

Bethlehem Cemetery Well
Additional Information Supporting Exemption from the PZ Order
December 7, 2011

BACKGROUND

The Bethlehem Cemetery (2801 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor) has a well that is used for irrigation purposes. This well is within the Prohibition Zone (PZ). According to the Order Prohibiting Groundwater Use entered with the Washtenaw County Circuit Court (Order), the consumption or use by any person of groundwater from the PZ is prohibited.

There are some exemptions allowed for in the Order. Exemption 5(e) states: *any existing water supply well that has been demonstrated, on a case-by-case basis and with the written approval of the MDEQ, to draw water from a formation that is not likely to become contaminated with 1,4-dioxane emanating from the PLS facility. Such wells shall be monitored for 1,4-dioxane by PLS at a frequency determined by the MDEQ.*

In an email to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) dated September 23, 2011, PLS has provided support for its opinion that the Bethlehem Cemetery well meets this exemption. The MDEQ has asked for additional supporting information, which is the subject of this document.

Well Information

The well is located on property located in the City of Ann Arbor. The property parcel number is 09-08-25-104-001. According to the Washtenaw County GIS MapWashtenaw website, the property is owned by Bethlehem Church.

The location of the cemetery well is shown on Attachment 1. This location was mapped using hand-held GPS and available aerial photography. (**X Coordinate:** 13280491.07 **Y Coordinate:** 285154.10, NAD83 Michigan State Planes, South Zone, International Foot).

The well is located at an elevation of approximately 965 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The well is on a topographic high for the area. For reference, this location is approximately 50 feet higher than the area around First Sister Lake and Maple Village.

The Well Record for the well is provided as Attachment 2. According to the record, the well was installed in 1994, constructed of 5-inch PVC and has a 4 foot stainless steel screen completed between 108 and 112 feet. This puts the screen center at an elevation of approximately 855 feet amsl.

For reference, MW-43 located on the east side First Sister Lake has an elevation (center) of approximately 821 feet amsl, MW-108s has a screen elevation of 758 feet amsl, and MW-72s has a screen elevation of approximately 823 feet amsl. This places the well screen above most off-site PLS monitoring wells.

Well Use Information

The cemetery well is used for seasonal irrigation purposes. PLS representatives contacted Bethlehem Church regarding the use of the well. According to a church representative, the well supplies several “spigots” in the cemetery. Users of the cemetery can use the spigots to fill up watering cans to water flowers and plants at grave sites. The spigot lines are purged in the winter to prevent freezing.

The well is not connected to any centralized irrigation system. There is a bathroom at the site, but according to the church representative, it’s for an office (not the public) and is no longer used.

According to the well log, the maximum pumping capacity of the pump in the well is slightly over 19 gallons per minute. This well is not considered a Large Quantity Withdraw as defined by the State.

Water Quality Sampling

Groundwater samples have been collected from this well by PLS and others since 2001. Sampling information is provided as Attachment 3. To date, five (5) samples have been collected and all of the samples have been non-detect for 1,4-dioxane.

Hydrogeological Setting

A south-north hydrogeological cross section showing the cemetery well/boring information in relationship to PLS wells to the north is provided as Attachment 4. In relationship to PLS MW-72s/d, the cemetery well is completed at a higher elevation, possibly in a shallower aquifer.

Water table contouring by the MDEQ (Groundwater Mapper) suggests the cemetery well is in an area of a groundwater divide, with flow radiating west to east from the well area (Attachment 5). This observation is generally consistent with contouring of the Unit D2 aquifer in this area which shows a divide west of the cemetery (October 2011 PLS D2 & E Potentiometric Surface map). In either case, there is no indication of flow from the Pall site toward the cemetery well in the shallower aquifers. Contouring of the deeper (E) aquifer shows flow from the Pall site in a direction slightly north of the cemetery (October 2011 PLS D2 & E Potentiometric Surface map). Flow in this aquifer is consistent with the well-established presence of the Unit E plume north of the cemetery well.

The hydraulic influence of the cemetery wells withdrawal is expected to be minimal considering the well is used only seasonally and is not used for purposes other than watering individual cemetery plots.

Relationship to Known Area of Contamination

Water quality data from the cemetery well have shown that for the past 10 years, 1,4-dioxane has not impacted this well. During this time, it has been well documented that 1,4-dioxane has migrated a considerable distance to the east. If this well was in the pathway of contamination, it is reasonable to say that it should have been contaminated by now, especially given the fact that this well is completed at a shallower elevation. (shallower aquifers were contaminated by 1,4-dioxane earliest).

Recent interpretations of the extent of 1,4-dioxane suggest the plume boundary (85 ug/L) is positioned approximately 400-500 feet to the north of the cemetery well. At a comparable depth interval at MW-72 boring, 1,4-dioxane was determined to be between ND (<1 ug/L) and 16 ug/L. 1,4-Dioxane concentrations at MW-72s have declined with time and were most recently 11 ug/L (10/11/11).

1,4-Dioxane is known to be present at well locations to the west (MW-108s/d and MW-71). These wells are considerably deeper than the cemetery well. Groundwater samples from shallower wells in this area (MW-43, and MW 16 to the south) have generally been not detect for 1,4-dioxane.

Water quality and water level data indicate that the 1,4-dioxane contamination at wells MW-108s/d and MW-71 flows to the northeast, or northeast rather than east. There is no indication that flow from this area is due east toward the cemetery well.

Summary

The cemetery well provides an important service to those using the cemetery. Water from the well is used sparingly. PLS believes the cemetery well should be exempt from the PZ Order. Water quality data support hydrogeological interpretations that this well is not vulnerable to 1,4-dioxane contamination from the PLS site. The fact 1,4-dioxane has not been detected at this location for over 10 years is an excellent indicator that this well is not likely to become contaminated in the future.

The absence of 1,4-dioxane in the cemetery is consistent with groundwater elevation contouring by MDEQ and PLS suggests the groundwater flow is not toward the cemetery well from the PLS site in the shallower aquifer(s) that this well appears to be completed within.

Pall believes these findings support our interpretation that the cemetery well meets the conditions of exemption 5(e) provided for in the Order.

PLS proposes that groundwater samples be collected from this well on an annual basis and analyzed for 1,4-dioxane. Pall proposes that the sampling be done in the spring/early summer, which will be early in the watering season.

Attachment 1 – Site Map with Well Location and other Features

Attachment 2 – Well Record

Attachment 3 – Water Quality Data

Analytical Data Report: Bethlehem Cemetery

Aquifer: Not Determined	Date Installed: 07/01/1994	Boring Depth: 112.00 Feet bgl	Screen 1: 112.00 to 108.00 Feet
Map Location: L-25	Well Driller: Cribley Drilling	Ground Elevation: Unknown Feet	Screen 1 Length: 4.00
X Coordinate: 13280491.07	Well Type: Miscellaneous Wells	TOC Elevation: Unknown Feet	Screen 2: NA to NA Feet
Y Coordinate: 285154.10	Sampling Interval: Annual	TOC to screen bottom: Unknown Feet	
	Static Interval: Not Set	Notes:	

Date Collected	Time Collected	1,4-Dioxane Results (ppb)	R.L.	Bromate Results	R.L.	Bromide Results	R.L.	Static Time	Static Reading	Comments
08/22/2011	10:50	nd	1.0							
07/14/2010	12:40	nd	1.0							
09/19/2006	11:50	nd	1.0							
06/02/2003	08:30	nd	1.0							
09/24/2001		nd	1.0							Sample collected by Sybil Kolon-MDEQ

Attachment 4 – Cross Section

Attachment 5 – MDEQ Water Table Map

ArcIMS Viewer - Windows Internet Explorer

http://gwmap.rsgis.msu.edu/viewer.htm

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ArcIMS Viewer




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FULL EXTENT	PREV ZOOM	SELECT BOX	SELECT LINE	SELECT BUFFER	QUERY FEATURE	MAP LEGEND	DISPLAY OPTIONS
ZOOM IN	ZOOM OUT	FIND FEATURE	FIND ADDRESS	LAT/LON ID	LAT/LON SEARCH	TOPO LEGEND	TOOL HELP
MOVE MAP	IDENTIFY	MEASURE	CLEAR	OBSERV. WELLS	FLOW GAGES	PRINT MAP	EXTRACT LAYERS





ACTIVE:
COUNTY

VISIBILITY:

- Base Map
- Environmental
 - HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES
 - SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITES
 - ENVIRON. CONTAMINATION
 - OIL AND GAS
 - UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS
 - WHPAs
- Ground Water Inventory
 - Geology
 - WELLOGIC DB
 - WATERSHEDS
 - WETLANDS
 - SOILS
 - WATER QUALITY
 - Location & Yield of Aquifers
 - Supplemental Well Data
 - RECHARGE
- Groundwater Levels
 - WATER TABLE DEPTH
 - WATER TABLE CONTOURS
 - OBSERV. WELLS
- Stream Flow

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