



**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

7 NORTH ERIE STREET MAYVILLE, NEW YORK 14757-1027  
(716) 753-4481, FAX (716) 753-4344

**GREGORY J. EDWARDS**  
*County Executive*

**ROBERT BERKE, M.D.**  
*Interim Commissioner of  
Health Services*

**MARK STOW**  
*Director of Environmental  
Health Services*

Chris Miller  
Region 9 Mineral Resources Program Manager  
182 East Union Street  
Allegany, N.Y. 14706

Re: Maring water well complaint

Dear Mr. Miller:

On August 8, 2008 I investigated a complaint from [REDACTED] Route 62, Kennedy, NY 14747, regarding the recent degradation of the quality of there ground water well. The waters clarity when pulled from a tap in the house is reduced to nearly opaque from the presence of gas bubbles in the water. The complainant stated that she has been having problems since around February or April of 2008.

The current home was built in 1967 and the [REDACTED] have owned the home since 1983. The water well was existing and thought to be drilled around the time the original home was constructed in 1967. No water quantity or quality problems were noted until February or April of 2008

The proximity of the nearest natural gas well to the complainant's water well when measured on the Chautauqua County GIS system is less than 1000 feet. A neighboring property has had similar problems and had new water wells drilled only to have the similar water quality issues persist. According to the complainant this neighbor has been able to ignite the top of the water well casing due to the presence of natural gas.

My conclusion is that the water well is being influenced by the presence of natural gas and this department is referring this complaint back to the New York Department of Conservation Mineral Resource Division for further investigation.

Sincerely,

  
Bryan Mentley  
Public Health Sanitarian  
Chautauqua County Department of Health  
Division of Environmental Health Services

CC: [REDACTED] ✓  
David Rowley, PE NYSDOH ✓