

History and Summary of the Water Quality in Columbia Counties Ellisville Well Field

During the month of September of 2007, a test well was drilled on County Owned property in Ellisville. The purpose of the well was to determine the feasibility of utilizing the site for a public potable well field. The most immediate concern at the time was to see if Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) were present given the fact that VOC's had historically been detected in the private wells servicing the commercial establishments approximately one mile north of the test well. Water testing for the test well was conducted by Flowers Chemical Laboratories. The results were satisfactory with the exception of arsenic. Because there are several methods for arsenic treatment, exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL), was not cause for abandoning the site.

The first production well (#1) was drilled approximately 150 feet from the test well. The water tests for well #1 were conducted by Advanced Environmental Laboratories. The analysis result for arsenic on the first test was .00012 mg/l which is well below the MCL of .01 mg/l allowed by the state. (Please note that on this particular test the lab used a reporting form that had the MCL level for arsenic at .05 mg/l which was the limit through 2004 when it was lowered to the current MCL of .01 mg/l). However, the first test on #1 did exceed the limits for aluminum, iron and color. The driller re-developed the well and a second test was conducted, described as "#2 From Well#1" in the attached tests, with all parameters passing. Although the parameters were sufficient, the decision was made by the hydro-geologist to backfill the well to reach strata that might possibly yield more pristine water. The strategy was successful in that aluminum, iron and color limits were improved as indicated in the test described as "Well Head #1 Repeat" which is attached.

The second potable well, described as "Well #2" in the attached report, was tested with satisfactory results reported on 10/21/08.

The test well has since been abandoned in accordance with the Suwannee River Water Management criteria. If there are any further questions please contact:

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