




**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF CONSERVATION**

**STEPHEN CHUSTZ**  
SECRETARY

**JAMES H. WELSH**  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

To: Louisiana Licensed Water Well, Geotechnical Borehole and Groundwater Monitoring  
Well Drillers

From: James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation 

Date: December 4, 2014

Subject: Presence of Natural Gas  
Port Fourchon Area, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

Dear Drillers:

The Office of Conservation received notice of the presence of a pocket of naturally occurring gas located in the Port Fourchon area 120' in depth, which the driller noted contained gray silty clay with wood. This was encountered at a soil boring site, 29° 07' 16" N, 90° 12' 04" W in Section 014 Township 23S Range 22E in Lafourche Parish. Note that the exact lateral extent of the presence of natural gas at this location is not known at this time. Therefore, notice is hereby being provided to advise that if drilling in the Port Fourchon area, all measures necessary to minimize health and safety hazards are taken and to remind you of the attached Guidance Statement (ENV-GS-06) previously distributed to licensed drillers informing of proper procedure to report the observance of naturally occurring methane or natural gas during well construction. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 225-342-8244.

**Environmental Division**

Post Office Box 94275 • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9275 • 617 North 3rd Street • 9th Floor • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802  
Phone (225) 342-8244 • Fax (225) 242-3505 • [www.dnr.state.la.us/conservation](http://www.dnr.state.la.us/conservation)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

ROBERT D. HARPER  
SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

INTRA-OFFICE GUIDANCE STATEMENT

GUIDANCE NO.: ENV-GS-06

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 20, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Procedure to report the observance of naturally occurring methane or natural gas during water well construction.

**PURPOSE:** Provides clarification as to the necessity and procedure for reporting any observable evidence of the presence of naturally occurring methane or natural gas during water well, geotechnical borehole or ground water monitoring well construction.

**GUIDANCE:** Louisiana Revised Statute 38:3098 et seq. and LAC Title 56 require contractors drilling water well, geotechnical borehole or ground water monitoring wells to, among other things, record any unusual occurrences, such as loss of circulation, cave-ins, etc., as well as, take all measures necessary to minimize health and safety hazards. Additionally, those statutes require this office to collect, catalog and store water well construction and drilling data.

It is known that the presence of naturally occurring methane or natural gas exists in ground water of certain aquifers of the State; namely in the Chicot aquifer in the Lake Charles area of Calcasieu Parish; and in the Sparta aquifer in Southeast Union Parish.

Considering the above statutory mandates and the potential safety hazards associated with the uncontrolled release of naturally occurring methane or natural gas, all licensed drillers and contractors encountering or having knowledge of any situation where observable evidence, such as bubbling drilling mud or gas venting at the well bore or other nearby surface location or feature, indicating the possible presence of naturally occurring methane, natural gas or a similar subsurface gas pressure release shall report such an event verbally to the Environmental Division of the Office of Conservation within twenty-four (24) hours.

APPROVED BY: Gary W. Snellgrove  
Gary W. Snellgrove, Director  
Environmental Division

APPROVED BY: James H. Welsh  
James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation