

COMMUNITY MEETING
EDB CONTAMINATION
NEMO FIRE HALL
JANUARY 13, 1997

On February 13, there was a meeting for the impacted well owners of Nemo to meet with the Forest Service, State Water folks and EnviorSearch contractor. Those in attendance: Joki Troxell, Elton Adams, Kelli Spleiss, Gary Solaas, Dave Fieroh, Gordan and Lois Weston, Mel and Sharon Harris, Don Murray, Bill Schlining, Mike Baker, Trish (state water folks) Richard Kelsey. *KUDT*

Don handed out copies of the Draft Alternative Water Supply Analysis report. The agenda for the evening was to talk about the report and alternatives that Richard came up with. The report is **DRAFT**, because it does not have public input yet. We are asking the impact well owners as well as others to please review the document and give us comments. We want to hear your ideas of the alternatives, why some will work and why some won't. We would like to have the comments within the next few weeks.

Richard basically went through the document and explained the tables and figures. This report is to identify what options there are. The figures track the information through the document. The document reveals which wells have and have not been impacted, see table 1 and figure 2. To date nine wells show impacts varying from 13,000 to 62 parts per trillion. The wells that are north of the stream are isolated, and that is probably why they are not impacted. The stream is acting as a hydrologic barrier. The wells south of the stream Cooper's, Martin's ~~2~~ wells may be at risk.

In figure 3, the geologic map, the basic geology is complex, one type of formation in the center is phyllite, with quartzite on top, and inter-layered and intensely folded is banded iron. There are fault lines that are controlling the movement of water in the area. He believes that the transmission mechanism may be a fracture line from the source of the contaminates toward Kaberna's. They will put monitoring wells in the fracture zones to do their monitoring of the movement of EDBs.

In figure 4 a cross section of section A-A'. Adam's well is 62' deep and Deverman well is 200' deep. The contractor will be doing a geophysical survey, where electricity is run into the ground to find changes in geology. On the maps the solid lines are confident, dotted lines are interpreted, and dashed lines are inferred faults. The map was put together before the field data was collected. Why the Nemo church and school have such high contamination is perplexing, they will get to the bottom of this. No difference in hydrology from the other wells, but possibly some geologic differences. Water from the church will move down gradient toward the stream and they will monitor this as well.

Table 2 identifies several options for alternative water supply. They vary from drilling a well, to using a groundwater collection gallery, installing wells near residences, treatment plants, and trucking water in. If there are any more ideas to be considered, we would like to know.

A comment was made that CFI bore several holes in the area from 900'-1200' and several of them were patented. Have you gotten a hold of these records? The hole that was drilled to 1200' hit water and it ran for 2 months. Jim Jacobs was the name of the geologist doing this project. Several other bores were done that can be shown to the contractor.

What will happen if some of us decide one thing and others decide something else? Who has the ultimate say? And if we go on a community well, who maintains it? Will it be metered? Who will pay to keep it maintained?

Joki is still getting sediment in her bath water. She wants to know, why? Shouldn't her system have flushed out any sediment by now? We will work on that, we will get with Don Keough, and we will check out the water at job corp.

We have not yet, identified wells in sites that have potential for contamination.

If you find a source, will you dig it up? How long will it take to heal? Ultimately will you clean it up?

Most take several years to many years to clean up. Depending on how active the source is. It is biodegradable, volatile, not as persistent as other herbicides, so clean up may be easier than dealing with other kinds of contaminants.

*If it only takes a few years, is it worth building a big community well?
Could we wait until its cleaned up and have our private wells again.*

If we find the source, and remove all the contaminated soil, have monitoring wells established, can he make a better judgment on the system clean up????

Yes, when they can define the bloom, they can deal with a probable solution. The soils can hold the contaminants for a long time. It is a complex environment. What are the viable options, costs of the alternatives.

We do have some decisions that have to be made. How are we going to clean up the area. Have to be responsible with tax payers money can't keep hauling water. Objective is to get you a safe permanent water source.

Was the old Nemo or Smith's well ever tested?

Smiths are coming this weekend and will be test this weekend. Will give a cross reference between Joki's and Adams. There are 4 wells that have not been tested, Smith, Deverman, Flak and the iron ore Mine.

One of the problems with just drilling next to an impacted well the deeper you go the less water you get. And there are no guarantees that that well would not eventually become impacted as well. It is recommend by the contractor to drill outside of the bloom. A problem with a treatment system, is the technology, and the units are expensive, and to guarantee safety you must test it often.

Any comments you want to give to us for the report is encouraged. We also wanted to give you time to think about this for a while. Rich won't finalize this report for a few weeks.

Quantity and quality and is feasible, meet your needs, has to be reasonable because of the tax payers. If the FS turns it over to the private land owners if they can manage it. Maybe it can be turned over to the county instead of the private land owner.

*You should be testing all the time no matter what option is.
An alliterative should not be selected until the source is found.
Where do you put that soil? Is it possible to find the contaminated soils with out the cans?*

The FS has no option as far as the soil contamination, they must treat it. This is different from your water problem. What they do with the contamination is not tied to your drinking water.

Do you know of other places in the state that was contaminated and have a community well?

RuRAL

They went on a rufe water system. Big Sioux drainage. Community 15 connections and 25 people.

Joki Troxell wants to go on record that she might be interest in selling her land to the FS, or doing a land exchange. She was going to make her retirement on her land. Now that is gone. h

If we go to a community system we want to the system for future use.

The community does not want to hear the FS is going to build a well then turn it over so they can pay for it themselves. The FS is responsible for the pollution and should be responsible for providing safe drinking water.

Timeline- to answer the question where is the source? They will be doing a survey work so they can identify monitoring well locations. Then go into a sampling phase. Develop a report once the subsurface testing is done. Testing may lead to more testing because you may find contamination where you don't think you would. Weather permitting they will continue to work. Another map will be made after the testing. In the aerial photos Richard may have found an area that was discolored, that hasn't been sampled yet. He is going to focus on this site.

Kelli Spleiss
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