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I lived on Mt. Victory Road for 18 years. Mt. Victory Road is located in the State of Ohio, Belmont County, and Village of Powhatan Point which is situated in the Southeastern portion of Ohio just a few miles from a great water source, The Ohio River. More than One Hundred Fifty-Two families live along 28 miles of rural road. A multitude of problems arise within their water sources, one of which includes wells that have to be drilled at no less than 50 feet and no deeper than 100 feet to tap a good water source. If drilled any further the well could be lost into a mine or sulfur from the mine could make the water unbearable to drink. Most of the wells will not sustain a family of three or more adequately. The families have to use the local laundromat several miles down the road, cut down daily toilet flushing, being unable to take daily showers, having to choose between bathing your children or watering your animals, being unable to water gardens or lawns, using the local car wash to wash cars, limiting the amount of water usage within the home, i.e. doing dishes, running dishwasher, etc. just to name a few. These also cause additional expenses to the families.

There has been E. Coli bacteria found in some wells exposing people to illness and hospitalization thus creating a loss of jobs in families. This is a major health risk.

The second source of water for the homes is a cistern (an artificial reservoir, tank or container for storing or holding water, especially for catching and storing rainwater). These cisterns are mostly used for bathing, washing clothes and flushing toilets. Due to the lack of water sources and low economic area some families have resorted to using this water for drinking which is definitely a health hazard. These people cannot afford to purchase bottled water and have no choice but to drink cistern water that is unsafe. Most families must own a utility trailer or truck with a water tank in order to haul water that is miles from their homes. Some farms have to haul multiple loads daily in order to water livestock. This is also an additional cost to the families due to the fact the local village and county charge for this water.

There is also a major fire and safety issue. If a house catches on fire, usually this leads to the complete loss of the home, animals and sometimes lives. The water to extinguish the fire has to be hauled miles in tanker trucks or the use of water buffalos must be set up.

The cost of this project is in the millions of dollars. Our local officials are willing to take on the project but simply do not have near the funding needed to do this project without Federal Assistance.

If any person would like to get a slight feeling of what it is like to have to live without water, just take a shower, lather up and shut off the water and think about how to get the lather off your body without water. Or, just imagine what it is like to turn on the faucet and nothing come out at all, or what comes out of the faucet is not healthy to drink or use for cooking, or the water is black, yellow and smells bad, that is, if there is water at all. Or just imagine loading the wash machine with clothes and the machine has to be stopped mid cycle, all the clothes have to be removed and hauled heavy and wet to the laundromat to finish. This is not a temporary water loss; this is every day of every life in this area. People who are fortunate enough to have municipal water do not have a clear understanding of what it feels like to live this way every day. Remember when your water may be shut down temporarily for a few hours or a day how inconvenient it is, well these people live this way every single day.

In summary this area is in desperate need for a municipal water source and it cannot be accomplished without the help of Federal Assistance.