

COPY



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

April 3, 2012

Mr. Kurt Williamson
JLT Group, Inc.
10 River Plaza, Suite 800
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Subject: Abandoned, Obstructed, Unsealed, Artesian Water-Supply Well, Minnesota Unique Well Number 272117, Located at 50 Fillmore Street, St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Parcel ID 052822320044

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) would first like to thank you for your recent efforts in searching for, finding, and securing the buried artesian water-supply well on your property at 50 Fillmore Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. As you know, the well has been flowing uncontrolled below grade for many years. Since as far back as 2006, the well was visibly flooding the property, the sidewalk along Plato Boulevard, the street, and was discharging to the storm sewer. Finding the well, extending the well casing above grade, and shutting off the flow of water should eliminate the flooding, safety, and nuisance problems that were created by the uncontrolled flowing water.

We must also inform you that the well is not in compliance with Minnesota statutes and rules, and ask that you take action to bring the well into compliance.

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I establishes the basic requirements for the construction, repair, and permanent sealing of wells in Minnesota. Chapter 103I requires that the owner of property on which a well is located, must have the well sealed if:

1. The well is contaminated;
2. The well was sealed in a manner that violates state requirements;
3. The well is located, constructed, or maintained in a manner such that its continued use or existence endangers the groundwater quality or is a safety or health hazard; or
4. The well is not in use and does not have a maintenance permit.

The well on your property is not in use, it is obstructed with demolition debris, and you have not obtained a maintenance permit for the well. The well is not in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I. You have three options to choose from to bring the well into compliance with Minnesota statutes. You may:

1. Have the well repaired and put it back into service;
2. Have the well permanently sealed by a licensed well contractor or a licensed well sealing contractor; or
3. Obtain a well maintenance permit for the well from the MDH. The annual fee for a maintenance permit is \$175. Maintenance permit applications are available from the MDH.

General Information: 651-201-5000 • Toll-free: 888-345-0823 • TTY: 651-201-5797 • www.health.state.mn.us

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We must caution you that attempting to repair an old well that was buried for many years, whose casing was bent and damaged, and which is full of obstructions consisting of demolition debris, may be a costly course of action with no guarantee that the well can be repaired. We recommend that you consider having the well cleaned out and permanently sealed by a licensed well contractor. Once the well is cleaned out to the bottom, the well should be televised and gamma-logged to determine the condition of the well, and to identify the well depth, depth of casings, geologic formations penetrated, and other relevant construction details, so that necessary well sealing procedures, potentially including well casing perforation, can be identified to ensure that the well is properly sealed.

I also want to inform you that the Capitol Region Watershed District may have well sealing cost share grant money available. You may visit their website at: www.capitolregionwd.org/pdfs/wellsealingcostshare_eligibility.pdf for more information, or you may contact Ms. Dawn Nelson with the Capitol Region Watershed District at 651-644-8888, directly.

Unsealed, abandoned wells are a threat to groundwater quality and other water-supply wells, and in some cases can be a potential safety hazard for children and animals. Unsealed, abandoned wells are also a potential liability for the property owner. **A well owner may be held legally liable if an unsealed well is a source or cause of groundwater contamination. A well owner is not liable for contamination of groundwater through a well after the well has been permanently sealed by a licensed contractor and the seal has not been disturbed.**

Please bring the well into compliance by **May 31, 2012**, and be advised that any repair or well sealing work must be done by a Minnesota licensed well contractor. We recommend that you obtain competitive bids from several licensed well contractors before proceeding. Please notify me of your intentions for the well so that I may make arrangements for inspection when it is repaired or sealed.

If you have any questions, or if you believe that our information is incorrect or incomplete, please contact me at 651-643-2110.

Sincerely,



Patrick T. Sarafolean, Hydrologist
Well Management Section
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

PTS:mj

cc: Steve Magner, City of St. Paul
Bruce Elder, City of St. Paul
Dawn Nelson, Capitol Region Watershed District

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