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## **DIMOCK SETTLEMENT**

### ***Press Release***

Announced - Good For the Commonwealth and for the Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction Industry. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) recently announced a settlement with Cabot Oil and Gas, with respect to an enforcement case, where potable water was alleged to be impacted, and residences threatened with gas intrusion, due to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling activities. Failure to reach a settlement a number of months ago, was considered to be bad for the Commonwealth and of concern to the future the natural gas extraction industry in Pennsylvania, going forward.

PADEP had been investigating reports of stray gas in residence water wells in January 2009, and initially, whole house treatment systems were installed in fourteen homes. A Consent Agreement was to be modified in April 2010, and PADEP suspected that three wells believed to be the source of migrating gas, were ordered to be capped. PADEP, initially issued a grant and loan package for water system extensions with a cost of \$11.8 million dollars but Cabot refused to sign a modified Consent Agreement.

PADEP later stopped pursuing a new public water system in the area. Secretary John Hanger, of PADEP, has indicated that so as long as local private water supplies are protected, the PADEP would be satisfied. The whole house treatment systems will now be used going forward. The current Agreement, allows for continuation of the individual systems, and resolves all other issues.

We at RT are happy that a practical solution has been agreed to solve the concerns of all involved. PADEP has always been among the best environmental agencies at ultimately embracing practical solutions, so 2011 can begin with the Dimock concerns resolved.

For further information on the Dimock Settlement [click here](#).

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