

Ansell, Mark

From: Welsh, Douglas
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 2:19 PM
To: Lobins, Craig; Kucsma, Paul; Ansell, Mark; Oprendeck, Anthony; Karlinsey, Herbert; O'Donnell, Michael
Subject: Water well explosion Susquehanna County

Norma Fiorentino
570-278-2193
RR6 Box 6212
Montrose, PA 18801

At the intersection in Dimock go east on the Brooklyn Road, SR 2024, about 1 mile, first house on south side of road past Carter Road. On 1/1/2009 what appears to be an explosion blew a cement lid and 1 row of blocks off the pit the Fiorentino water well is in. The cap was not blown off the water well. Gas appears to be concentrated at the wall of the pit on the side facing the Baker well. With the lid off no gas is detected. Cabot supplied a tarp to cover the pit to try to keep the water from freezing. With the tarp on gas is detected.

The water has been shut off and the lines are freezing. A light was put in the pit to try to keep the lines from freezing. They are afraid to use the water under any circumstance.

Springville Quad, Section 3
Dimock Township

Douglas Welsh | Oil & Gas Inspector Supervisor
Department of Environmental Protection
230 Chestnut Street | Meadville, PA 16335
Phone: 814-332-6854 | Fax: 814-332-6120
www.depweb.state.pa.us

Lobins, Craig

From: Tarbell, Freda
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 8:47 AM
To: Burch, Kelly; Lobins, Craig; Kucsma, Paul; Gleeson, Robert; Rozakis, James
Subject: FW: Susquehanna County Explosion Article

-----Original Message-----

From: Spadoni, Daniel
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 8:37 AM
To: Carmon, Mark; Tarbell, Freda
Cc: Candori, Teresa; Weaver, Neil
Subject: Susquehanna County Explosion Article

1-24-09

Homeowner blames blast on gas drilling

By MICHAEL LESTER

Press Enterprise Writer

MONTROSE — The water well in Norma Fiorentino's front yard exploded New Year's Day, and she blames a natural gas drilling operation at a neighbor's house.

"What else could it be?" said Fiorentino, who has lived at the same house for 30 years here in Susquehanna County.

Environmental officials have found "elevated natural gas levels" in four water wells, and some residents have even reported flammable well water.

It's left Fiorentino and some neighbors afraid to drink their water, even though state officials say it's safe.

"Let them take it and drink it," Fiorentino, 65, said Friday.

She's grateful for the media attention her ordeal is attracting because it will alert others, like residents in Columbia County, about the potential dangers of gas drilling.

Columbia residents have for months been signing leases for gas exploration. Gas companies have yet to begin drilling wells here, though.

County Commissioner Chris Young said Friday that officials from Colorado-based Citrus Energy recently told commissioners they plan to start drilling about 12 wells per year just north of Benton. That work is expected to begin in May.

Fire water?

In Fiorentino's neighborhood, residents have reported flammable well water, according to one company official quoted by a Scranton newspaper.

Those residents claim they've yielded "puffs of flame" after shaking a bottle of well water, uncapping the bottle and lighting a match, Kenneth Komoroski of Cabot Oil and Gas told The Times-Tribune of Scranton.

"I'm not gonna go there," said Mark Carmon, a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection, when asked to address claims of flammable water.

The DEP is trying to determine the source of the natural gas found in water from Fiorentino's well and some of her neighbors' wells.

In fact, Carmon says the state is keeping an eye on water wells at about 20 homes for possible contamination.

He said 18 to 20 natural gas wells are located within a roughly one-mile radius in Fiorentino's rural neighborhood. But DEP investigators have not yet confirmed if those gas wells are the source of the water pollution.

In the meantime, the state has instructed residents how to vent their water wells of natural gas, Carmon said.

'We're all poor'

Even though no state or federal drinking water standards exist to tell the public when water polluted with natural gas is unsafe to drink, the DEP determined all of the residents' well water was OK, Carmon said.

The DEP based that decision on "our own past experience. We didn't see any levels that would cause concern," Carmon said.

Although DEP has not pinpointed a source for the contaminated water, the Cabot company has agreed to supply water from an alternative source to four residents, the Tribune-Times reported.

Fiorentino said she holds a lease agreement with Cabot for gas exploration on her property, but Cabot has not offered to provide her with water.

She has been filling jugs of water from her daughter-in-law's next door and shuttling them to her house.

Cabot has not drilled a gas well on Fiorentino's property, but it has drilled one on the property behind hers, she said.

"We're all poor people around here," Fiorentino told the Scranton newspaper in a story published earlier this week.

"We thought (gas leases were) going to be great for us. But we didn't expect explosions."

The blast at Fiorentino's house on New Year's Day blew apart a concrete slab that sat atop her water well.

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Department of Environmental Protection
208 West Third Street, Suite 101, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: (570) 327-3659 | Fax: (570) 327-3565
www.depweb.state.pa.us

Lobins, Craig

From: Lobins, Craig
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 3:21 PM
To: Augustine, Kevin
Subject: FW: Water well explosion Susquehanna County

Location and update of incident

-----Original Message-----

From: Welsh, Douglas
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 2:19 PM
To: Lobins, Craig; Kucsma, Paul; Ansell, Mark; Oprendek, Anthony; Karlinsey, Herbert; O'Donnell, Michael
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The water has been shut off and the lines are freezing. A light was put in the pit to try to keep the lines from freezing. They are afraid to use the water under any circumstance.

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Lobins, Craig

From: Welsh, Douglas
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 1:03 PM
To: Lobins, Craig
Subject: RE: Water Well Explosion

Cabot started drilling 8/11/08. They were there for a lot longer than normal because of problems. We don't have a well record yet. There isn't anyone answering the phone at the Fiorentino's, so I don't know if they will allow us to sample.

-----Original Message-----
From: Lobins, Craig
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 12:41 PM
To: Welsh, Douglas
Subject: FW: Water Well Explosion

Doug - When was the nearest well drilled?

-----Original Message-----
From: Burch, Kelly
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 11:51 AM
To: Lobins, Craig
Cc: Sherman, Michael D
Subject: Re: Water Well Explosion

When was the nearest well drilled and/or completed?

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----
From: Lobins, Craig
To: Augustine, Kevin; Oprendeck, Anthony; O'Donnell, Michael; Karlinsey, Herbert; Kucsma, Paul; Welsh, Douglas
Cc: Burch, Kelly; Wozniak, Gary; Tarbell, Freda; Rozakis, James; Bedrin, Michael; Greenfield, Gary; Gilius, Ronald
Sent: Fri Jan 02 10:39:54 2009
Subject: Water Well Explosion

As Reported to Northeast ER at 5:00 PM, Thursday via Charlene Mose, Susquehanna Co, Dimock Twp

A water well pit exploded yesterday (1/1/09) at the residence of Norma Fiorentino (570) 278-2913 Box 6212 State Route 3023, Brooklyn to Dimock Rd. Approximately 1 mile from Dimock near Carter Rd.

Fire Department and Cabot responded
Appeared to be an explosion in water well pit
Water well pit 25 ft from the house
Water well is 25 ft deep
Water well services a vacant trailer and occupied house, Norma Fiorentino No gas detected by Fire Dept/Cabot, last night (1/1/09) Ms Fiorentino sons worked on the well/pit about a week ago. Closest gas well: Cabot 2 miles away

Attached is a map of wells in the area.

O&G will collect a water sample on Monday and collect a gas sample if present.
<<NETOPOS.pdf>>

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Lobins, Craig

From: Lobins, Craig
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 1:05 PM
To: Burch, Kelly
Cc: Sherman, Michael D
Subject: RE: Water Well Explosion

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Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 11:51 AM
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When was the nearest well drilled and/or completed?

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Lobins, Craig

From: Burch, Kelly
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 1:31 PM
To: Lobins, Craig
Subject: Re: Water Well Explosion

Thanks. Will need all available info for my Monday afternoon staff call.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Lobins, Craig
To: Burch, Kelly
Cc: Sherman, Michael D
Sent: Fri Jan 02 13:04:34 2009
Subject: RE: Water Well Explosion

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Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 11:51 AM
To: Lobins, Craig
Cc: Sherman, Michael D
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From: Lobins, Craig
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 10:40 AM
To: Augustine, Kevin; Oprendek, Anthony; O'Donnell, Michael; Karlinsey, Herbert; Kucsma, Paul; Welsh, Douglas
Cc: Burch, Kelly; Wozniak, Gary; Tarbell, Freda; Rozakis, James; Bedrin, Michael; Greenfield, Gary; Gilius, Ronald
Subject: Water Well Explosion



NETOPOS.pdf (1
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