

Robert Thompson

To: ask.geology@tn.gov; Ronald.Zurawski@tn.gov; Mike.Hoyal@tn.gov
Subject: Found you while researching sink hole _ Homeowner experiencing major flooding searching for expert advice

TN Geologists,

I was excited to find you while Googling "Tennessee sink hole". I found and read this:

Public Information Series: Subsidence and Sinkholes in East Tennessee

"Limestone or dolomite bedrock creates the potential for both sinkhole and doline formation. The primary threat from dolines comes from flooding and ponding, particularly when they are so wide and shallow that people have tried to build within them."

I could only shake my head when I saw figure 9: Typical karstic landforms" The wooded area behind my home and my back yard looks very much like the left part of the figure.

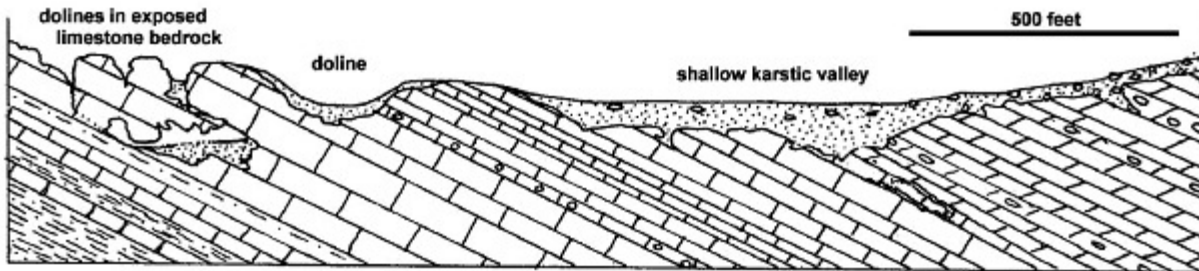
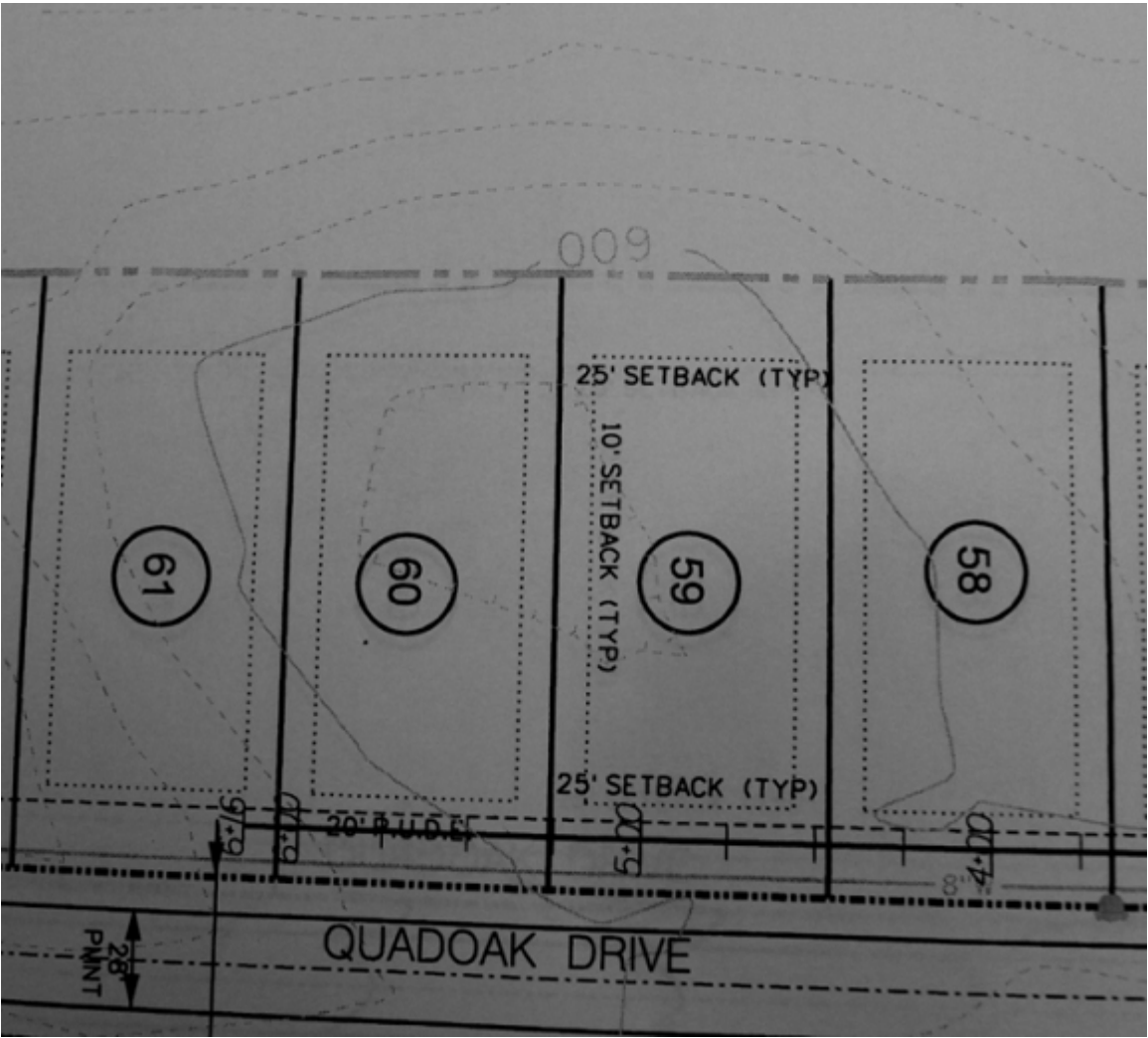


FIGURE 9. Typical karstic landforms in East Tennessee.

I am a homeowner experiencing repeated property flooding. I am searching for professional advice on potential severity, safety concerns, and how and who a person should contact to seek resolution.

A picture is worth a thousand words so I'll start with this.





My home is on lot 60. For the entire time I've owned my home (purchased new July 2008) I've experienced various degrees of flooding. See videos and the (humorous now looking back) steps taken so far:

<http://robertthompson.wordpress.com/2009/09/29/lot-60-277-quad-oak-persistent-flooding-part-1/>

Can you help me understand the topo lines. Is my (and my neighbor's) home built over a doline?

I obtained a copy of the “grading and drainage” plan from the Wilson County Road Commission and Storm Water office today. Someone told me a special geological study should have been performed for building to be allowed on a depression/doline. I can find no evidence of such a study. Could I contact the original engineers on the project “Rob Porter, Civil Site Design Group” to find out? Who would you approach to seek drainage correction and confirmation of safety of the site?

Any information you can provide would be amazing. If you read the full story on my blog (link above) you will see the year long timeline of challenges. You may also have noticed my wife is 7 months pregnant and my first child, a baby girl, will be here in about 8 weeks! I’m an engineer/MBA “fixer” who is incredibly frustrated not knowing how to make this right for my family. I DO NOT want to get into a legal battle – I want to try and give the normal professional obligations and considerations a chance to work. What are your experiences with missed or overlooked significant geological formations and the Civil Engineer / Developer / Builder / Homeowner situations?

I’ll follow up with a phone call or hope to hear from you.

Thank you!

-Robert Thompson

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Photos/Videos at: <http://robertthompson.wordpress.com/>

Map: [http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37122&sl=37.0625,-](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37122&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=92.902743,179.121094&ie=UTF8&ll=36.139742,-86.472981&spn=0.001538,0.002733&t=h&z=19)

[95.677068&sspn=92.902743,179.121094&ie=UTF8&ll=36.139742,-86.472981&spn=0.001538,0.002733&t=h&z=19](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37122&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=92.902743,179.121094&ie=UTF8&ll=36.139742,-86.472981&spn=0.001538,0.002733&t=h&z=19)