

3578 Sylvan Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4424
August 11, 2008

Robert Bricker, RS
Bureau of Environmental Health
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Re: Your letter of July 16, 2008

Dear Mr. Bricker:

Please find enclosed a letter from Michael Kastner, III, Master Plumber MD #6501 certifying that there is no connection between my private well system and the public water system. I understand quite clearly that if an organism from my well were present in the plumbing supplied by the public water system it could spread throughout the public water system. During my professional career I was certified as a Clinical Engineer. Be assured that I do not want to bear a responsibility for placing my neighbors at such a risk.

There are two sections of my house: one is supplied by the public water system and the second is supplied by my well. The two plumbing systems are completely independent. When we connected the first section to public water, we also considered connecting both sections; but decided not to do so for several reasons:

I grew up in Baltimore, and have appreciated that the City's water is generally better than many other public water systems. However, as development has occurred on much of the Baltimore water supply's watershed there are more people requesting water from a shrinking water shed. During dry conditions Baltimore has had to use water from the Susquehanna River. During such times Baltimore has had to increase the amount of chemicals to treat the water and the taste of the water has suffered. Many municipalities are having difficulty supplying high quality water to their citizens, and it appears likely that this situation will continue to get worse. My well has consistently provided safe water with no chemical taste.

The sale of bottled water in our geographic area is testimony that many other people are concerned about the quality of public water. My well is a very valuable asset. I have operated, and will continue to operate my well in a manner that does not place any risk to the public.

My well was drilled in the late summer of 1972 by Mr. Easterday who I believe worked from the Frederick area. The pump and water treatment system was installed and serviced by Robert L. Feezer Company, Sykesville.

I respectfully disagree with your assessment of the safety of the low pressure sewage pump in the vicinity of my well. Every manmade system is at risk for failure. The situation here is exacerbated by unmanaged storm water running from the grinder pump location to my well. There is already substantial erosion of the ground around this pump. Any small leakage will dump bacteria onto the top of my well. When you measured the distance from my well to the pump, you were adamant that the minimum distance from a well to any sewage device was 100 feet. I believe that distance should be increased for this situation unless the heal.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Suter

Enclosures: August 1, 2008 letter from AVS Plumbing, Copy of most recent water quality assessment.

AVS PLUMBING & HEATING

Allen M. VanSant, Inc.
12630 Frederick Rd
West Friendship MD 21794

410-442-2221
Fax 410-442-7626
www.AvsPlumbing.com

August 1, 2008

Robert Bricker, RS
Bureau of Environmental Health
7178 Columbia Gateway Dr
Columbia MD 21046

Re: 3578 Sylvan Lane Ellicott City MD 21043
Public and private water supply systems

Dear Mr. Bricker:

I have inspected the public water supply system and the private well system in Charles Suter's house at 3578 Sylvan Lane in Ellicott City MD. I turned off the county water main in the basement and determined that the county water service is connected to the first floor kitchen sink, laundry room and ½ bath. The county water service is also connected to the second floor full bath, the front right outside hose bib, the basement boiler and electric water heater.

The private well system is connected to the left side outside hose bib of the main house. The well system is connected to the following fixtures in the addition: First floor family room bar sink, guest bath and garage hose bib, the water heater located in the crawlspace and the water conditioning equipment in the basement.

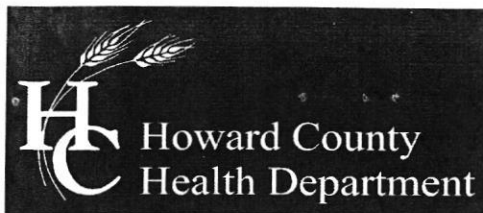
Most of the water lines are not visible; they are located behind the walls and ceilings. I did not find any obvious connections between the county water service and the private well system.

If you have any questions please give me a call at 410-442-2221.

Sincerely,



Michael Kastner III
Master Plumber MD #6501



Bureau of Environmental Health
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046-2147
(410) 313-2640 Fax (410) 313-2648
TDD (410) 313-2323 Toll Free 1-866-313-6300
website: www.hchealth.org

Peter L. Beilenson, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

July 16, 2008

To: Charles Suter
3578 Sylvan Lane
Ellicott City, MD

Dear Mr. Suter,

Recently, you brought to our (Health Department) attention a concern over the proximity of a neighboring sewerage pump to a well on your property at 3578 Sylvan Lane. The Health Department has completed an evaluation of the existing conditions. The Health Department's determination is that no threat to public health exists due to proximity of the environmental chamber to your well. This is based on the following:

(1) A sealed (E-1) environmental chamber has been installed upgradient of the well on your property at a measured distance of 69 feet. The function of the sealed chamber is to pump sewerage from residences on that property where it is located (3601-3605 Church Lane) to the public sewer on Church Lane. The environmental chamber and associated lines are sealed.

(2) The public sewer is a closed system with controllers and discharge at a specific point in a specific location. The design and implementation of devices such as those installed on the property adjoining yours is entirely appropriate in urbanized areas.

(3) In contrast, the purpose and function of the well on your property is questionable. Investigation of public utility records show that water service to your property is in the name of Nancy S. Suter, 3578B Sylvan Lane. The Health Department believes that your residence is served by public water.

Howard County Code (3.906) prohibits cross-connections between individual water supply systems (such as private wells) and public water supply systems. At this time, you are being directed to provide the Health Department with a letter certifying that there is not a cross-connection on your property between your well and the public water supply. This letter is to be certified by a Licensed Plumber.

Furthermore, if you wish to keep your well, you must provide the Health Department with a formal written request. In that request you need to provide whatever information you have about the well including the well tag number (re: permit number), your purpose(s) for keeping the well, and describe how you intend to maintain it. For example, the well is required to be of modern construction and meet Howard County Code requirements. To assure there is no possibility of a cross-connection, the well line may not penetrate the foundation wall of your residence. The well may be connected only to bibs, and those bibs are to be signed as "NONPOTABLE".

As property owner, you also have the option to abandon and seal the well or, if required by this Department (Howard County Code 3.909) to abandon and seal the well, utilize the services of a licensed well driller.

The two letters described above are to be submitted to the Health Department as soon as possible. You may direct inquiries regarding the content of this communication to myself or to Bureau of Environmental Health administrators at 410-313-1771. Send your letters to Bureau of Environmental Health, 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046.

Respectfully,

Robert Bricker, RS
Environmental Sanitarian
Well and Septic Program

COPY: File



Howard County
Health Department

Bureau of Environmental Health
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046-2147
(410) 313-2640 Fax (410) 313-2648
TDD (410) 313-2323 Toll Free 1-866-313-6300
website: www.hchealth.org

Peter L. Beilenson, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

May 23, 2008

CHARLES SUTER
3578 SYLVAN LN
ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043

RE: Water Sample Results
3578 SYLVAN LANE
Invoice #: C003791

Dear CHARLES SUTER,

We have received the results from the testing of the water sample(s) taken from the above referenced property on May 12, 2008. A description of the results and the established standards for each test is included below. Standards such as maximum contaminant levels (MCL), secondary maximum contaminant levels (SMCL), and drinking water equivalency levels (DWEL) are established by the EPA and other agencies to provide a reference for determining when action should be taken. These standards help to improve the overall quality of your water or ensure that steps are taken to treat the water to prevent you and your family from getting sick. Typically, no water is completely free of contamination but you should be concerned if the level of contamination for a particular test exceeds the standard.

The results from the **Bacteria** testing found that your well water contains no bacteria at this time and is considered safe for all uses. According to drinking water standards there should be no bacteria present.

A sample was collected to determine the **Nitrate** level in your water supply. The nitrate level was 5.2 parts per million. The MCL for nitrate is 10.0 parts per million.

A **Turbidity** sample was collected to determine the amount of suspended particulates in your water supply. The turbidity level was 0.7 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU's). The MCL for turbidity is 10.0 NTU's.

Please contact the Health Department at (410) 313-1792 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday if you have any questions regarding these test results.