



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

SEAN D. LOGAN, DIRECTOR

*Division of Mineral Resources Management*  
**Scott Kell, Deputy Chief**  
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October 31, 2008

Dear Bainbridge Township Resident,

In response to citizen questions regarding the potability of ground water from water wells in the Bainbridge Township investigation area, I asked the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to perform an independent review of the water quality data that has been generated as a result of our investigation. The ODH reviewed the two sets of water quality analyses generated during the February/March 2008 sampling event. I also provided the ODH with the water quality data for samples collected on behalf of Thrasher, Dinsmore and Dolan and analyzed by Coshocton Environmental Testing laboratory.

Attached is a copy of the letter prepared by Dr. Robert Frey, Chief of the Health Assessment Section within the Bureau of Environmental Health. The letter prepared by the ODH speaks for itself; but I would like to highlight several conclusions as follows:

1. Trace levels of Volatile Organic Compounds present in five wells “pose no health threat to residents” (Note: DMRM also concluded that these trace chemicals were not associated with oil field activity including operations at the English No. 1 well).
2. Thirty-seven wells had sodium levels exceeding 20 parts per million, the US EPA Drinking Water Advisory for individuals on 500 mg/day restricted sodium diets. The DMRM has repeatedly advised local residents who are on sodium-restricted diets to discuss their water quality results with their physician (Note: The DMRM has determined that elevated sodium concentrations are naturally occurring or associated with road salt or water softener discharges, not oil field activities).
3. Nine wells had manganese concentrations exceeding the US EPA Lifetime Health Advisory Standard (300 ppb). The DMRM has reviewed these nine samples and determined that in some cases, the high manganese concentrations may be related to high concentrations of total suspended solids. The DMRM is planning to re-sample these nine water wells, and will contact local residents to schedule a mutually convenient time to sample these water wells.
4. The only exceedance of a US EPA Primary Maximum Health Level (Barium at 2.5ppm) was found in a water well that was not affected by natural gas. The ODH concludes that this elevated concentration was “likely the result of natural geochemical conditions”, the same conclusions drawn by DMRM.



The ODH provided recommendations for treating and removing barium, arsenic, iron, and manganese from private water systems. Dr. Robert Frey also invites your questions and provided contact information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Kell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "K".

Scott R. Kell  
Deputy Chief  
Mine Safety & Oil and Gas

SRK/csc

C: John Husted, Chief  
Rick Simmers, Mineral Resources Administrator  
Thomas Hill, Mineral Resources Inspector  
Ahmed Hawari, Geologist