

19 Amity residents get safe drinking water

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By Denise Larive
For Journal Register News Service

Two contracting companies are constructing new water lines on Thalia Lane and Monocacy Creek Road, Douglassville, in order to provide 19 residents with safe drinking and bathing water for the first time in at least 25 years.

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon said construction should be completed later this week, with individual hookups completed in September.

Township officials and residents in the area of Monocacy Creek Road and Thalia Lane were told in September 2009 by the state Department of Environmental Protection that their wells are contaminated with a dangerous chlorocarbon, Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene), or PERC.

DEP's Environmental Clean-up Program Manager John Krueger said the PERC cannot be removed from the bedrock; the agency has provided bottled water to residents since January 2007.

He said the DEP first became aware of the contamination in 1985 and that it originated from a dry cleaning business that may have been located in the Valley View Mobile Homes area, 1 Valley View Road, Birdsboro.

Krueger said all of Valley View's 200 units were connected to public water in April 2008 but that the contaminant continues to flow in a southerly direction.

Amity Township officials have worked with the DEP and Pennsylvania American Water Company for more than a year to begin the contractor bid and construction process.

Township Solicitor Brian F. Boland said all construction work is funded through a DEP grant, including the final connections to the individual meter boxes.

Boland said the township will also seal off the current wells and is part of the project costs that are reimbursable.

Although board votes were not unanimous last year to mandate public water hookups for the 19 residents, board Chairman Robert R. Yanos said the PERC is a safety issue and all the residents need to be connected to public water.

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