or by clicking on the links shown below:


The City of Toledo Public Water Plant and the Northwestern Water & Sewer District ask that consumers voluntarily conserve water as much as they can so the systems are not overwhelmed. Consumers are asked to voluntarily limit their lawn watering, car washing, and non-critical water use for the next several days to allow the water plant and distribution systems to resume to normal operations and use. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

The Northwestern Water & Sewer District Watersheds on Fremont Pike in Stoney Ridge, on Middleton Pike at the Water & Sewer District office, and the one at Haskins/Poe Roads in Bowling Green have returned to normal operations. If customers still have a need for bottled water over the next couple of days because of this incident, please contact your local city or township officials or the Water & Sewer District.

For the latest information on this incident including recommendations for returning your private water supply system to normal operations, please visit the Northwestern Water & Sewer District website at www.nwwsd.org or the Wood County Health District’s website at www.co.wood.oh.us/healthdepartment The Northwestern Water & Sewer District appreciates its customer’s patience and cooperation during this water supply emergency.

Authorized release by:
Brad Gilbert, Wood County EMA Director
Jerry Greiner, President, Northwestern Water & Sewer District
Flushing Plumbing Systems that have been inactive since August 1st.

If you’re lines have been used regularly since Friday, August 1st, 2014 you do not need to flush your system.

Following are step-by-step procedures citizens can use to flush their plumbing system if their lines have not been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014. To protect the health and safety of our communities, we recommend that you read carefully and follow the steps for clearing your plumbing. Thank you for your cooperation.

For Residents
How to flush your plumbing system

Please complete these steps in the order set out below. Finish each step completely before moving on to the next step.

1. **Flush ALL hot water taps for 15 minutes**
   Begin the flushing procedure by opening the hot water taps in your bathroom(s). Open ALL hot water lavatory (sink) fixtures, hot water bath fixtures, and any other hot water fixtures, such as kitchens, wet bars, etc. Run these hot water fixtures for at least 15 minutes. Shut water off after 15 minutes. After you have flushed each hot water faucet for 15 minutes, your hot water heater will be safe for use.

2. **Flush ALL cold water taps for five minutes**
   Once the hot water tank and hot water piping have been flushed, open ALL of the cold water fixtures, flush each toilet at least one time. Run these cold water fixtures for at least five minutes. Shut water off after five minutes. This does include the water in your refrigerator water dispenser.

3. **Flush ALL remaining faucets and appliances**
   (Before starting step 3, please see How to Flush Plumbing Appliances and Faucets for more information.) Open any remaining fixtures such as hose bibs, external faucets or fixtures not used for drinking for at least five minutes to finish the plumbing system flushing. Take additional steps to remove water from other appliances. See How to Flush Plumbing Appliances and Faucets for more information. This includes:
   - Ice makers
   - Dishwashers
   - Humidifiers
• Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
• Oral, medical or health care devices
• Baby formula, food and drinks made with water during DO NOT USE
• Water filters
• Water Softeners
• Reverse osmosis units

For Restaurants
How to flush your plumbing system

If you’re lines have been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014 you do not need to flush your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please follow the same guidelines for residents if you have not used tap water since Friday, August 1st, 2014. All food contact surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized after flushing; including, sinks, ice machines, steam tables, proofers, and anything in your operations that utilizes tap water.

For Healthcare Providers
How to flush your plumbing system

If you’re lines have been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014 you do not need to flush your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please follow the same guidelines for residents if you have not used tap water since Friday, August 1st, 2014. All food contact surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized after flushing; including, sinks, ice machines, steam tables, proofers, and anything in your operations that utilizes tap water. **Flush critical equipment such as sterilization units and eye wash stations twice for 15 minutes and follow normal testing protocols before use.**

The Wood County Health District will not need to test your water before you resume operations. We are checking with Ohio Department of Health to see if any other guidelines will be forthcoming.

For questions, please contact the Wood County Health District at 419-352-8402.
How To Flush Plumbing Appliances

To protect the health and safety of our communities, we recommend that you read carefully and follow the steps for flushing plumbing appliances.

- **Ice makers**
  If you have an ice make in your refrigerator, first throw away all ice and then:

  **If you have a filter on your ice maker**
  Some refrigerators, with ice makers, also have filters on the small water line that feed the ice maker. If you have filters on your ice maker, you want to replace the filter AFTER flushing your refrigerator’s ice maker. These filters require routine replacement. This would be a good time to replace the filter to ensure that the water line to the ice maker is completely flushed. Some refrigerators also provide filtered cold water. Check to make sure that you have replaced any filter AFTER flushing cold water supply. Then flush cold-water dispenser for five minutes.

  After flushing these lines, let the ice maker container fill up completely and discard this ice and clean the container before replacing. If you have more than one refrigerator make sure you perform the same procedure on those units as well.

- **Water filters**
  Clean or change your water filters, or contact the filter manufacturer for more details.

- **Water supplies for pets**
  Pets need clean water too. Be sure to empty all water bowls, bottles, or other water supplies for your pet. Wash the pet bowl, bottle or other water supply. Then refill with tap water.

- **Point of entry/point of use devices (this may not apply to everyone)**
  If you have a Point of Entry water treatment system such as a water softener or filter, which all of the home’s water passes through before it enters the main plumbing system, you should consider the following general guidelines before completing your household plumbing flushing.

  - **Water Softeners:**
    Household water softener, which uses a natural or synthetic resin material to exchange sodium for calcium and magnesium present in the water, should be manually regenerated before flushing your plumbing system. This will ensure that the softener resin has been backwashed and cleaned before flushing procedures begin. If you are unsure of how to
manually initiate a regeneration cycle, refer to your softener owner’s manual or call your equipment supplier for assistance.

- **Sediment Filters:**
  Household water filters usually fall into two basic categories:
  1. Pressure filters, which can be backwashed to clean.
  2. Cartridge filters, which have a replaceable element or cartridge.

  If your home has a pressure filter that can be backwashed, you should initiate a manual backwash of the filter before proceeding with, and after completing, the flushing procedures. If you have a whole house cartridge filter system, you should replace the cartridges after completing the flushing procedures.

- **Point of use filters/treatment:**
  If you have or use Point of Use filters, which are typically attached to your kitchen faucet you should replace the filter before using the faucet-connected unit. These filters require periodic replacement anyway so this would be a good time to do this.

- **Reverse Osmosis:**
  Reverse Osmosis drinking water treatment often have pre-filters, which you may want to replace before flushing the RO System. However the actual Reverse Osmosis membrane module should not require replacement. If the manufacturer of the membrane suggests that you replace this part of the system you should ask them to give you the specific reasons why.

For questions, please contact the Wood County Health District at 419-352-8402.