UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JAN 19 2012

The Honorable Michael Krancer, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2063

Dear ~~Secretary Krancer~~ Mike:

As discussed with you today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to perform well water sampling at 61 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pennsylvania to further assess the potential for exposure to hazardous substances present in the affected homes' water. In addition, EPA believes it is appropriate to ensure delivery of alternate water to four homes where the well water presents a health concern, based on data currently available to EPA and previously provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Please see the enclosed Action Memorandum for more details and our rationale for concluding that these four homes require alternate water as soon as possible.

Today, we will request that Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation (Cabot) provide water to these four homes with a deadline that they arrange for the delivery by 2:00 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2012. We will advise you of Cabot's response.

As discussed during our telephone conversation, EPA is requesting that PADEP consider either taking the lead immediately for the coordination and oversight of Cabot in the provision of water to the four homes or taking over these responsibilities at some point in the future. We understand that PADEP wishes to partner on Dimock sampling efforts. Per your instructions, EPA will coordinate on sampling with Mr. Scott Perry, Acting Deputy Secretary, Bureau of Oil and Gas Management.

Please advise me by close of business, Thursday, January 19, 2012 if PADEP wishes to immediately coordinate with Cabot to provide water to the four homes. If you need additional time to determine whether PADEP will direct Cabot to provide water, EPA will proceed with water delivery tomorrow and we can transition the lead for that activity to PADEP in the future.

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If you choose to participate in either of these activities, we would also ask that you designate a point of contact to coordinate with our On-Scene Coordinator.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss these actions further.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

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