

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



October 28, 2014

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. [REDACTED]

Re: 58 Pa.C.S § 3218 Determination
Complaint ID 301074
Dimock Township, Susquehanna County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department has investigated the possible degradation of your water supply well located at the address above in Dimock Township, Susquehanna County in response to a report that gas well drilling activities may have affected your water well.

On 11/6/2013, 3/4/2014, 5/27/2014, 6/3/2014, 6/10/2014 and 6/17/2014, the Department collected samples from your water supply. The samples were submitted to the Department's laboratory in Harrisburg for analysis. The sample results showed manganese in your water at 0.14 milligrams per liter (mg/l) on 11/6/2013, 0.12 mg/l on 3/4/2014, 0.13 mg/l on 5/27/2014, 0.14 mg/l on 6/10/2014 and 0.15 mg/l on 6/17/2014. These concentrations exceed the secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) of 0.05 mg/l for manganese. SMCLs are guidelines regulating compounds that may cause aesthetic effects (taste, odor, color) in drinking water. The samples showed barium in your water at 2.21 mg/l on 11/6/2013, 2.09 mg/l on 5/27/2014, 2.22 mg/l on 6/10/2014 and 2.28 mg/l on 6/17/2014. These concentrations exceed the primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 2 mg/l for barium. Primary MCLs are intended to reflect potential dangers to human health.

The sample results showed methane was present in your water supply at 47.2 mg/l on 11/6/2013, 39.5 mg/l on 3/4/2014, 45.7 mg/l on 5/27/2014, 46.6 mg/l on 6/3/2014, 41.2 mg/l on 6/10/2014 and 43.8 mg/l on 6/17/2014. In addition, ethane was detected in your water supply at 0.025 mg/l on 11/6/2013, 0.025 mg/l on 3/4/2014, 0.029 mg/l on 5/27/2014, 0.033 mg/l on 6/3/2014, 0.028 mg/l on 6/10/2014 and 0.029 mg/l on 6/17/2014.

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

10/28/2014

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.

It is our understanding that methane alarms were installed in your home in March 2014, and that your water well has been vented.

The Department is continuing to work to permanently resolve this issue. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Eric Rooney, P.G. at 570-346-5543.

Sincerely,



Jennifer W. Means
Environmental Program Manager
Oil and Gas Management

Enclosures:

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

cc:

Marc Cooley
Michael O'Donnell
Briana Cunningham
Eric Rooney, P.G.
Sharon Steinbacher

