

Virginia O'Kelly

Three years ago, my neighbor drilled a well on my property then proceeded to sue me to force access. It is still in litigation and costing me upwards of \$30,000. Rural water rights and dried up wells are causing excessive cost and emotional trauma when the courts are not able to enforce existing property rights. In this case, my neighbor has spent the last 3 years fighting for my water while putting in several cisterns as a back up plan. I am not sure where they are getting their water from. The Dept of Health says they do not get involved in this issue. However, they did say that water from a local city/town could be used legally. Rumors abound about where people are getting their potable water for cisterns. I do not see anything about municipalities providing potable water to rural homes in their area when rural residential wells dry up. Please include at least some reference as to how this water will be accounted for. Personally, I would like to know how DOE is going to keep people from drilling wells wherever they want then sue the other property owner ?