

E-mail Regarding Well 8

From: Dan Melton
Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2010 7:31 PM
To: Gregory Harrington; Lauren Cnare; Larry Palm; Bruce Mayer; Madeline Gotkowitz; Thomas Schlenker
Cc: Tom Heikkinen; Marsha Rummel; Betty Chewning; Steven Klafka; Lance Green; Melanie Foxcroft; Alan Larson; Joseph Grande
Subject: When we discuss Well 8 (Olbrich Park) on Tuesday

*"I believe our customers and our community deserve better."
Tom Heikkinen General Manager Madison Water Utility January 21, 2010*

Dear Colleagues,

Water quality at Well 8 (Olbrich Park sledding hill) has been of interest to my neighbors for nearly 2 1/2 years now--since January 29, 2008 when the Water Utility Board received a 15-page memo from Water Utility Interim GM Larry Nelson that said Well 8 water should be filtered--and construction on a Well 8 filter would likely begin in 2009.

When we discuss Well 8 on Tuesday, I may refer to a motion the Board voted on at our August 25, 2009 meeting--when we "adopted new water quality policies for iron and manganese that require treatment or other management strategies if certain thresholds are exceeded at the customer tap." GM Tom Heikkinen told us he'd written parts of this policy specifically in response to a question from Well 8 CAP member Madeline Gotkowitz, who asked at a Well 8 CAP meeting if the Utility had a written policy on when to treat existing wells. We all were reminded--and, so, knew full well, prior to this vote on August 25, that Well 8 exceeds the standard we were officially adopting that day as Madison Water Utility policy. See Top P 3 Minutes Water Utility Board August 25 09:

"Water Quality Manager Joseph Grande was asked if the Utility would get complaints if the Board adopted the .3 [0.3 mg/L Iron) and .05 [0.05 mg/L Manganese] standard. Grande said three wells currently exceed this standard: Well 8, Well 7, and the unfiltered water at Well 29."

When we discuss Well 8 on Tuesday, I may also refer to a three-page January 17, 2010 letter From: David Askovich, To: The Mayor--and a two-page January 21, 2010 response From: Tom Heikkinen, To: David Askovich. The comments in this letter refer to Well 10--however the same policy approach can be--and, I hope, will be--applied to Well 8. You can read the entire five-page document at:

<http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/8c30f6e7-42e0-4a88-a7eb-ecbe871f554c.pdf>

I'd like to refer, in particular, to Paragraph 3 (Page 4 of 5):

"...its (Well 10's) operation would violate the new policy through the probable introduction of water discolored by elevated levels of iron and manganese ...By operating a well with higher than desirable levels of these minerals, we introduce material that could settle in the distribution system and cause problems for water customers in the area long after the well is used. I believe our customers and our community deserve better."

If we operate Well 8 this Summer, we would "introduce material that could settle in the distribution system and cause problems for water customers in the area long after the well is used. I believe our customers and our community deserve better."

When we talk about Well 8 on Tuesday, I may also refer to the 15-page memo January 29, 2008, To: Madison Water Utility Board, From: Larry D. Nelson, P.E., Interim Water Utility Manager, Subject: Consider Prioritization Of The Construction Of Water Treatment Facilities For The Removal Of Iron And Manganese At Well Sites, presented to Rep. Tammy Baldwin for the acquisition of FED funds. At our March 25, 2008 meeting we voted to approve the recommendations in this memo--which includes a recommendation that the water from Well 8 be filtered.

You may read the 15-page memo From: Larry Nelson at:

<http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/4eddf007-735b-4f65-980e-e913ebc6442d.pdf>

That memo notes Construction Year for the Well 8 Filter: 2009. Well 8 Manganese and Iron levels: Mn 49 ug/l (At the 50 ug/l standard), Fe 527 ug/l (Way over the 300 ug/l standard)