

Thomas Sahol

From: [Thomas Sahol](#)
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:37 PM
To: Belinda Blazic (Twp); Caryn Hoyer (TWP); Denise Koetas-Dale (TWP); Dominic P. DiYanni; Jeremy Liedtka (TWP); Matthew Litt (Twp); Shreekant Dhopte (Twp)
Subject: OYCC Environmental Complaint
Attachments: 0_C01233863_33287487.pdf

All,

Apparently, last evening the NJDEP received a call about a black liquid that does not mix with water being seen in Blacks Creek in the rear of the Old York Country Club. The call precipitated a response by police, fire, and county health officials. I spoke with Sgt. Brodowski today about what he witnessed on the call last evening. Sgt. Brodowski informed me that no substance was found in any waterways but the Fire Department indicated some concern about discoloration in an unnamed tributary of Blacks Creek. This tributary is located between the Wirth property and the country club property. I was told the county health official took a sample of the water and as of this writing, we have no more information about what the county official may have determined. I did learn the discoloration was more in line with turbid water which is not unusual in streams – especially for several days after a rain event. While on scene, the fire department also witnessed a drone being flown over the country club property and lights were later seen on the country club property in an area centered on the land which would be off limits to the general public. Police officers attempted to locate whoever was using lights on the grounds but they could not find anyone. It is likely the lights were actually coming from a drone being flown above the country club property.

At approximately 12:30 this afternoon I went to the OYCC property and met with two NJDEP investigators, Mr. Wheeler from 3-Putt, a representative from Active Acquisitions, and an engineer from Colliers Engineering. The NJDEP investigators walked the entire property and saw a location where Colliers Engineering is monitoring work to remove a plastic liner in the bottom of a man-made pond. The plastic liner was apparently covered with a layer of silt and mud and those materials had to be excavated out along with the standing water so the plastic liner could be removed. The mud was being placed next to the man-made pond to dry. That mud is black in color as compared to the green grass where it is drying. There was also a water pump being used to remove the standing water in the man-made pond while the workers were removing the plastic liner materials. The water is being pumped out and is being sent away from the work area over one of the hills on the golf course and it is penetrating the ground and being absorbed. The NJDEP investigators wanted to confirm the pumped water did not enter a very small unnamed tributary of Blacks Creek so they walked that area as well. They found no evidence that any of the pumped water had accessed the small tributary or any other waterway near the country club property. In fact, the discharge point for the pumped water is approximately 200-300 yards from the nearest waterway.

What is important is that the NJDEP investigators found no evidence of the water getting into the creeks and they also found no evidence that the mud and silt being excavated off the plastic liner material of the man-made ponds had even come close to any waterways. Despite that this is starting to appear to be a false report, the NJDEP inspectors did take exception to two things at the property and they intend to issue two notices.

They are:

-A violation is being issued because the NJDEP investigators felt the engineers should have notified the NJDEP and sought a permit to dewater the basin so they could perform the liner removal. The NJDEP considers the water in the basins to be “owned by the state” and under control of the state and therefore a permit should have been issued to take the man-made pond water and put it on the golf course even though it is absorbing back into the ground. They made some reference to the annual well water allocation for the country club irrigation wells being the determining factor why they cannot take groundwater out of the man-made pond.

-A violation is also being issued because the mud in the bottom of the basin may be considered a "pollutant" and to remove a pollutant and place it on the ground requires a permit from the NJDEP. The investigators readily offered that the permit would be issued, but the owners just didn't get the approval before doing the work.

The engineers from Colliers will be pursuing the permits at this time.

This is a long explanation, but the facts need to be shared.

Tom

Thomas A. Sahol
Township Administrator
Chesterfield Township
295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road
Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515
(p) 609-298-2311 Ext. 101
(f) 609-298-0469

Thomas Sahol

From: Thomas Sahol
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Shreekant Dhopte
Subject: RE: OYCC Environmental Complaint

They will have the records available and I did indicate we want a copy.
The investigator told me the report could take a few weeks before it was finalized.
I found that strange, but the State does work in mysterious ways.
Tom

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From: Shreekant Dhopte
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Thomas Sahol <TSahol@chesterfieldtwp.com>
Subject: Re: OYCC Environmental Complaint

Hi Tom,

Does the DEP submit a report and share the violation notices? It will be good to have them in our records. I am assuming these are public documents.

Regards,

Shreekant

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