Saving water continues in Atchison

(KAIR)--The City of Atchison is asking customers of its water supply to continue voluntary water conservation efforts put in place earlier this week due to the affects of frigid temperatures, and ice build up, at the City- river intake.

The City of Atchison, on Wednesday, put out the announcement that voluntary conservation was needed, as a failure to do so "could result in complications impacting [the City-] ability to draw and store water and provide water service to Atchison residents, businesses, and agencies."

The release explained that the City, on Tuesday, "became aware of an ice jam in the river moving [toward the City] over the next few days," adding that the ice jam is making its way from Nebraska.

The latest release says "the ice jam is expected to pass by Atchison sometime this weekend."

In the meantime, efforts have been underway to clear the ice and insulate the pump hoses at the river intake, which allows the City to produce drinking water for its customers.

The low river level, brought on by the freezing temperatures, has made it impossible for the City to use its permanent intake pump at the river, leading to use of the auxiliary intake pump, with City crews, ranging from Public Works to the Fire Department, "battling frigid temperatures and ice build up at the river intake," with "efforts to clear the ice and insulate the pump hoses" continuing, leaving the pumps to perform what the City calls "at an adequate level."

Many Signals Communications