Money, politics clog water lines

Cow Island residents wonder when they'll see public water

Kayla Gagnet

For some residents of Cow Island, the wait for clean water is so long that they've given up hope. But the people there are not alone. Residents of Forked Island are also waiting for clean water, and they're not the only ones. In fact, the problems of clean water are widespread throughout the region.

The Forked Island project, which was supposed to bring water to the island, was supposed to be completed last year. But due to various problems, it's still not done. The project was supposed to cost $300,000, but it ended up costing over $400,000. The reasons for the delay are many, including problems with the contractors and the contractors coming in over budget.

Meanwhile, residents are left to deal with contaminated water. The water on Cow Island is so bad that even some of the residents who have access to it are using bottled water. In fact, some of them are buying water in bulk to keep in their homes. It's a costly solution, but it's the only one available.

Mary Trahan, Cow Island

Mary Trahan's brother-in-law is the owner of a mushroom farm on Cow Island. He recently had to shut down his farm because the water was so bad that the mushrooms were contaminated. He says that he had to throw away thousands of dollars worth of mushrooms because they couldn't be sold. He's not alone in this. Many other residents on Cow Island are facing similar problems.

Alternatives, waiting can cost residents

Kayla Gagnet

Getting public water may be costly, but waiting for it is expensive, too. Many in Cow Island stopped using their well water when they realized it was likely contaminated with arsenic. Some have simply stopped using water in other ways. As a result, they've had to buy bottled water to use for cooking and other purposes. For some families, this has meant buying hundreds of dollars worth of bottled water each month.

Brian Hollier is the owner of the regional water company. He says that the company's main goal is to provide clean water to everyone. Hollier has been working with the state and local officials to try to get the project moving again. He's hoping that they can get it done in the next year or two.

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