



July 22, 2025

**CERTIFIED MAIL NO.** [REDACTED]

Re: Water Supply Request for Investigation ID 356376  
 58 Pa. C.S. § 3218 Determination  
 Delmar Township, Tioga County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection (“Department”) has been investigating the possible degradation of your water supply located at the above-referenced address (“Water Supply”) from oil and gas activities. The Department has determined that your Water Supply was adversely affected by oil and gas activities, including but not limited to the drilling, alteration, or operation of an oil or gas well. The information upon which this determination is based is summarized below.

Please note that without any treatment, water quality sampling indicates that your water quality for methane rises above the Department’s Action Level standard, and your water quality has not met (*i.e.*, is worse than) the following health and/or aesthetic statewide standards. Note that Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (“MCLs”) are intended to reflect potential dangers to human health, while secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (“SMCLs”) reflect the aesthetics of the water (*i.e.*, taste, smell, etc.). None of the parameters in the Water Supply were above a MCL; however, there was a presence of total coliform which exceeds its SMCL, as set forth in the table below.

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Statewide Standards or Recommended Levels</b>	<b>Your <u>Highest</u> Sample Results that were Detected Above Statewide Standards/Levels</b>
Methane	mg/L	7**	31
Total Coliform	c/mL	Absence	Presence

\*\* Department’s Action Level standard for dissolved methane in groundwater

**Summary of Investigation**

On April 28, 2021, the Department was notified that methane gas was detected in your Water Supply and in the headspace of your Water Supply. Subsequently, water quality samples were collected from the Water Supply on several occasions by the Department and private consultants. The samples were submitted to the Department's laboratory in Harrisburg or to an accredited third-party laboratory for analysis. The analytical reports for the samples collected by the Department were previously provided to you but are summarized for your convenience in the enclosed table along with sample results provided by Seneca Resources Company, LLC. An additional document is enclosed to assist you with interpreting those results.

Laboratory analytical data collected over the investigation period indicates concentrations of methane ranging from 12 mg/L to 31 mg/L. Free methane gas in the headspace of the Water Supply well has ranged between 0 % and 50 % gas by volume. In order to determine potential origins of the methane in the Water Supply, samples of the methane were sent to a specialized laboratory for isotopic and compositional analysis. The isotopic and compositional analyses allowed for a more detailed characterization of methane in the Water Supply. The isotopic and compositional analyses indicate that the methane in your Water Supply is related to oil and gas activities.

Methane is the predominant component of natural gas. Federal water standard limitations have not been established for methane gas. The 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. 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 7 mg/L, it notifies 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 would pose a threat to life or property. Please note that it is not possible to completely eliminate the hazards of having natural gas in your water supply by simply venting your well. An additional document is enclosed to assist you with further understanding the methane present in your Water Supply.

The Department is continuing to work to permanently resolve the issue with your Water Supply. Please contact William Kosmer, P.G. at 570-974-2613 if you have any questions about the Department's determination regarding your Water Supply.

Any person aggrieved by this action may appeal the action to the Environmental Hearing Board (Board) pursuant to Section 4 of the Environmental Hearing Board Act, 35 P.S. § 7514, and the Administrative Agency Law, 2 Pa. C.S. Chapter 5A. The Board's address is:

Environmental Hearing Board  
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Second Floor  
400 Market Street  
P.O. Box 8457  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8457

TDD users may contact the Board through the Pennsylvania Relay Service, 800-654-5984.

Appeals must be filed with the Board within 30 days of receipt of notice of this action unless the appropriate statute provides a different time. This paragraph does not, in and of itself, create any right of appeal beyond that permitted by applicable statutes and decisional law.

A Notice of Appeal form and the Board's rules of practice and procedure may be obtained online at [www.ehb.pa.gov](http://www.ehb.pa.gov) or by contacting the Secretary to the Board at 717-787-3483. The Notice of Appeal form and the Board's rules are also available in braille and on audiotape from the Secretary to the Board.

**IMPORTANT LEGAL RIGHTS ARE AT STAKE. YOU SHOULD SHOW THIS DOCUMENT TO A LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD A LAWYER, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE PRO BONO REPRESENTATION. CALL THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD AT 717-787-3483 FOR MORE INFORMATION. YOU DO NOT NEED A LAWYER TO FILE A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE BOARD.**

**IF YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS ACTION, YOUR APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITH AND RECEIVED BY THE BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF THIS ACTION.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer W. Means". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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

Enclosures:

Laboratory Analytical Table  
"How to Interpret A Water Analysis Report"  
"Methane Gas and Water Wells"

cc:

William J. Kosmer, P.G.  
Stephanie Wharton  
Matt Nuss  
Carrie Knapp  
Complaint File # 356376