



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

12/6/10

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7010 0290 0003 1042 7594

Re: Act 223, Section 208 Determination
Complaint No.
Alba Boro, Bradford County

Dear

The Department has investigated the possible degradation of your water supply well located at , PA, in response to a 10/15/2010 complaint that recent gas well drilling activities may have affected your water well. On 10/15/2010, the Department collected samples from your home water supply. 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 showed methane is present at 9 mg/l in your water supplies. Methane gas was also detected in the headspace of your water wells. The Department investigation indicates that gas well drilling has impacted your water supply.


Methane is the predominant component of natural gas. Drinking water standard limitations have not been established for methane gas and the Department is not aware of any associated health risks. The true 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. The potential hazard occurs when the water is used for extended periods of time. 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 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 3 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

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