

Goose Lake Association

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Notice to Goose Lake Association Residents,

On July 13, 2022 I was invited and did attend a meeting for discussions on our concerns about problems with some wells in the area. As President of the association, representing all of the homeowners. It is my belief that the people who ran this meeting and all that attended took all our concerns very serious. These 7 well considerations are not intended to solve our well problems, however these guidelines are excellent help on ways all of us can monitor our own wells. I wish to thank all our homeowners who took the time to contact outside sources and ask for help with this problem. I will also thank the Grundy County Health Department and all their associates for trying to help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Livingston

President Goose Lake Association

To: Goose Lake Township Residents of Grundy County

Re: Water Well Maintenance Best Practices

Earlier this year, it came to the attention of the Association that some residents in Goose Lake Township were experiencing problems with their wells. Residents have contacted county departments and the offices of local legislators to express concerns. Rumors were circulating that well issues might be related to recent industrial development and the construction of the CPV Three Rivers Energy Center.

On July 13, the Health Department convened with a representative from the Goose Lake Association, representatives from CPV and their engineering consultants, County leaders, local legislators, and local well-installation contractors. The timeline of events (including well drilling and water usage by CPV), and history of groundwater sources in that area were reviewed by all. In accordance with its permit, CPV's 1,226 foot-deep, cased wells draw from the Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer, which is separate and distinct from the more shallow aquifer used for residential wells. The problems some residents were experiencing with their wells appear to be unrelated to the development of CPV and were more likely due to naturally occurring changes in the area's more superficial aquifer or due to the age and maintenance of the specific wells.

This determination presents an opportunity to inform and educate residents regarding best practices for well installation and maintenance.

Similar to other aspects of a home, a well should be properly maintained to extend the life expectancy. Residents may choose to learn about proper maintenance and expected repairs by visiting the webpages of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) or Wellowner.org.

IDPH recommends that all private water well owners annually test their water. Testing is used to detect the presence or absence of contaminants that might be hazardous to human health. Please contact the Health Department directly if you have questions about testing your water.

The Grundy County Health Department, under the guidance and delegation of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), administers the licensing of water well and pump installation contractors and regulates the construction, modification and sealing of all water wells with the exception of community water wells (city supplies). Licensing is consistent with and adheres to various statutes (IL General Assembly) and codes (Joint Commission on Administrative Rules).

As with most costly work or purchases, residents should consider the due diligence associated with obtaining multiple consultations and quotes for well repairs and maintenance. Grundy residents are fortunate to have several contractors, each with various amounts of experience, available for consultation and completing work. Please see the reverse side of this communication for important considerations to address with a potential well contractor.

The group of local stakeholders is committed to continued dialogue, data collection and clear communication with residents.

For additional information, please visit:

- dph.illinois.gov, and search for "private water"
- www2.illinois.gov/epa, and search for "private well users"

Private Well Considerations

A private well is necessary when there is not access to a public (municipal) water supply. The depth of a residential or commercial well depends on the location and the expected usage. The necessary depth is determined by the well-drilling contractor after taking into consideration the depth of aquifers and components of ground layers. Homeowners may learn more by asking questions of a contractor, which may include:

1. What is the depth of the various levels, and what is their function to provide clean water?
2. What could impact the water supply at this selected level?
3. Why does my well depth differ from that of my neighbors?
4. How can I responsibly use water so that my home always has water available to it?
5. What is the life expectancy of this well, and what can I do to best support that?
6. What is the life expectancy of this water source, and what can I do to best support that?
7. What are all of my options for maintaining clean and consistent water to my home?