

VIBERT SCRUTINY PANEL**SCRUTINY REVIEW: DRAFT WATER RESOURCES (JERSEY) LAW 200-****VISIT TO ARTESIAN WELLS AND DEEP BORES****3rd AUGUST 2004**

Present: Senator Jean Le Maistre, Deputies Gerard Baudains and Robert Duhamel

Accompanied by: Lewis de la Haye (Well Driller), George Langlois (Diviner) and Mike Haden (Scrutiny officer)

The Panel viewed the following wells and boreholes -

1. St Lawrence, near Glencoe - 120 feet deep, excess water running away to waste at rate of 4 gallons a minute. (NOTE: The householder would require a licence under the draft Law as it would be beyond the exemption limit.) This is just one example of something which happens in dozens of places around the Island - estimated 1½ million gallons of water per day running to waste.
2. Rozel - 180-190 feet deep, volcanic blowhole, fault covered by lava. 'Strongest pull ever felt' (George Langlois)
3. Rue de Scez - 350 foot bore, flow rate 2000 gallons an hour; second borehole 150 feet deep with dirty water. Water from two distinct layers. Members were also shown map of boreholes drilled by Mr. de la Haye's company
4. Labey Farm in Grouville - 100 feet deep; flow rate 3 to 4 gallons a minute. Enough deep water in this area to supply Queen's Valley reservoir

Further Comments:

George Langlois -

- He believed that there is a great deal of water in an area near the Airport football pitch.
- Sinking a number of deep boreholes in the proximity of Val de la Mar would avoid the need for the planned costly extension of the reservoir.
- Bricquebec (Normandy) is supplied for water by three boreholes alone
- States should investigate what deep groundwater reserves are available to the Island by sinking a number of boreholes to 1000 feet
- Wells at Fort Regent, TA Centre and Elizabeth Castle disregarded by PSD. New pool relies on mains water instead of using groundwater resources.
- Five wells identified by dowser at Queen's Road for JEC Power Station now disused.

Lewis de la Haye -

- Besco laundry - PSD measurement of borehole flow rate vastly underestimated actual flow - 100,000 gallon tank filled overnight.
- Further borehole drilled nearby at La Haule shows East/West water flow.
- BGS talked about the Island's water resources at a conference in Sweden where they maintained that the Island relied on rainwater in the shallow aquifer, refusing to accept deeper resources.

Deputy Baudains

- Referred to list of 50 deep boreholes sent to Public Services (contained in WDEA report) of which 50 were being monitored by PSD themselves. He undertook to check the names of these 10 so that PSD could be asked whether they were still monitoring them.
- When drilling for deep water, one often first finds water in the shallow aquifer; then as the drilling progresses the bore goes dry, before finally 'striking' water at the greater depth, showing that the surface and deep water are separated by a thickness of rock in which there is no water.