

## **Spirit Lake Expands Water Treatment Plant**

July 2008

The City of Spirit Lake is expanding its Water Treatment Plant to ensure continued availability of drinking water to residents and users of the Spirit Lake water system. The City is under a consent order from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to increase its capability to provide water supply. Responding to that order, the City Council has implemented a plan to double the treatment plant's capacity from 1100 gallons per minute to 2200 gallons per minute.

After going through a study and design phase, and taking competitive bids, the Council has awarded a construction contract to The Joseph Company from Austin, Minnesota. The Joseph Company will work from engineering design documents prepared by Howard R Green Company. The construction work is underway and should be completed in the summer of 2010. The construction contract is for \$3,618,000.

The construction consists of adding more treatment facilities connected to the existing plant. A building addition will be constructed on the west side of the plant to hold the new treatment processing equipment, which includes a plate settler, clarifier, pumping equipment and other components. In addition a new storage and maintenance building will be constructed on the site. New and additional pumping equipment will be added at the pump house on Big Spirit Lake.

It is projected that the new treatment capacity will serve our water users for at least the next 20 years. Currently, the treatment plant is operating 24 hours per day at maximum capacity, except for very limited periods. A water conservation program is in effect but demand continues to strain our ability to provide water. Water users should be aware of conservation requirements and take steps to use water sparingly.

The City of Spirit Lake is committed to serving its water customers and wants to ensure that water is available for all uses. However, household and industrial use, fire protection, medical, and public safety are the primary priorities. Uses such as lawn watering, recreation, and other non-essential purposes should be done sparingly. The Spirit Lake Water Department serves the cities of Spirit Lake, Orleans, and numerous unincorporated area residents.