

# Poverty Point concerns

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## Water is not from Mississippi

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**BY ELEANOR EVANS**  
THE DAILY NEWS

DELHI - According to data from the Louisiana Department of Transportation, four irrigation wells at the Poverty Point reservoir withdrew water from the Mississippi River alluvial aquifer.

But former Poverty Point consultant Mike Thompson said all the water comes from the rain.

The item has sparked a bit of controversy from opponents to the Washington Parish Reservoir site. But Thompson said when the wells were drilled, they used Mississippi water simply to "fill up the lake quickly."

The wells "were put in only to use when there were drought conditions," Thompson said. "They have never been used since we opened the lake, and will probably never be used."

Thompson said the only source of water currently at the lake comes from rainfall. The wells were "put in not by our choice, but by recommendation of the DOTD," he said.

"The filling of the lake came from rainwater, and

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## **WATER:** *concerns are addressed*

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also from two lift wells lying on the eastern dam next to the Bayou Mason river."

Thompson said it's a common misconception that the area's drinking water is imported from the Mississippi River.

Thompson stressed that the wells "are not used to keep the lake full. Rainwater keeps the lake full."

However, Thompson said that in case of drought conditions, two pumps are available on site that can import water from Lake Chicot in Lake Village, Arkansas.

In reply to Mike Thompson about the 17 ground water wells at Poverty Point. Wells producing in excess of fifty thousand gallons per day require registration. D.O.T.D. well files show Poverty Point still uses 4 large-bore 16-inch Groundwater Wells. Taxpayers paid \$13,397 in 2004 to repair the pumping station at Poverty Point.

Lakefront property owners may not tolerate low water levels, but the D.O.T.D requiring Wells at lakes for use in times of drought create problems with groundwater Aquifers. If these wells are required at all reservoirs then the lakes are not needed. Is the Groundwater Commission aware of this D.O.T.D. requirement?

Taxpayers would like to know about the two pumps importing water 60 miles from Lake Chicot at Lake Village Arkansas? What is our agreement with the State of Arkansas? Is this a pipeline, and can other parishes use it to relieve strain on the Sparta Aquifer?

It seems that Mike and Francis Thompson are involved in real estate. Taxpayers would like to know about the 1.2 million dollars spent to develop the island lots at Poverty Point that was sold to Thompson's next-door neighbor for \$621,200 dollars, and Thompson's involvement with Cypress Cove at Poverty Point.

Could it be that Denmon Engineering miscalculated the watershed, and Poverty Point wasn't built for water since it is known as the big boondoggle. Many questions still remain unanswered about Thompson and Poverty Point.

This comment provided by Community Preservation Alliance:

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