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pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DISTRICT OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

February 20, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. [REDACTED]

Re: 58 Pa.C.S § 3218 Determination
Complaint No. 280207
Stevens Township, Bradford County

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department has investigated the possible degradation of your water supply well located at the address referenced above in response to a 5/26/2011 report that recent gas well drilling activities may have affected your water supply. On 8/18/2011 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 manganese in your water at 0.51 milligrams per liter (mg/L) on 8/18/2011. In addition, the sample results showed iron in your water at 2.86 mg/L on 8/18/2011. These concentrations exceed the secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) of 0.05 mg/l for manganese and 0.3 mg/l for iron. In addition, your water supply well went dry while Southwestern Energy Production Company (Southwestern) was drilling the vertical section of the [REDACTED] gas well.

Because drilling activities occurred at a gas well within one thousand feet of the your water supply, and the pollution occurred and was reported within six (6) months of the drilling of the well, under the prior Oil and Gas Act of 1984 Section 208, and now enforced under Section 3218 of the Oil and Gas Act (58 Pa C.S. §3218), the gas well operator was presumed to have been responsible for the degradation of your water supply.

A document provided to the Department by Southwestern, apparently signed by you and dated 6/8/2013, indicates that you waived any additional water tests in relation to your water supply complaint. Our attempts to discuss this waiver with you have been unsuccessful and you have not returned our calls. Under these circumstances, the Department does not anticipate taking any further action in this matter and will close your complaint.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Eric Rooney, P.G. at 570-346-5543.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Means
Environmental Program Manager
Oil and Gas Management