

Brem-149-01.12.2015

163 Nowell Farme Road
Carlisle, MA 01741

January 12, 2015

Mr. James Persky
Mass DEP Drinking Water Program
Northeast Regional Office
205B Lowell Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

RECEIVED
JAN 12 2015

TOWN CLERK-CARLISLE
CHARLENE M. HINTON

Re: 100 Long Ridge Road, Carlisle – Public Water System Determination

Dear Mr. Persky:

My husband and I are homeowners on Nowell Farme Road in Carlisle, Mass. We are a part of the neighborhood directly affected by the decisions made in the 100 Long Ridge Road 40B development project. We have been following the hearings on this project and have attended ZBA and Board of Health hearings and other relevant meetings in town. We have reviewed many letters and reports, as well. We are greatly concerned about the safety of water in our neighborhood should this development be constructed as currently proposed. We believe the 9 new wells proposed by the developer, Jeffrey Brem, should be deemed a public water system and closely monitored on an on-going basis.

We refer you to letters to your office by Town Counsel, Thomas J. Harrington, dated November 14, 2014 and by attorney, Dan Hill, dated October 3, 2014. Both letters go into great detail concerning the issues with this development. We are writing to you as well to express our concerns about the ability of Carlisle town boards, which consist of volunteers, generally for a term of 3 years, to protect the water in our neighborhood without a DEP determination that the proposed system is a public water supply.

There are many issues that factor into our concerns:

- **Water Contamination:** The proposed development is so dense that there is significant risk to health and safety: wells are proposed to be placed right next to houses where runoff could easily cause undetected contamination, winter road treatment may leach into wells, and snow storage followed by rain could cause flooding. There is no way to guarantee that water in the area will remain free from contamination without regular and consistent monitoring. The only way this will happen is if the DEP gets involved.
- **Septic Failures:** There are reports of failed septic systems in the area, with the need to build new leach fields on the homeowner's property. In this development, if built as proposed, there is no excess space on which to build new leach fields if a system fails. If that happens, we assume the home or homes connected to the failed septic system will be condemned. The developer has no contingency plan for failed septic systems and Carlisle has no municipal water or sewage systems. The only way to rectify this situation would be to significantly reduce the number of new homes the developer is allowed to build.
- **Groundwater Concerns:** Water in the area contains manganese and iron, and there is concern about arsenic, found naturally in the area. All require water treatment systems. There are also water table issues and anxiety about contamination. Many of us in the neighborhood take care to minimize stress on our wells and septic systems because we know how fragile the groundwater situation is in Carlisle. Adding 19 new homes and potentially 57+ residents to the neighborhood, many who may not have lived with private wells/septics, will only increase the risk and anxiety that there will be water table and contamination issues in the future.

We believe that the only way to insure the continued health and safety of the residents in the area of this proposed development is for the DEP to issue a determination that the project will be designated a public water system.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Thornton and Kathy Ash

cc: Carlisle Board of Health
Carlisle Zoning Board of Appeals