



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Governor

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Commissioner

Green Acres Program
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April 22, 2008

Ms. Kathy Murphy
Grant Coordinator
Mount Olive Municipal Building
PO Box 450
Budd Lake, New Jersey 07828

**Re: Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris
Turkey Brook Park (Block 7600, Lot 71),
Green Acres Project # 1427-91-013 and 1427-96-025
Use of Well on Parkland as Municipal Backup Well**

Dear Ms. Murphy,

This letter serves as a follow-up to your correspondence over the past few months to our office. It is our understanding that Township seeks to use an existing well located on Turkey Brook Park (Block 7600, Lot 71) as a backup well for the municipal water system. The Turkey Brook well is connected to the offsite Goldmine water system. The Goldmine system is the main source of water both for the park and the adjacent Goldmine development, and is operated by the Township's Water Utility. The well in Turkey Brook Park turns on when the water level drops in the Goldmine system due to increased park activities, but has not in the past been used as a potable water supply. Based on recent testing of the water from the Turkey Brook well, the Township is seeking other approvals from the Department to use this well as a backup potable water supply, but has also asked whether such use would constitute a diversion of Green Acres-encumbered parkland.

Based on the information provided to our office by the Township, we have determined that the use of the well should not interfere with the recreational use of the park and that the backup well is necessary to provide adequate water to park facilities. Therefore, we would not consider the continued connection of the Turkey Brook and Goldmine wells to be a diversion of parkland under *N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.2*.

It is our understanding that the Township will seek all necessary approvals from Department of Environmental Protection and any other regulatory agency with jurisdiction over the use of these wells. Nothing in this letter should be construed as an approval by the Department of the use of the well as a community water supply.

I hope the above addresses your concerns. We appreciate the Township's cooperation during our review process. Please keep our office informed of any new developments or changes on this issue. If you have any questions please contact me directly at 609-341-2056.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Rodriguez
Compliance Officer

CC: Bryan Sharrock- Northern Bureau of Water Compliance and Enforcement
John Fields- Bureau of Water Systems and Well Permitting
Wade Wertman, Bureau of Water Systems and Well Permitting
Jan Gheen, Bureau of Water Allocation
Robert Hudgins, Bureau of Water Allocation
Eugene Callahan, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Sue Michniewski, Division of Land Use Regulation

If you have any questions, please contact me at: