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State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

STEPHEN CHUSTZ
SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

MEMORANDUM

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

From: James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation

Date: January 16, 2014

Subject: Presence of Natural Gas in Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer Domestic Water Wells
Dixie and Bethany Areas, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Dear Drillers:

The Office of Conservation received notice of natural gas detected in the fresh water pipe distribution systems of domestic water wells screened in the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer for one residential home located in Dixie, Louisiana and several residential homes located in close proximity to each other in Bethany, Louisiana. The Dixie occurrence was located in Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 of Township 16N, Range 13W of Caddo Parish. The Bethany occurrences were reported to be in Sections 4, 5, 8 and 9 of Township 16N, Range 16W of Caddo Parish. The source of the natural gas at the Dixie residence was voluntarily evaluated by a nearby oil and gas operator and reported to the agency to be biogenic, i.e., not originating from a former or currently active natural gas producing formation. Biogenic gas was expected to be the source at the Dixie residence based on the presence of lignite located within and very near the well screen interval reported by the water well driller at the time the well was installed. The source of the natural gas detected in the Bethany area is suspected to be biogenic as well based on water well drillers logs reported to the agency indicating the presence of lignite within or very near the well screen intervals of the wells located in the area in Bethany where natural gas was reported to be present.

Note that the exact subsurface lithologic depth and lateral extent of the natural gas at these two locations is unknown at this time. Caution when drilling in these areas, and in any other areas in Northwest Louisiana where lignite has been reported to be present in the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is advised. Additionally, notice is hereby being provided 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 and to advise to take all measures necessary to minimize worker, well owner and public health and safety hazards while drilling, installing and completing water wells in areas where shallow subsurface / aquifer natural gas exists. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 225-342-8244.

Attachment (copied on reserve side of this memo)

Environmental Division

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