

From: Kara Okonewski <kara@okoenv.com>

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 12:56:18 PM

To: Ric Davis <rdavis@springfield-twp.us>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions about Hydrogeologic Investigation

Hello Ric,

Thank you for posting the latest update regarding the planned hydrogeologic investigation. As a member of the Fact-Finding Committee, I wanted to do my due diligence and ask a few clarifying questions to be sure I understand both what is being proposed and how the Township plans to approach its review.

In the letter you shared, Reuben refers to evaluating the “*proficiency of the aquifer*”. That phrasing is not typical used in groundwater science, so I am wondering if he means productivity or capacity. In the pursuit of science, the terms used matter because they determine what is measured and how results are interpreted. This may seem like splitting hairs, but those distinctions are meaningful when discussing scientific work. For example:

- **Proficiency** can be read as broad, essentially whether an aquifer meets a particular need.
 - Is this aquifer suited to the needs of a sand and gravel mine?
- **Productivity**, by contract, refers to quantifiable characteristics.
 - How much water can be pumped and what are the effects?

I also wanted to ask about timing in light of EGLE’s Aquifer Performance Test (APT) Guidance, which I have attached for reference. EGLE states that APTs for unconfined aquifers should be conducted during periods of average or below average seasonal flow and notes that this “typically eliminates the months of March, April, and May”. During this period, snow melt and spring rain can significantly affect groundwater levels and alter baseline conditions, which can influence how test results are interpreted.

Based on the 60-90 day timeline mention in the letter, installation and testing could potentially occur during that March-May window. Has the Township discussed how the proposed schedule aligns with EGLE’s guidance, particularly when the shallow glacial aquifer is involved as part of the testing?

More broadly, I wanted to clarify the role of the Township’s independent experts in this process. Will Mike Wilczynski & Brian O’Mara have an opportunity to weigh in on:

- The placement and depth of the exploratory/test well.
- The placement, number, and screened intervals of any observation or monitoring wells.
- The overall testing timeline, including seasonal considerations.
- The proposed pumping rates and duration of any aquifer performance test.
- The opportunity to observe or review testing activities as they occur, in order to support a transparent and impartial evaluation.

Finally, I wanted to ask about data access and transparency. Will the Township and its independent experts receive all raw data collected as part of the investigation? This would include baseline groundwater levels, pumping rates, drawdown and recovery data, and any field notes or anomalies. Full access to raw data is important to allow for independent review and verification of results, rather than relying solely on summarized findings.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider these questions and for continuing to share updates as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

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