



REGION 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

November x, 2024
[Homeowner 1]
[Mailing Address]
[City], [State] [Zip]

Subject: Blades Groundwater Superfund Site,
Public Waterline Opt-in at [Private Well Address]

Dear [Homeowner 1]:

On February 09, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) selected a cleanup plan for the Blades Groundwater Superfund Site¹ in Sussex County, Delaware. This cleanup plan will address exposure to groundwater contamination in residential drinking water. Your property is among those affected or potentially affected by this contamination. The cleanup plan includes installing a public waterline, institutional controls², and maintaining existing water treatment systems until the public waterline is complete.

Current Activities

Currently, the EPA is designing the new public waterline. Properties that are affected or potentially affected by site-related contamination have the opportunity to connect to this new public waterline. The EPA is offering to connect your property to the new public waterline and disconnect your well from your drinking water supply.

If you choose to be connected to the public waterline, here is what you can expect:

- The EPA will pay for the connection to the public waterline.
- You may either (1) keep your well for non-potable purposes, or (2) have the EPA close your well. If you opt to keep your well for non-potable purposes, the EPA will pay for disconnecting your well from your home drinking water supply, but any required maintenance or closure of the well thereafter would be your responsibility. The EPA will assist homeowners with these requirements.

¹ Visit www.epa.gov/superfund/BladesGroundwater for more information about the Blades Groundwater Superfund site

² Institutional Controls are administrative and legal controls that help protect human health, the environment, and the site cleanup plan.

- If your well currently has a treatment system installed by the EPA, the EPA will not continue to monitor and maintain the treatment system after construction of the new public waterline is completed.
- The Town of Blades will be the water authority that will service your area. If you opt-in to be connected to the public waterline, there will be a monthly water bill and that will be the responsibility of the homeowner. The following web address to rates and Consumer Confidence Reports for Water Quality is <https://blades.delaware.gov/water-maintenance-department>. You are encouraged to take a look at their website to get a better understanding of what your monthly water bill may look like.
- If you opt-in to be connected to the public waterline, an EPA contractor will need to access your property to conduct general inspections, conduct land surveying activities, determine where your private well is and where your waterline enters into your home, etc.

The EPA estimates that design and construction of the new public waterline will take about 2-3 years.

To assist in the design process of the new public waterline, the EPA is currently surveying which properties would like to opt-in to being connected to the new public waterline. For those properties opting to connect to the waterline, the EPA will need to collect additional information via a site visit (for purposes of surveying, determining the location of your well, determining where your waterline enters the home, and related activities). The EPA will need your consent for completing this design work and subsequently connecting your property to the waterline.

Action Requested

Please fill out the enclosed **survey (Attachment 1)** indicating your interest in connecting to the new public waterline.

If you would like to opt-in to be connected to the new public waterline, please also fill out the attached **Consent to Enter Property (Attachment 2)** form. Your completion of this attachment will provide consent to the EPA and its contractors to perform the work necessary to design and connect the waterline to your property.

Please mail **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**, if applicable, in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided or email it to Alan Geyer. Mailed forms must be postmarked by [3 weeks from mailing] and emailed forms must be received by [3 weeks from mailing].

Attn: Alan Geyer

EPA Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 (3SD24)
1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
geyer.alan@epa.gov

Questions? Contact us!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Katie Page

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 3
215-814-2409
page.katherine@epa.gov

Enoch Bang

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 3
215-814-5516
bang.enoch@epa.gov

You are encouraged to consider connection to the new public waterline and we look forward to working with you!

Thank you!

ATTACHMENT 1: WATERLINE OPT-IN SURVEY

Property Address: [Private Well Address]

Property Owner Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

(1) Are you interested in connecting to the new public waterline?

Yes

No Reason: _____

Unsure Reason: _____

(2) If you ARE interested in connecting to the public waterline, are you also interested in keeping your well for non-potable purposes?

Yes

No

(3) Do you have questions and would like the EPA to contact you?

Yes

No

If you ARE interested in connecting to the public waterline, please fill out the Consent to Enter Property form (Attachment 2) and return to the EPA along with this survey.

ATTACHMENT 2: CONSENT TO ENTER PROPERTY

Property Owner(s): _____

Address of Property: [Private Well Address]

1. I am the owner of the property identified above ("Property"). I understand that:
 - a. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("the EPA"), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("COE"), and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control ("DNREC"), is conducting a remedial action to construct a public waterline in the vicinity of my property at the address provided above ("Property");
 - b. The EPA's remedial action is being performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601, et seq.;
 - c. The EPA has offered to connect the Property to a public waterline and disconnect my residential well from my home's drinking water supply;
 - d. The EPA is in the beginning stages of designing the public waterline but construction of the waterline will likely not begin for another 2-3 years;
 - e. Access to the Property by the EPA, COE, and DNREC and their employees, contractors, and authorized representatives (collectively "Responders") is needed for purposes of designing the waterline, connecting the waterline to the Property, either disconnecting the existing well from the drinking water supply at the Property or closing the well.

2. I consent to entry to the Property by the Responders for purposes of:
 - a. Conducting design work for the public waterline and connection to the Property, which includes taking photographs of the yard, determining the location of the water well, determining where the well connects to the home, land surveying activities, and related activities;
 - b. Installing a subsurface water service line running from the home on the Property to the public waterline, which will require digging in the yard of the Property to place a water service line, connecting the installed water service line to the drinking water supply line, and entry into the home to connect the installed water service line to the drinking water supply (properties/grounds will be restored to pre-construction conditions);
 - c. Disconnecting the well on the Property from the drinking water supply, which will require access to the home to complete the disconnection; and
 - d. Closing the well on the Property if not being retained for non-potable purposes.

3. I understand that design or construction work may involve several personnel from the Responders, several vehicles, and several pieces of construction equipment (*e.g.*, a backhoe, dump truck, etc.) entering onto the Property.
4. I understand that the EPA or its contractors intend to contact me to coordinate each entry to the Property in advance of the entry.
5. I provide consent for the above-described activities until the earlier of:
 - a. The transfer of the Property to another person or entity;
 - b. Revocation of consent (in which case I consent to such entry as may be necessary to remove equipment brought onto the Property by the EPA or its contractors and secure the Property so that it is safe; or
 - c. Receipt of notice from the EPA that access to the Property is no longer needed to connect the Property to a public waterline.
6. I agree to notify the following individual, or such other person as may be identified by the EPA in the future, of any pending transfer of the Property, any identified damage to equipment or materials brought onto the Property by Responders, a change to my contact information, and/or my revocation of consent to perform the above-described activities:

Alan Geyer
DE/MD Remedial Section (3SD24)
Superfund & Emergency Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2852
geyer.alan@epa.gov
215-814-3312

7. I agree not to interfere with the installation or integrity of the water service line installed on the Property or permit others to do so.
8. I represent that I am authorized to consent to the entry provided herein.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____