

# MarcellusGas.Org

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**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

June 4, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: 58 Pa. C.S. § 3218 Notice of Presumption  
Complaint No. 311069  
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 4/21/2015 complaint that recent gas well drilling activities may have affected your water supply well. On 4/22/2015, 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 samples are included, as well as documents that will assist you with interpreting the sample results. The sample results revealed that Arsenic was present at 0.0197 mg/L which exceeded the primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.010 mg/L, compared to the pre-drill sample level of 0.0081 mg/L collected by Benchmark Analytics on 10/22/2014. Turbidity was present at 15.44 NTU on 04/22/2015, which was elevated from 1.47 NTU in the pre-drill sample collected on 10/22/2014. Both exceeded the state drinking water primary MCL of 1 NTU. Iron was present at 2.58 mg/L and Manganese was present at 0.211 mg/L on 04/22/2015, compared to the pre-drill result of 0.523 mg/L and 0.185 mg/L, respectively. Both exceeded the state drinking water secondary maximum contaminant 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