



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

May 14, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: Request for Investigation 358591
Stray Gas Migrating into Water Supply – Positive Determination
Porter Township, Jefferson County

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is regarding your water supply listed in Exhibit A (“Water Supply”). The Department’s investigation indicates that oil and gas activities impacted your Water Supply. This information is summarized below.

CASE INFORMATION:

Date of Complaint	Nature of Complaint (odor, taste, quantity, use, color)	Sample Results Above Statewide Standards or Recommended Levels
August 4, 2021	Bubbling and gas odor in the Water Supply	Iron, Manganese, free and dissolved natural gas

On August 4, 2021, Diversified Gas and Oil PLC (“Diversified”) notified the Department of stray gas migrating into your Water Supply. Diversified and the Department investigated the nearest gas well, the [REDACTED] Gas Well, [REDACTED], which is 335 from the Water Supply.

Bubbling was observed in the gas well and gas was detected in the surrounding shallow soil. In addition, bubbling was observed inside the Water Supply and 100% combustible gas by volume was detected inside the water well casing.

On August 5, 2021, Diversified vented the [REDACTED] Gas Well, and after four days the free gas level in the Water Supply significantly decreased. Production and annular gas samples were collected from the [REDACTED] Gas Well, and free gas and water samples were collected from the Water Supply. The gas sample results indicate that the free gas venting from the Water Supply was similar to the gas from the [REDACTED] Gas Well indicating that the gas well may have been the source of the stray gas entering the Water Supply. Diversified elected to plug the [REDACTED] Gas Well and afterwards the gas levels in the Water Supply continued to drop.

Low amounts of free and dissolved gas continue to be detected in the Water Supply and the Department recommends that the Water Supply remain vented. 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 eliminate the hazards of having natural gas in your Water Supply by simply venting your well. It is anticipated that the free and dissolved gas levels will continue to decrease. Please refer to the enclosed Fact Sheet: Methane Gas and Water Wells for additional information on venting water wells.

During the Department's investigation, water samples were collected from your Water Supply. The water sample results indicate that your water quality exceeds statewide standards for iron and manganese. Iron and manganese are not health concerns in drinking water but have secondary drinking water standards because they cause staining and can impart a bitter metallic taste to the water (PSU). Both occur naturally in many water supplies in Western Pennsylvania due to the types of rocks the groundwater encounters as it flows to wells. These levels can naturally fluctuate throughout the year due to seasonal variation. Levels can also fluctuate year over year due to climate variability and other influences. Increases in iron and manganese, in some cases, have been attributed to methane migrating into a water supply. Your water is being treated with a water softener and an iron filter, these systems can remove small amounts of iron and magnesium. It appears that your current treatment system is effectively treating your water.

Trace levels of gas were detected in the living space and basement of your home. It appears that this gas may have been related to the home's gas line being compromised. The gas line was replaced and afterwards the gas levels inside your home dropped below detection levels. In some cases, stray gas may enter basements and crawlspaces when a water supply is impacted by oil and gas activity. Please be aware that methane levels in the ground or a water supply 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. Changing conditions can allow gas to migrate to basements and crawlspaces. Consequently, 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. Please refer to the enclosed Fact Sheet: Methane Migration into Occupied Buildings for additional details on methane migration.

Based on oil and gas mapping, the isotopic and compositional analysis of the gas samples, water sample results, free gas monitoring of the Water Supply, and observations made after the venting and subsequent plugging of the Coleman Gas Well, the Department has determined that the Coleman Gas Well was the source of stray gas impacting the 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 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.

This letter formally closes your complaint. If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Aaron O'Hara at 814-308-3118.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Dudzic

Scott M. Dudzic
Northwest District Oil and Gas Manager
District Oil and Gas Operations

Enclosures:

Exhibit A
DEP Fact Sheet: Methane Migration into Occupied Buildings
DEP Fact Sheet: Methane Gas and Water Wells
PSU: Iron and Manganese in Private Water Systems

c: Joe Lichtinger (email)
Jason Branan (email)
Brian Shank (email)

Jennifer McDonough, OCC (email)
Paul Strobel, OCC (email)
Aaron O'Hara (email)

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Diversified Production LLC
101 McQuiston Dr.
Jackson Center, Pennsylvania 16133

CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit A

