



August 3, 2018

**CERTIFIED MAIL NO.** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Re:** Water Supply Request for Investigation ID: 335086  
58 Pa. C.S. § 3218 Determination  
Liberty Township, Tioga County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is investigating the possible degradation of your water supply well and spring house located at the above referenced address ("Water Supplies"), in response to a complaint received on June 08, 2018, that recent gas well drilling activities may have affected your Water Supplies. The Department's investigation to this point, prompted by information you provided, indicates that oil and gas activities are presumed to be the cause of the pollution of your Water Supplies.

**Summary of Investigation**

On June 08, 2018, it was reported to the Department that methane gas had been detected in the Water Supply well. On June 26, 2018, the Department collected samples from your Water Supplies. Samples were collected as shown in the enclosed table, and submitted to the Department's laboratory in Harrisburg for analysis.

The June 26, 2018, sample results showed that total coliform bacteria exceeded the applicable water quality standard for both Water Supplies. Total coliform bacteria was detected at 4/100 mL in your well, and at 170/100 mL in your spring house, both of which exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of the presence of total coliform bacteria. Dissolved methane was detected at 13.1 mg/L in your well, which exceeded the DEP unofficial action level of 7 mg/L.

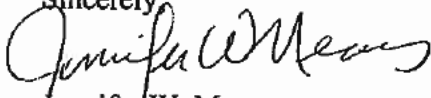
Additionally, the sample results collected by the Department on June 26, 2018 showed microbiological contaminants in the springhouse and water well. The springhouse water sample showed iron-related bacteria was present at 500 CFU/mL and slime-forming bacteria was present at 67,000 CFU/mL. Samples collected from the water well showed slime-forming bacteria was present at 2,500 CFU/mL. Enclosed are documents that may assist in understanding disinfection and associated information regarding private water wells.

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Because drilling activities occurred at a gas well within two thousand five hundred feet (2,500') of your Water Supplies, and the pollution occurred and was reported within one year after completion of those activities, under Section 3218 of the Oil & Gas Act (58 Pa C.S. §3218), the gas well operator is presumed to be responsible for the degradation of your water well. Pre and post-drill water quality analyses from the springhouse were consistent with one another indicating that the springhouse was not impacted by oil and gas activity.

It is the Department's understanding that you are currently being provided alternate water. The Department is continuing to investigate and work to permanently resolve this issue. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Caleb Woolever, Geologic Specialist, at 570.327.0546.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures:

Fact Sheet – Interpreting Water Supply Results  
Fact Sheet – Disinfection of Home Wells and Springs  
Results Table

cc: Stephanie Wharton (email)  
Matthew Nuss (email)  
Brendon Logan (email)  
Sharon Steinbacher (email)  
Complaint File #: 335086