The Department has investigated, in response to your September 18, 2008 complaint, the possible contamination of your water supply by nearby road construction associated with oil and gas activities.

After reviewing the results of your spring water analyses, aside from slightly elevated levels of iron (a secondary contaminant) from the upper spring's sample on September 30, 2008, all other parameters were within established drinking water standards. In comparison to the water sampling you had conducted on January 24, 2008, your spring water appears to currently be slightly harder and more mineralized in nature than it was on January 24, 2008. Turbidity issues reported as recently as October 26, 2008 indicates that road material continues to infiltrate your spring after episodes of heavy rain. The Department has concluded that your water supply has become contaminated as a result of the road construction associated with oil and gas activity upslope of your spring collection system. Efforts have been taken by U.S. Energy to place a more durable road surface in the proximity of your spring. The Department will continue to monitor the progress of these improvements until the problem is rectified.

Enclosed are the complete water sample analysis results from the sampling conducted on September 18, 2008 and September 30, 2008, along with a fact sheet to help you interpret the report. If you have any questions, or if any future issues arise, please contact me at 814-723-3273.

Sincerely,

Brian B. Ayers
Water Quality Specialist
Oil & Gas Management

Enclosures

cc: NWRO
    WDO

BBA:rm