

# MarcellusGas.Org

## Document Disclaimer

The information contained in this document represents content obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. MarcellusGas.Org makes no claims whatsoever as to the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of the information provided.

By downloading this document, you agree that you have accepted the terms and conditions set forth in the MarcellusGas.Org User Agreement located at:

[http://www.marcellusgas.org/terms\\_of\\_use.php](http://www.marcellusgas.org/terms_of_use.php)



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DISTRICT OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

9/5/2012

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. [REDACTED]

Re: 58 Pa.C.S § 3218 Determination  
Complaint No. 286491  
Moreland Township, Lycoming County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department has investigated the possible degradation of your water supply well located at [REDACTED] in response to a 1/24/2012 complaint that gas well drilling activities may have affected your water well. On 1/25/2012, 3/8/2012, 5/16/2012, and 7/18/2012, the Department collected samples from your home water supply. The samples were submitted to the Department's laboratory in Harrisburg for analysis, and the analytical reports for the samples were previously submitted to you. The sample results showed methane was present at 21 - 101 mg/L in your water supply. At this time, the Department's investigation indicates that gas well drilling has impacted your water supply.

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.

9/5/2012

[REDACTED]

The Department is continuing to work to permanently resolve this issue. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact William J. Kosmer, P.G. at 570-974-2613.

Sincerely,



Jennifer W. Means  
Environmental Program Manager  
Oil and Gas Management

cc:

Jennifer Means  
William J. Kosmer, P.G.  
Jeremy Daniel  
Bernard Tironie  
Charlie Lockard  
Complaint File 286491  
[REDACTED]