

Kaydi Smith

From: Huebner, William [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Kaydi Smith
Subject: RE: Wells

Kaydi,

I don't know if I can quote any specific TCEQ regulation regarding drilling a private well within a City's water system area, but it is not something typically done. We have had some instances where a City extended water service to a newly annexed area and the new customers had existing wells. In those cases, some of the customers kept the wells strictly for irrigation purposes and the City had to ensure the existing well was not connected to the water system in any way. The City would have no control over the private well so if it was connected to the water system, it could be a point of contamination.

Another issue you may also have is wastewater billing, since it is tied to water usage. With a private well being used, there would be no accurate way to meter the sewer for billing purposes. Additionally, the more private wells that are drilled in the City, the more impact they would have on the City's existing wells. The more wells that are drilled in the area, the less production you could potentially have at the existing municipal wells.

I imagine one of the reasons behind the request for a private well is that customers think they'd rather have their own well instead of dealing with the dirty water. Unfortunately, their private well would be drawing from the same source as the current municipal wells. They would still see very high manganese levels in their private well. In many of our other cities, the municipal wells are in a much deeper aquifer, so the shallower private wells don't have as much impact and could have very different water chemistry. In the case of Sweeny, the existing wells are already shallow, so a private well will likely be very similar in chemistry as the municipal wells.

Hopefully this has been helpful. Let me know if you have any other questions.

William

From: Kaydi Smith <kdsmith@sweenytx.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:11 PM
To: Huebner, William [REDACTED]
Subject: Wells

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]: Verify sender before opening links or attachments.

William,

Can you give me any information on if it is allowable for private property owners (residents) within the City to drill their own wells? This question arose early last month and we do have an ordinance that states we would have to have committee review plans and determine if eligible then inspect afterwards. We have never established a committee is the first step.

However, I didn't know if there is reasoning as to why we would not allow prior to anyone establishing a committee and residents submitting plans for it.

Clarence had stated that TCEQ did not allow, however, we cannot locate any verbiage stating that.

Do you know of any reasoning as to not allow? I am worried about any impacts to our water system, monitoring it correctly, how the sewer from it would tie in from usage off the well.