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NJDOC STATEMENT ON SOUTH WOODS STATE PRISON

In light of some incorrect information in the community about the water situation at South Woods State Prison, the New Jersey Department of Corrections would like to dispel some incorrect rumors about a recent water main break.

On Wednesday evening, January 18, 2023, a water main break was reported at South Woods State Prison near the facility's powerhouse. While the initial water main break did not affect the facility, emergency repairs did require a planned and temporary shut-off of service at 11:59 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19.

At that time, NJDOC personnel responded quickly, and incarcerated persons and staff were provided with bottled water for drinking and hygiene, and portable toilets were brought in for use. Heat at the facility was not affected.

Restoration of service was completed Friday, Jan. 20, and by 4 p.m. the system was brought back online with toilets and showers available for use. Supplies of bottled water for drinking were provided to all incarcerated persons prior to the results of water quality testing conducted on Sunday. As required under regulations and an additional level of precaution, NJDOC utilized the services of an independent contractor to conduct additional water testing on Jan. 24, at six sample locations to ensure the safety and quality of water for drinking.

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As of Monday, January 23, 2023, all restrictions had been lifted, and the facility was returned to normal operations.

At all times during this incident, incarcerated persons and staff had access to adequate drinking water. Since repairs were made and water testing quality confirmed, there has been no interruption to water service at this facility. We thank NJDOC personnel for their hard work making this situation as brief as possible and for minimizing impact on incarcerated persons and staff.