

Ask Inspector Sleuth



Dear Inspector Sleuth,

Are well owners in Lincoln Park notified about the potential for contaminated groundwater?

Signed, Con Tammy Wells

Dear Tammy,

Yes, well owners are notified AND Cotter pays for this including any government agency time spent executing the notifications. Two well owner notification processes are in place for owners of wells in Lincoln Park.

- 1. Every five years, under the supervision of the US EPA, Cotter contacts all property owners and property residents in Lincoln Park concerning domestic well use.**
- 2. The US EPA in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DOWR) notifies a new well permittee of the Superfund status of groundwater.**

In the fall of 2008, Cotter mailed over 1400 notifications to property owners and residents in Lincoln Park. Of the 432 respondents, 83 wells were tested and one domestic well exceeded the molybdenum groundwater standard. The owner of the well was offered a city water tap. Details about the Water Use Survey are available on www.fcio.org click Topic and Well Notification.

The trigger for the DOWR notification is submitting an application for a new well. In addition, in March and September of each year, Cotter searches the DOWR database for new wells or changes of ownership within the Lincoln Park study area. Cotter provides CDPHE the information for notification to registered well owners. DOWR requires that well owners file a Change of Owner form upon purchase of a property with a well or request permission to construct a well. The EPA superfund notification is triggered by DOWR records. If a change of ownership form is not filed, the notification will not be triggered.

The EPA Superfund 5-Year Review, performed in 2008, verifies that notices will be sent by a government agency to well owners and confirms a system is in place for EPA to provide notification when DOWR does not notify.

Check out www.fcio.org for more information.

Your faithful inspector
Inspector Sleuth