

## Karen Sanchez

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**From:** Monty Newton  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 4:26 PM  
**To:** Gene Ortiz; Peter Pope  
**Cc:** Art Correa; Daniel O'Donnell; Aimee Beveridge  
**Subject:** RE: Update and photos of Singleton Complaint # 7B-10612

I need to gather the entire file – and will confer with Peter on Monday. Drilling mud? It was air drilled in 1984 to 210 feet, so he must imply from O&G operations. Closest O/G well is 800 feet west – surface casing to 385 feet, cemented to surface. I have all the completion and plugging records for all wells within ½ mile radius. There are only two within one-quarter mile radius.

On the water well - they should probably pull the pump and jet the well, deepen or whatever. But I can't attribute this to Oil and Gas ops. He 'noticed natural gas leaking' – from the electrical cord conduit. Which made me think of a short that was melting the plastic or electrical tape down at the pump, that might explain the 'gas smell' – but not the burning/itchy muddy water - It sounds like really bad water. All I can think to add on is major anion and cation analysis – just to get a handle on the water quality.

I have reviewed as many water well logs as I can find for that area – looking for references to 'undesirable constituents', or natural gas – and there are none.

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**From:** Aimee Beveridge  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 11:34 AM  
**To:** Gene Ortiz; Peter Pope  
**Cc:** Art Correa; Monty Newton; 'Gale Baker'; Daniel O'Donnell  
**Subject:** RE: Update and photos of Singleton Complaint # 7B-10612

Good Morning, Gene,

Peter is out for the rest of the week but we will get back with you on testing. FYI- Gale Baker is no longer with the RRC. Monty and Mike, could you help Gene with the constituents of concern.  
Aimee

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**From:** Gene Ortiz  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 10:15 AM  
**To:** Peter Pope  
**Cc:** Aimee Beveridge; Art Correa; Monty Newton; 'Gale Baker'; Daniel O'Donnell  
**Subject:** FW: Update and photos of Singleton Complaint # 7B-10612

### Singleton, Richard Complaint No. 7B-10612

Unidentified Operator  
Singleton Property Water Well  
Palo Pinto County, Texas  
Job No. 14-1758

Peter,

I want to update you on the Singleton water well complaint. Stella Singleton has e-mailed me a couple updates on their water well. This is the one where DOCC Trish Hudson used a CGI and methane was detected. Stella Singleton stated that:

On 5/9/14 or 5/10/14, operator Fairway Resources Operating, LLC (Cook, J. T. lease no. 32855-2) turned on the well located behind the Singleton residence.

On 5/11, Their water turned completely brown and full of dirt. Two photos are attached which were sent by Stella Singleton (tub 1 May 14, 2014 & tub 2 May 14, 2014)

On 5/22, the Singleton's contacted a water well service company.

On 5/23, Fairway shut down the Cook, J. T. lease no. 32855-2.

Also on 5/23, owner/operator Burk Lyons of the water well service company instructed the Singleton's to pump their water well dry, which they did. Note that the water was very dirty before it was pumped dry.

On 5/24, the Singleton's woke up to find their water was as thick as mud. It was so thick that it would barely run through the faucets in the sinks. The bathtubs put out a good stream, but the water was very thick with mud. Burk Lyons with the water well service company arrived at the Singleton residence and stated "it was much worse than he thought." He advised them to keep the filter and mud/water that had collected from the filtration system so it could be analyzed. His professional opinion was that the mud was drilling mud. They continued to pump the well dry once a day for a few days.

On 5/25, the water was a little better.

By 5/27, the water had cleared up quite a bit.

On 6/1, the filter was changed again.

On 6/3, their water was very clear, and the filter was clean enough to read the label. The smell in the well house and when the well is pumped down still blows extremely strong and has a very powerful odor.

I have attached all seven photos which she e-mailed me showing the old filter, new filter, and water in the bathtub.

We issued Fairway has four wells within ½ mile radius of the Singleton residence. All four were issued SWR 2(b) violation/cert letters demanding the bradenheads be piped to surface to be gauged. Reinspection is scheduled for the week of June 23, 2014. The five EOG wells within the search radius all had 0 psi on their bradenheads during the inspection conducted on May 15, 2014. There are four plugged leases within the search radius, and all locations were inspected on May 15, 2014. No sign of any breakout or anything else unusual was observed by the field inspectors. Research conducted at the Abilene Geological Research Center did not turn up any undocumented oil & gas wells.

Water sample results did not detect TPH, BTEX, or Coliform. Chlorides were reported at 1,110 mg/L at initial and 832 mg/L after 15 minutes.

I think that should bring you up to date on this complaint. With these developments, is there anything else we should be looking at or testing for?

Let us know what you think.

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**From:** Gene Ortiz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 04, 2014 2:20 PM  
**To:** 'Stella Singleton'  
**Subject:** RE: Update and photos of Singleton Complaint # 7B-10612

Mrs. Singleton,

Thanks for the update, it will be added to the file and I will discuss this situation with the Assistant District Director, Darlene Wilson, when she returns tomorrow.

What we did was inspect all wells within the ½ mile radius primarily looking for excessive bradenhead (the annulus behind the casing) pressure. The well behind your house, which I am assuming is the Fairway Resources Operating, LLC (259788), Cook, J. T. lease (P766441, lease no. 32855-2), was inspected on May 15, 2014. The bradenhead was not

piped to the surface. Essentially, there was no way for us to gauge the bradenhead to determine how much, if any, pressure was applied to the bradenhead. So what we did was cite them for SWR 2(b) and tell them to pipe the bradenhead valve to surface.

In this case, the statement "...no violations were observed that may have contributed to the methane in the Singleton water well" means that at that time we did not find excessive bradenhead pressure on any of the wells within ½ mile of your water well, essentially because there was no way to determine how much pressure was applied to the bradenhead since the bradenhead valve was not piped to the surface. If there was a gauge on the bradenhead and it was determined that there was excessive pressure on the bradenhead, that statement would not have been included in the letter. Since we were unable to determine the bradenhead pressure, we cited them for SWR 2(b) which states "[d]esignated agents of the commission are authorized to make any tests on any well at any time necessary for conservation regulation, and the owner of such well is hereby directed to do all things that may be required of him by the commission's agent to make such tests in a proper manner." At this time, we are requiring all wells within ½ mile of your water well to pipe their bradenhead valves to the surface so we can see if excessive pressure is being applied to the bradenhead and possibly contributing to the problems in your water well.

FYI – The five EOG wells (lease no. 31249) were inspected on May 15, 2014. The bradenhead gauges indicated there was 0 psi on all five wells.

The four Fairway wells (lease nos. 32855-2, 114227, 020983, and 095018) were inspected on May 15, 2014, and all four did not have bradenhead observation valves. The field inspector was unable to determine the pressure on the bradenhead. We issued Fairway violation/certified letters instructing them to allow us to gauge the bradenhead valves. Reinspection of these wells is scheduled for the week of June 23, 2014.

The investigation continues and the district office will continue to work in conjunction with Site Remediation in Austin concerning this water well complaint. Let us know if you have any other questions or concerns.

**From:** Stella Singleton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 9:00 PM  
**To:** Gene Ortiz  
**Subject:** Update and photos of Singleton Complaint # 7B-10612

Mr. Ortiz,

I just wanted to keep you updated on our well. On Thursday May 22 my husband contacted a water well service. They sent Burk Lyons owner/operator to our house on Saturday May 24, 2014 to look at our situation. On May 23, 2014 Fairway shut the well down behind our house. On May 23 rd we pumped our water well dry as were instructed by the well service. The water was very dirty before we pumped it dry. On Saturday morning we got up to find our water was as thick as mud, literally. It was so thick it would barely run through the faucets in the sinks. The bathtubs would still put out a good stream but the water was very thick with mud. Mr. Lyons came to our house around noon on Saturday, he stated "it was much worse than he thought." He thought putting a timer on the well so we could pump it off would help clear up the water. He advised us to keep the filter and mud/water that we had collected from the filtration system so it could be analyzed. His professional opinion was it is drilling mud.

We continued to pump the well dry once a day for a few days. On Sunday it was a little better, by Tuesday it had cleared up quite a bit. We changed the filter again on Sunday June 1.

Today our water is very clear. The filter has actually stay clean enough to read the label on Tuesday evening. The well behind our house has been shut down for 1 week and 5 days and our water has cleared up considerably. We still have that awful smell in the well house and when the well is pumped down air still blows extremely strong and has a very powerful odor.

I am sending pictures to show the improvements.

We did receive your packet with the results. The only thing we are unsure of is how it can be stated, "that all oil and gas wells within a 1/2 mile radius were inspected on May 15 and no violations were observed that may have contributed to the methane in our well," we know that Fairway wells do not have a 2 inch line down the wells so they can be tested. So, we are wondering how you are able to come to that conclusion. I will continue to keep you updated. Please see attachments for photos.

Sincerely,  
Stella Singleton  
Complaint # 7B-10612