

TOWNSHIP OF DOVER

Toms River, New Jersey 08753



Office of the Board of Health
(201) 341-1000

July 14, 1976

TO: Mayor Robert Brune
Dover Township

FROM: Paul F. Scavuzzo, President
Dover Township Board of Health

SUBJECT: Water Contamination

The Dover Township Board of Health, at the Special Meeting held on July 12, 1976, has concluded that there is chemical contamination of the water in the privately owned wells in the homes located on Dugan Lane and Wallach Drive. We have reached this conclusion after several months of investigation. You are aware that nine sets of tests have to date been conducted on water samples taken from these wells. After examining the results, we feel that the residents would cause injury to their health if they should use their water supply for drinking, bathing, or other purposes.

These homes involved with this problem are located in Zone II, an area delineated by the State Department of Environmental Protection. The wells in question reach into the Cohansey Strata of the underground water supply. According to the Board of Health Ordinance passed in September, 1974, no new wells in Zone II can be drilled into the Cohansey Strata. I mention this because one well in the area under discussion has gone completely dry. Other neighbors have reported similar problems in the rapid and extensive decrease in their water levels. This factor further complicates the matter in that not only is the quality of the available water being questioned, but now the quantity of water appears to be diminishing. The cause of the decrease has not yet been determined.

Since February, when the problem of possible contamination was reported to the Board of Health, we have endeavored to prove or disprove the allegation. We have had four sets of tests

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"Homo Cogitat, Deus Indicat"

conducted by the Henderson Laboratory in Pine Beach. The State Laboratory has conducted three sets of tests. Both Quality Laboratory in Audubon, New Jersey, and Dalare Laboratory in Pennsylvania have conducted tests. On July 14, 1976, the State DEP will conduct yet another set of tests.

Results have varied both in the confirmation of the presence of petrochemical contamination and the degree of contamination where so determined. The latest results of tests taken on June 22 show the presence of phenol in samples taken by both Quality Laboratory and the State Laboratory in conjunction with the Bureau of Potable Water.

The standard of measurement for phenols in water is .001 parts per million. In several samples, this amount was exceeded. The results also speak of the presence of styrene and benzene, two chemicals whose presence should not even be found in the water supply, regardless of the intensity.

With these facts in mind and concerned over the health of the residents of the area in question, the Dover Township Board of Health recommends that the Dover Township Committee petition the Public Utilities Commission for an immediate extension of the public water supply lines. Simultaneously, this Board will contact the Department of Environmental Protection to request a meeting immediately to discuss the extent of the problem, to seek their advice in condemning the underground water supply as they had done in Zone I in 1974. It is our intention also to seek legal advice in extending the provisions of the September, 1974 Ordinance to forbid the use of that water for any purpose whatsoever.

Finally, we recommend that any assistance which can be extended to these residents in defraying the cost of the extension be given by the Township Committee.

Paul F. Scavuzzo /vH
Paul F. Scavuzzo
Board President

PFS:vh

cc: U. S. Representative Edwin Forsythe
State Senator John Russo
Township Committee Members
Mr. L. Manuel Hirshblond, Clerk-Administrator
Mr. Charles Kauffman, Ocean County Public Health Coordinator
Board of Health Members