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McHENRY COUNTY
DEPT. OF HEALTH

Rod R. Blagden, Director

Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

February 19, 2008

Patricia Nomm
Director of Environmental Health
McHenry County Health Department
Annex A, 2200 N. Seminary Ave.
Woodstock, IL 60098

Dear Ms. Nomm:

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has reviewed the sampling data you provided from your investigation of groundwater issues in the Port Barrington area and provides the following health-based interpretation.

Although no chemicals were detected in the private wells at levels that would pose a public health hazard, the fact that acid blue dye was detected in several private wells following application in a nearby surface water body demonstrates a hydraulic connection between the surface water and the wells. Because these private wells are susceptible to contamination from the surface water, the reliability of their long-term use is unknown.

When groundwater used for drinking purposes is under the influence of surface water, public health policy dictates that this water source be treated as if it is surface water. Surface water is an unpredictable source of healthy drinking water because it can be influenced seasonally by fertilizer and pesticide runoff, animal wastes, and direct treatment of the surface water itself.

At a minimum, IDPH recommends private well owners use a water treatment unit certified by the National Sanitation Foundation standards 42, 53, and 55 for filtration and disinfection. For further study of the area groundwater flow and other potential impacts, we recommend you contact the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Bureau of Water. A long-term solution to the area groundwater quality concerns would be to connect the potentially affected homes to a public water source.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Flentge", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary Flentge, Chief
Division of Environmental Health

Cc: Rick Cobb, Illinois EPA
IDPH West Chicago Regional Office
IDPH Central Office

Improving public health, one community at a time

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