

January 16, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: 58 Pa.C.S. § 3218 Determination
Complaint No. 309245
Windham Township, Wyoming County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department has investigated the possible degradation of your water supply well located at the above referenced address located in Windham Township, Wyoming County, in response to a December 15, 2014 notification from Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC that recent gas well drilling activities may have affected your water supply well. On December 16, 2014 the Department collected samples from your home water supply. The samples were submitted to the Department's laboratory in Harrisburg for analysis. The analytical reports for the samples are included, as well as documents that will assist you with interpreting the sample results. The sample results showed methane is present in your water supply at 26.1 mg/L. The results of pre-drill samples collected by Test America on March 31, 2011, indicated that methane levels were non-detect at that time.

Methane is the predominant component of natural gas. Federal water standard limitations have not been established for methane gas. The level of concern begins above 28 mg/l methane, which is referred to as the saturation level. At this level, under normal atmospheric pressure, the water cannot hold additional methane in solution. This may allow the gas to come out of the water and concentrate in the air space of your home or building. There is a physical danger of fire or explosion due to the migration of natural gas into water wells or through soils into dwellings where it could be ignited by sources that are present in most homes/buildings. Natural gas can also cause a threat of asphyxiation, although this is extremely rare.

When the Department is made aware of methane levels greater than 7 mg/l, we notify the water supply owner of the hazards associated with methane in their water supply. Please be aware however, that the methane levels can fluctuate. This means that even with a relatively low level of methane, you should be vigilant of changes in your water that could indicate an increase in methane concentration.

It is the Department's recommendation that all water wells should be equipped with a working vent. This will help alleviate the possibility of concentrating these gases in areas where ignition would pose a threat to life or property. Please note that it is not possible to completely eliminate the hazards of having natural gas in your water supply by simply venting your well.

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Because drilling activities occurred at a gas well within two thousand five hundred feet of your water supply, and the pollution occurred and was reported within one year after completion of those activities, under Section 3218 of the Oil and Gas Act (58 Pa C.S. §3218), the gas well operator is presumed to be responsible for the degradation of your water supply.

The Department is continuing to work to permanently resolve this issue. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Andrea Mullen, P.G. at 570.974.2607.

Sincerely,



Jennifer W. Means
Environmental Program Manager
Eastern Oil and Gas District

Enclosures:

Laboratory Analytical Results
"How to Interpret A Water Analysis Report"

cc:

Jennifer W. Means
Marc B. Cooley
Mike O'Donnell
Matt Shope
Andrea Mullen, P.G.
Sharon Steinbacher
Complaint File # 309245