



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SECRETARY

July 12, 2012

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.
Executive Director, Clean Air Council
135 South 19th Street, Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19013

Dear Mr. Minott:

Thank you for your June 26, 2012, letter regarding a methane sampling survey in Leroy Township, Bradford County. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has reviewed your letter and the attached June 8, 2012, report titled "Report to the Clean Air Council on Field Inspection and Methane Sampling Survey of Leroy Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, 8 June 2012 performed by Gas Safety, Inc."

First, let me tell you that this situation was immediately grasped by the Department and DEP immediately responded. The situation is, and at all times was, under control by DEP. Indeed, at this point in time the situation is for the most part over.

On May 19, 2012, DEP was notified of a methane gas migration event in Leroy Township. An immediate response to address potential safety concerns and to delineate the areal extent of the incident was jointly undertaken by DEP and Chesapeake Energy staff. At all times, DEP's activities in this regard were very transparent to the public. Indeed, on May 21, 2012, two weeks prior to the Clean Air Council's (CAC) investigation, DEP issued a press statement describing these activities. I have enclosed a copy of that statement to the press herein.

Additionally, an evaluation of Chesapeake's nearby Morse well pad was undertaken, revealing the presence of a failed packer that was installed to protect previously installed up-hole perforations, which were squeezed with cement. Those remedial activities occurred as part of a remediation effort that was being conducted under a previous Consent Order and Agreement between Chesapeake and DEP. During the operations to repair/replace the packer, the up-hole perforations were exposed to gas pressure from deeper in the well. It appears that the pressure may have caused gas to escape through these perforations into the shallow subsurface geologic section. Operations have been undertaken to "re-squeeze" the up-hole perforations and the gas wells are being monitored to determine the effectiveness of the repairs. At present, we continue to monitor the site and those remedial actions have proven to be successful.

Since the onset of the incident, DEP has undertaken considerable monitoring and investigative activities in the area. While investigatory activities are still ongoing, a significant improvement (i.e. substantial decrease in observed methane concentrations/expressions) has been observed in the private water supplies and surface water bodies in the area.

The Department has been responsive to the gas migration incident in Leroy Township since its initial onset, and we continue to work to resolve this issue. Should you have any further questions regarding the Leroy gas migration investigation, please feel free to contact Jennifer Means, Eastern District Oil and Gas Manager, by e-mail at jenmeans@pa.gov or by telephone at 570.321.6550.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Krancer
Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Shawn M. Garvin, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 3
Diana Esher, Air Protection Division Director, U.S. EPA Region 3
Michael D'Andrea, U.S. EPA Region 3
Lora Werner, Regional Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry,
U.S. EPA Region 3
Representative Tina Pickett
Vince Brisini, Deputy for Waste, Air and Radiation and Remediation, PA DEP
Muhammad Zaman, Environmental Program Manager, PA DEP



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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News for Immediate Release

May 21, 2012

DEP Statement on Leroy Township Gas Migration Investigation

Williamsport – DEP's Oil and Gas Program and Chesapeake Energy are currently investigating a possible methane gas migration issue in Leroy Township, Bradford County, first reported to DEP on Saturday evening, May 19.

Two private drinking water wells have methane in the headspace and have been vented. A mobile water treatment unit has been set up at one residence and a methane monitor installed in the home; a temporary water supply tank has been set up at the other residence.

There has also been gas bubbling documented in nearby wetlands. Chesapeake's Morse well pad contains two wells and is about one-half mile from the impacted private wells.

DEP has sampled four private wells in the area. Chesapeake's consultant is screening all private wells within a 2,500 foot radius of the Morse pad. The investigation is continuing and no determination has been made as to the source or sources of the methane.

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