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**Water shortage impacts Shelby residents, private prison**

MISSOULA, Mont. - A water shortage is affecting some parts of Montana's Hi-Line -- reportedly because of low water levels in a nearby reservoir. The town of Shelby is working on a new wellfield project to get all of its wells online. A notice on Shelby's Facebook page asked residents not to do laundry. Contractors knocked down the water pressure to tap new wells, but that meant no water in the town or at the privately owned prison. Sources tell us inmates' toilets overflowed in cells and they didn't have drinkable water. An email from the Department of Corrections says they're providing bottled water and portable toilets. The following is a statement from Montana Department of Corrections Director Brian Gootkin: Throughout the day, the Montana Department of Corrections has been receiving updates from the leadership team at Crossroads Correctional Center regarding a water shortage affecting communities on Montana's Hi-Line due to low water levels in a nearby reservoir. This shortage has affected the Crossroads facility. Work is being performed to bring water back into the reservoir, and while this work is taking place, facility staff are providing bottled water to the men incarcerated at the facility. In addition, water tankers are being brought in for non-potable uses along with portable toilets. As of 5:30 p.m., water was beginning to be delivered to the facility via the regular water system. However, pressure needs to continue to build and water lines must clear of sediment before full use is restored. The well-being of inmates in the care of the DOC is our priority, and we will continue to remain in close contact with our partners at CoreCivic to ensure their needs are being addressed. In addition, please find below a statement on this subject provided by CoreCivic to the media earlier today: CoreCivic is committed to providing high-quality, compassionate treatment for everyone entrusted to our care. We take very seriously our responsibility to provide a safe and appropriate environment for those in our care, and CoreCivic facility staff and our government partners at the Montana Department of Corrections (MDOC) work closely together to achieve this goal. Similar to other businesses and residences in the area, Crossroads Correctional Center (CCC) is experiencing a water shortage due to low levels of water at the nearby reservoir. While work is being performed to bring water back into the reservoir, facility staff at CCC are currently providing bottled water to those entrusted to our care and plans are underway to bring in portable toilets. We strive to address these types of issues as quickly as possible and hope to have the water system back operational as soon as possible.