

Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



John Corra, Director

October 6, 2011

Rich Bloom, President Melody Ranch HOA P.O. Box 4337 Jackson, WY 83001

RE: Second Letter Regarding Melody Ranch Lot 87 Sewer Service Reconstruction, Teton County

Dear Mr. Bloom:

On September 29, 2011, I made a site visit with you and with David Dufault with Nelson Engineering concerning the reconstruction of the Lot 87 sewer service line at Melody Ranch. During the site visit, I concurred that the current location of the Lot 87 sewer service line at Melody Ranch is not desirable since it runs between two public drinking water wells and encroaches within about 30 feet of the north public drinking water well (Well #2 or North Well).

DEQ understands that the Home Owners Association has approached a neighbor about obtaining an easement on his property in order to route the replacement sewer service line at least fifty (50) feet away from the public drinking water well. Nelson Engineering suggested that this alignment away from the public drinking water well coupled with a water-tight sewer line is the preferred design for the replacement sewer service. Again, DEQ concurred in the field that this would be the preferred design, however, this is dependent upon attaining an easement.

Jorgensen Associates had pointed out previously that the sewer service line had been permitted under DEQ Permit number 00-292 and that the well had been permitted under DEQ Permit number 96-060. DEQ retrieved application package 00-292 to verify what had been permitted. The engineering drawings showed a sewer service cleanout twenty-five (25) feet away from a well. The engineering drawings didn't specify the well as being public or private. It appears that the DEQ district engineer allowed the same horizontal isolation distance between the well and sewer service line as what is required between a potable water line and septic system.

DEQ also requested a copy of the well drillers logs for Melody Ranch Wells. The well drillers log for the north or closest well to the sewer service line reported a static water level of 40 feet, well screened between the 57 and 92-foot depths, and that casing had been cemented from 0 to 20 feet. The formation above static water level was described as sand gravel to 10 feet; gravel, sand clay to 32 feet, and limestone gravel to 41 feet.



This issue was also discussed with Lou Harmon, DEQ Water and Wastewater Manager. The separation distances between water and sewer mains were briefly discussed. In short, DEQ will accept the existing alignment if the 4-inch sewer service line is sleeved to provide double wall protection within at least fifty (50) feet of the public drinking water well. DEQ also concurs with equipping the sewer service line with cleanouts equipped with couplings that will allow a pressure test within the 50-foot setback distance.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 307-335-6961.

Sincerely,

∠ames Brough, P.E.

Northwest District Engineer

James Brough

Water Quality Division

XC:

Thomas Kirsten, P.E., Jorgensen Associates, P.O. Box 9550, Jackson, WY 83002 Dave Dufault, P.E., Nelson Engineering, P.O. Box 1599, Jackson, WY 83001

PDF to Cheyenne