

3525 H Ellicott Mills Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 313-2640 Fax (410) 313-2648  
TDD (410) 313-2323 Toll Free 1-866-313-6300  
website: www.hchealth.org

Penny E. Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

December 18, 2002

Mr. Edward Steele  
13631 Nichols Drive  
Clarksville, MD 21029

RE: **Hand Dug Well Issues**  
13631 Nichols Drive  
Tax Map 34, Parcel 146

Dear Mr. Steele:

On September 27, 2000, I inspected the referenced property during review of a building permit application for your proposed garage. On that date, I observed a hand dug well seven feet from the edge of the proposed garage. This office issued a recommendation for building permit approval based upon your written commitment (dated September 29, 2000) to properly fill and seal the hand dug well within 90 days.

On June 7, 2001, I spoke with you again about this matter and requested that your contractor contact this office before initiating the work. To date, this office has received neither further contact nor documentation of the completed well work.

If you have had the well filled and sealed by a licensed well driller, please instruct them to send in the required Well Abandonment Form. If the well has not yet been filled and sealed, please inform us of your intentions in this matter within ten days of the date of this letter **before performing any work on the well.**

Prompt attention to this matter will avoid further enforcement action and delays in any future building permit proposals. If you would like to discuss this further please call me at (410) 313-2691.

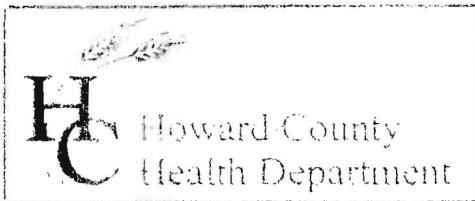
Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Mark E. Rifkin, Sanitarian  
Water and Sewerage Program

SN/MR

cc: File



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Penny E. Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

April 9, 2004

Mr. Edward Steele  
13631 Nichols Drive  
Clarksville, MD 21029

RE: Proper Abandonment of Hand Dug Well  
13631 Nichols Drive  
Tax Map 34, Parcel 146

Dear Mr. Steele:

This office is again contacting you regarding your failure to comply with the requirements of this agency as specified at the time of a site inspection conducted in September, 2000. During that inspection, which was performed in response to a building permit application, you agreed to arrange (within ninety days) for proper abandonment/sealing of the hand dug well seven feet from the location of the garage then proposed. Despite subsequent contacts with you to secure such work in June, 2001 and December, 2002, there is no evidence such work has been completed.

Because you've had more than adequate opportunity to comply with the specified requirements, this agency is prepared to initiate enforcement proceedings against you for failure to comply with those requirements. In this case, maintaining a permanently disconnected hand dug well after an order to properly fill and seal constitutes a nuisance, as according to Howard County Code Section 12.110. After the initial stage of an official Notice of Violation, future stages include citations with financial penalties and court action.

Within fifteen business days, a well driller's abandonment report documenting proper completion of such work must be submitted to this office. Compliance with this deadline will avoid enforcement proceedings as specified above.

For the record, **this well work must be completed and/or certified by a licensed well driller.** Other contractors or private parties are not eligible to certify proper well abandonment. If you have any questions, please contact me according to the information above.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mark E. Rifkin'.

Mark Rifkin  
Well and Septic Program

MR  
cc: File

P. Gahles Construction, Inc.

20536 GEORGIA AVE.  
BROOKVILLE, MD 20833  
TAX ID # 52-1613845

9/29/00

To: Mark Rifkin  
Howard County Dept. of Environmental Health

As the owner of the property, 13631 Nichols  
Drove, Clarksville, MD 21029 I will do  
my best to get the old, non-working well  
filled in within 90 days.

If you have any questions please call me  
at 301-854-3577

Thank you very much.  
Edward A. Little