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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

February 2, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: 58 Pa. C.S. § 3218 Notice of Presumption
Complaint No. 309261
Eldred Township, Lycoming County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department has initiated an investigation of the possible degradation of your water supply well located at the address above in Eldred Township, Lycoming County in response to a 12/16/2014 complaint that recent gas well drilling activities may have affected your water supply well. On 12/17/2014 the Department collected samples from your water supply and the samples were submitted to the Department's laboratory in Harrisburg for analysis. The analytical reports for the sample results, as well as documents to assist you with interpreting the results, were previously mailed to you on 1/22/2015. The sample results revealed that turbidity was present at 2.75 NTU on 12/17/2014, which was elevated from <1 NTU in the pre-drill sample collected by Fairway Laboratories on 3/26/2014 and exceeded the state drinking water primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 1 NTU for turbidity. Iron was present at 0.23 mg/L on 12/17/2014, compared to the pre-drill result of 0.09 mg/L on 3/26/2014. This represents a slight elevation in the concentration, although it does not exceed the state drinking water secondary maximum contaminate level (SMCL). Primary MCLs are intended to reflect potential dangers to human health, while secondary MCLs reflect the aesthetics of the water (i.e. taste, smell, etc.).

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 P. Ben Bahner at 570.321.6522.

Sincerely,

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