

Beggs, Tauren R - DNR

From: Beggs, Tauren R - DNR
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 12:47 PM
To: Chronert, Roxanne N - DNR (Roxanne.Chronert@wisconsin.gov)
Subject: FW: Information for New Well Impacted with CVOs for Manitowoc City / Former Newton Tn Gravel Pit - Update
Attachments: 00070251.pdf

Please see original September 28, 2017 email below for full story and this email for updates since that time. Talking points will also be put together.

Some updates to this and some concerns based on more recent discussion with the current property owner and the City. The City notified us they would be submitting a letter, which they now have. There were some mailing issues so I just received the letter today (attached). However, the City brought up concerns regarding well replacement today during a call with them and D&GW Program which is somewhat different than what was stated in the letter, regarding well replacement.

The City has the concern about putting money toward replacing a well that may not be their responsibility, so it brings up a political viewpoint that the City would be using taxpayer dollars to replace a new well outside of the City limits that may not be their responsibility. If the City does move forward with replacing the well (while also stating they are not currently taking responsibility for the contamination in the well at this time), what options would they have to recoup costs spent on the well if a responsible party was found, would they have to sue the new RP or are there other options? The City has agreed to continue providing bottled water to the property owner for consumption, so the immediate threat continues to be adequately addressed.

Janelle Merry-DNR and Karen Dorow-City have had conversations with the property owner over the past couple weeks. Janelle has provided the property owner with information on the well compensation program. Well compensation will only cover a portion of the costs for the well because of the requirements under the special well casing depth area established for the area. The property owner has been very emotional and has many concerns: why is the City not paying for the well, why hasn't the well already been replaced, are the other neighbors' wells getting sampled, etc. and has talked about going to her neighbors and/or to the media. Janelle has another call with the property owner and her husband to further discuss the well compensation program on Monday at 3:30pm. This will be the first time Janelle has had discussion with the husband. As of right now there are two options for the property owner: 1) use well compensation and pay for remaining balance 2) wait until investigation has been done to determine who would pay for the well. Are there other potential options available? Would any state lead money potentially be considered for trying to identify other sources?

We have now determined that there is no well construction information for the well so we have no idea if it is shallow or deep, which could help with potential source questions. What we do know is the well installation is older than 1988 because the well was there when the current owner acquired the property in 1988 and they didn't have well construction information at that time either.

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