

Wells

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according to town officials and consultants. Extra tests are being conducted to confirm results and to try to pinpoint causes.

The homes affected are those of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Halstead, Dr. Michael Infantolino, and David King.

King was advised that his well also tested for "low pH groundwater (acidic water), low dissolved oxygen and low oxidation reduction potential (that) could cause leaching of metals present in the plumbing fixtures, pump and/or the bedrock." According to GZA GeoEnvironmental of Norwood, Mass., consultants to the town for about a decade on the landfill monitoring, closure of the site, and plans for constructing a highway barn there. The King well also tested positive for cobalt, but it was not recognized by GZA, and GZA did not caution him about that substance.

Other findings

Other metals found in the 16 wells were barium, cobalt, nickel, zinc, copper, lead, methyl-tert-butyl-ether, and toluene. The levels of those metals — except as noted in the four wells classified as polluted — were below standards that GZA terms as unacceptable. Some of the families were considering hiring independent testing laboratories to analyze their water.

The town was ordered by the DEM in December to test the area wells because of concerns about contamination at the landfill, and about its affecting ground water and area wells. Samples for the tests were taken in January, tested by GZA laboratories, and the findings were reported in early March. The samples were tested for 64 volatile organics and for 16 "landfill metals." No organic element was classified by GZA as being unsatisfactory or above standards.

GZA told the Halsteads, Infantolinos, and Kings not to drink their

water, but told the Willisises that the cobalt and "all detected constituents (in their well water) were below federal safe drinking water standards. As such, the sample from your water supply meets the drinking water requirements for the parameters tested."

According to the Willisises, they immediately consulted GZA and several other authorities and learned that cobalt does not have a federal standard in this area, but it does in other regions of the country. The Willisises said they learned that the reading for their water was up to 26 times the safe limit for cobalt. Experts they contacted did not or could not explain why the federal cobalt standard is not followed in New England, the Willisises said.

About cobalt

Norma Willis said they are "terrified" about the findings, and about GZA's advice that the water is safe. They have not slept well since getting the report Thursday, and they are working to get more information about the cobalt, she said. There are three types of cobalt, including a radioactive form, she noted. Town officials reported that they were looking for a specialized laboratory that could not only retest for cobalt levels, but also define the exact type of cobalt that is involved at the landfill and at the Willisises property.

Cobalt has been found in a test well on the northwestern end of the landfill site. Some residents have said that the area was once used by the U.S. Navy, but they have not been confirmed.

The Willisises theorize that cobalt

leached into the ground water that visibly drains down the landfill slope into North Main Road and the wetland in front of their property.

At low levels, cobalt is part of vitamin B12, essential for good health. At high levels, it may harm the heart and lungs. Cobalt is used to produce alloys for aircraft engines, magnets, grinding and cutting tools, artificial hip and knee joints. Cobalt compounds are also used to color glass, ceramics, and paints. Radioactive cobalt is used for sterilizing medical equipment, radiation therapy, making "dirty" bombs, and for manufacturing plastics and irradiating food.

GZA and town officials said they do not know how cobalt got into the landfill.

Lawsuit talk

The Willisises personally, and as part of the NECC leadership, told the town about a year ago that no one among them was interested in bringing lawsuits, as some officials claimed at that time. They said then that they did not want to sue, but wanted the town to take more responsibility for testing and for protecting the ground water at and around the old landfill.

Norma Willis said the test results has spurred her and her husband to consider the need for a lawsuit to protect themselves in view of the cobalt findings. She said she also believes that some NECC leaders are reviewing their stance on legal action because of the test results, and because some of GZA's responses seem not to reflect full concern about the extent of potential landfill pollution.

Bridge

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sions about its development as a fishing pier. The location for the pier, left where it is or to be relocated, is yet to be decided.

The work starts in earnest, an exact schedule for detonations will be posted, and traffic will be disrupted for about half an hour at a time, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekdays. Details about the blasts and about the traffic plan will be the focus of the public session now being planned.

The Cashman contract said that it notifies the DOT, which in turn is responsible for notifying all local, state, and federal public-safety personnel about the schedule at least two weeks before any bridge closings. In addition, each closing must be posted at the DOT's transportation management center 48 hours before each blast, according to the contract

The contract also says that the bridge demolition must be by "non-scattering methods." Use of wrecking balls will not be allowed, but in addition to explosives, hydraulic hammers, breakers, and comparable tools will be used.

A total of 18 portable "road work" trailers have been in place about a month now in preparation for electronically updating traffic

conditions on the new bridge during blasting on the old bridge.

The dismantling of the old bridge started in January with removal of large steel plates from the middle of the bridge, working outward with removal of roadway plates continuing for the full width of the bridge, making it impassable. Construction vehicles were using the old bridge occasionally as they prepared the bridge for the dismantling. The old bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic since 1992.

The plates are being removed by barge or truck for stockpiling and for delivery directly to buyers, based on Cashman's arrangements for the approximately 6,000 tons of steel in the bridge.

An estimated 24,000 cubic yards of concrete debris is involved. The Cashman contract specifies that all debris more than one foot in size will be removed from the floor of the Narragansett Bay, which the bridge spans.

Cashman specializes in marine construction and rental and sales of marine equipment. It is one of the largest barge companies in North America. The company is operated by James Cashman, third-generation owner of the equipment company that deals with inland and offshore construction, as well as project cargo services. The firm also operates Cashman Scrap and Salvage.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

JAMESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
SITTING AS THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 20, 2006

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED DRAFT OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

A public hearing will be held by the Jamestown Town Council sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 20, 2006 at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, Conference Room, 26 North Road, Jamestown, RI for the purpose of considering the proposed draft of the amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Water Commissioners as follows:

URBAN WATER DISTRICT

Subsection I of Section 14A is hereby amended as follows:

I. Within the Urban Water District requests for water connections to single or two-family residential uses shall be granted by the Commission subject to the payment of a ~~\$2,000~~ \$3,000 connection fee for each unit, or such fee as is established by the Commission from time to time, as well an installation fee as established by the Commission from time to time. The installation fee shall be \$1,850 for services installed on town roads and \$3,300 for services installed on state highways, or fees as are established by the Commission from time to time. Said connection fee shall be placed in the capital reserve fund for the purpose of making future improvements to the public water system while the installation fee shall be placed in the operating account to cover the actual installation expenses incurred.

Within the Urban Water District requests for water extensions to single or two-family residential uses will be allowed under the following conditions:

a. That the owner, at his expense, shall extend a municipal water main in a street in accordance with the specifications approved by the Public Works Director. All cost associated with the extension including but not limited to

engineering, materials and labor shall be the responsibility of the owner.

b. That the above described extension of water shall be designed and constructed consistent with the improvement of the municipal system and in accordance with generally accepted water and sewer distribution practices and approved by the Public Works Director, and shall be required for the purpose of insuring that the distribution and quality of water delivered to existing customers shall not be impaired.

c. All pipe and materials shall conform to AWWA specifications. The size of the pipe shall be a minimum of eight (8) inches or as outlined in the Fay, Spofford and Thorndike report of fire flows, whichever is greater. No recycled pipe or materials are to be used.

d. Extensions shall be looped and not allow for dead ends if feasible. If no public way is available to loop a line, the line shall be extended to the midpoint of the property requesting the extension.

e. That a performance bond with surety in an amount satisfactory to the Commission shall be required to insure the proper construction and completion of the extension.

f. That any service connection is subject to the payment to the Commission of ~~\$2,000~~ a \$3,000 connection fee or such connection fee as is established by the Commission from time to time, per a dwelling unit or per commercial unit.

g. Applicant shall install or replace existing plumbing fixtures with water efficient fixtures as specified in Rule 15 for new and existing construction and the standards adopted pursuant thereto.

h. Prior to service, all lines shall be chlorinated, flushed, pressure tested and water quality tested.

i. The Jamestown Fire Chief must be consulted as to the necessity of fire hydrants. A hydrant must be placed at the end of any dead-end street.

j. Consistency with system capacity as determined by the Commission.

k. That any service connection is subject to the payment to the Commission of an \$1,850 installation fee for services installed on town roads and a \$3,300 installation fee for services installed on state highways, or such installation fees as are established by the Commission from time to time, per dwelling unit or commercial unit. Said fee shall be placed in the operating account to cover the actual installation expenses incurred.

SERVICES

20. When an applicant applies for service, except in conjunction with new main extensions, the Commission or its agent will furnish, install, own and maintain such new service connection. The Commission applicant will bear the cost of the service connection pipe and curb stop and their installation but will make a charge to the applicant. The applicant will also be charged for tapping the main, furnishing and installing the corporation cock and curb box, and for the costs of excavation, backfill and removal and replacement of paving, walks, curbs, etc., necessarily incurred with respect to new services. Such charges shall be assessed in the form of an installation fee, said fee to be \$1,850 for services installed on town roads and \$3,300 for services installed on state highways, or such fees as are established by the Commission from time to time. Said installation fee shall be utilized to cover the actual installation expenses incurred.

By the Order of the Jamestown Town Council
Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners

ALL NOTE: This meeting location is accessible to the physically challenged. Hearing or speech impaired individuals requiring the services of an interpreter should call 1-800-745-5555 or 423-1212 not less than 3 business days prior to the meeting.

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