



## Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District

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### Investigation Report

On February 27, 2023, Gary Westbrook (G. Westbrook), General Manager, of the Post of Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (District) received an anonymous tip that a well was being drilled on a piece of property in Burleson County. The tip included the name of the company, Dead-On Directional Drilling, the name of the driller, Steve Dodd (S. Dodd), the owner of the property, Tina Broesche/ Tina Grubbs (T. Grubbs), and the address, 9313 CR 318 Deanville, TX. G. Westbrook asked Michael Redman (M. Redman), Regulatory Compliance Specialist for the District, to conduct some research in the database to see if an application had been filed to drill a well under the owner's name or the property address. After searching the district's database, Redman concluded that no paperwork had been filed and after reviewing the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations Driller License (TDLR) Search, it was determined that S. Dodd did not have a license. M. Redman determined that a site visit was necessary to obtain more information on what was happening at the property. M. Redman and Gregory Perry (G. Perry), Water Resources Specialist for the District, arrived at the site at approximately 9:30 am. M. Redman and G. Perry could not get access to the site, but the drilling rig was visible from the road and pictures were taken (Exhibits 1, 2, & 3). The driller was not on site at this time. At approximately 11:45 am, M. Redman called Craig Andrews (C. Andrews), Field Technician for the District, and requested him to be on the lookout for any drilling activity if he happened to be in the area.

At approximately 12:20 pm, M. Redman had a phone call with T. Grubbs regarding the activity on her property and the possible unlicensed driller drilling the well. At approximately 12:26 pm, M. Redman emailed T. Grubbs the exempt well application (Exhibit 4). At approximately 12:40 pm, C. Andrews notified M. Redman that the driller was on site. At approximately 1:30 pm, M. Redman and G. Perry showed up on site, where they encountered Mr. Jerry Busby (J. Busby) and guest. M. Redman explained to J. Busby that contact was made with T. Grubbs and that M. Redman needed to talk to the driller. J. Busby allowed M. Redman and G. Perry to enter onto the property. Contact was made with the driller who identified himself as S. Dodd. M. Redman noted the location of the well (Exhibit 5). S. Dodd made the statement to M. Redman and G. Perry that he did not have to have a driller's license and did not need one in the State of Texas. S. Dodd would not let M. Redman take pictures of the well that was in the ground. Upon the inquiry from M. Redman to S. Dodd for a business card, S. Dodd intimated that he did not have business cards and that he never had business cards. M. Redman and G. Perry left the site at approximately 1:40 pm.

On February 28, 2023, at approximately 7:00 am, G. Westbrook provided M. Redman with a picture of S. Dodd's business card (Exhibit 6). At approximately 8:33 am, M. Redman sent T. Grubbs an email with a letter attached stating that District employees would be entering the property between 10 am and 3 pm February 28, 2023 (Exhibit 7 & 8). S. Dodd contacted M. Redman at approximately 11:00 am to discuss the well and

what needed to happen moving forward. M. Redman requested that S. Dodd not move forward until an inspection of the well could be conducted. S. Dodd assured M. Redman that he would not install a pump until after the inspection was done.

At approximately 12:49 pm, T. Grubbs emailed M. Redman and inquired into what an inspection was looking for. At approximately 1:05 pm, M. Redman emailed T. Grubbs back explaining what all an inspection entailed and notified T. Grubbs that M. Redman had spoken with S. Dodd earlier that morning and requested that S. Dodd not install the pump until the well inspection was concluded (Exhibit 9). M. Redman and G. Perry arrived on site at approximately 1:50 pm. S. Dodd, J. Busby and Mrs. Jerry Busby (Mrs. J. Busby) were already on site. S. Dodd noted that the depth of well was 160 feet below ground surface, screen depth was 140-160 feet below ground surface and 20 feet of concrete seal was placed from 0-20 feet below ground surface. S. Dodd also noted that he would be placing a 10 gallon per minute (gpm) pump in the well. M. Redman and G. Perry took pictures of the well and the rig S. Dodd was using (Exhibit 10, 11 and 12). S. Dodd made the comments that he was drilling in Washington County, Crosby, Texas, has been drilling since 2019, has drilled 100's of wells, and this was the first one in Burleson County. S. Dodd also made the comment that he was not done with the surface completion of the well and that he would file a Well Report. M. Redman told S. Dodd that he needed to complete the surface slab and to wait until he received word from M. Redman to install the pump. S. Dodd acknowledged the request. M. Redman and G. Perry left the site at approximately 2:20 pm.

At approximately 7:43 pm, M. Redman sent T. Grubbs an email regarding some of the specifics of the inspection. M. Redman asked if T. Grubbs had submitted her paperwork and asked if a downhole camera run could be made before the pump was set in the well. M. Redman also noted a concern with S. Dodd installing the pump since S. Dodd was not a licensed driller or pump installer (Exhibit 13).

On March 1, 2023, T. Grubbs emailed M. Redman at approximately 6:31 am and stated that she was still trying to get the paperwork in, the camera run was not necessary, and that T. Grubbs and S. Dodd had talked the night before and S. Dodd had contacted a license pump installer to install the pump. S. Dodd told T. Grubbs that the pump installer would not be available for a few weeks (Exhibit 14).

On March 2, 2023, T. Grubbs contacted M. Redman at approximately 10:09 am to discuss some information relating to S. Dodd and what was being said in public. T. Grubbs also requested that M. Redman provide her the picture of the business card that he had received. M. Redman emailed the picture to T. Grubbs at approximately 10:23 am (Exhibit 6 & 15).

On March 5, 2023, at approximately 8:51 am, M. Redman received a text from J. Busby stating the S. Dodd was out on-site, finishing up the well (Exhibit 16 and 17).

On March 6, 2023, at approximately 1:35 pm, M. Redman and G. Perry met J. Busby and Mrs. J. Busby on-site to inspect what S. Dodd had done the day before. At approximately 1:40 pm, M. Redman and T. Grubbs had a phone conversation regarding S. Dodd and what had happened the day before and requested that T. Grubbs allow M. Redman and G. Perry to acquire a water sample from the well. M. Redman took pictures of the well at approximately 1:50 pm (Exhibit 18 & 19). M. Redman noted that the surface slab was not the correct slab dimensions according to TDLR standards. M. Redman asked T. Grubbs to provide the receipt that S. Dodd had given to J. Busby. At approximately 3:28 pm, T. Grubbs supplied M. Redman with a picture of the receipt (Exhibit 20).

On March 7, 2023, at approximately 10:06 am, notified T. Grubbs that M. Redman and G. Perry were going to collect a water sample from the well to screen for the presence or absence of *T.coliform* and *E.coli*. At approximately 12:02 pm, M. Redman and G. Perry arrived on site and collected the water samples. While collecting the water samples, M. Redman and G. Perry noted that the water was murky, and the filter constantly had sediment inside of it. M. Redman and G. Perry left the site at approximately 12:30 pm. At approximately 1:07 pm, M. Redman entered in the water samples into the District's incubator.

On March 8, 2023, M. Redman called T. Grubbs at approximately 3:30 pm, to notify her that both samples had come back positive for *E.coli* and *T.coliform* (Exhibit 21).

On March 10, 2023, at approximately 8:58 am, M. Redman made T. Grubbs aware that the pump was going to be pulled out of the well for a camera survey to be conducted. Jeff Fisher (J. Fisher), District Field Technician, J. Busby and John Loehr (J. Loehr), Loehr Drilling; License # 4182, met on-site for J. Loehr to pull the pump so J. Fisher could perform a camera survey (Exhibit 22). M. Redman notified J. Fisher to leave the pump out of the well once the camera survey was completed.

On the morning of March 13, 2023, J. Fisher, M. Redman and G. Perry reviewed the camera survey (Exhibit 20). It was found that the top 5 feet of the well had multiple casing splices, the water level was at approximately 25 feet below ground surface, the screens ran from approximately 28 feet to total depth which was approximately 122.15 feet below surface and looked to be cut by S. Dodd due to some of the screen slots being angled.. This information contradicted the information S. Dodd had provided on February 28, 2023. At approximately 11:40 am, M. Redman arrived on-site and took pictures of the pump and pump wire that had been installed in the well. The pump was rated for 33 gpm which contradicts S. Dodds' information and makes the well a permitted well instead of an exempt well (Exhibits 23, 24, 25, 26) Pictures of the wire were also taken (Exhibits 27 and 28). The pump also showed signs that it was sitting on the bottom of the well bore due to the evidence of sand on the bottom of the pump (Exhibit 29). M. Redman, G. Perry and G. Westbrook met to discuss the condition of the well later in the afternoon and determined that the well needed to be plugged due to the incorrect completion and water quality concerns.

On March 14, 2023, M. Redman contacted T. Grubbs at approximately 8:07 am to discuss the findings of the camera survey and the steps to proceed forward. T. Grubbs told M. Redman that she would be on-site at 1:00 pm and to meet her on-site at that time. M. Redman and G. Perry arrived on-site at approximately 1:00 pm and met with T. Grubbs, J. Busby and Mrs. J. Busby to discuss steps forward and the camera survey. M. Redman made T. Grubbs aware that the well was going to have to be plugged. After discussions on how to move forward, M. Redman and G. Perry left the site at approximately 2:30 pm.

On March 28, 2023, T. Grubbs's well was plugged by J. Loehr (Exhibit 30).

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