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pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

July 13, 2011

Re: Complaint ID No. 277438
Act 223 Section 208 Determination
Bradford Township, McKean County

Dear [REDACTED]

As you may be aware, the Department is conducting an investigation into the February 28, 2011, explosion of the [REDACTED] residence located at [REDACTED]. The investigation revealed natural gas entering the [REDACTED] residence via a floor drain located in the basement. Additionally, three (3) wells, [REDACTED] owned by you, were found to be abandoned and located within 800 feet of the [REDACTED] residence. One (1) of these wells, [REDACTED] is located within 275 feet of the [REDACTED] residence and was found to have combustible gas in the soil around the well head ranging from 3.5% to 60%. Therefore, the abandoned wells were selected to be plugged based on the proximity to the [REDACTED] residence and presence of combustible gas in the soil around the [REDACTED]. Subsequent plugging of the three (3) abandoned wells resulted in no further detection of natural gas in the floor drain.

Based on its investigation, the Department has determined oil and gas activities of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has allowed natural gas to enter the [REDACTED] residence via the floor drain.

Sincerely,

S. Craig Lobins
Regional Manager
Oil and Gas Management

cc: Water Quality Specialist, Brian Ayers
Oil and Gas Inspector, Timothy Curry
Compliance Specialist, Jennifer Kosco
Joe Lichtinger
File

SCL:lsl:mw