



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health

September 13, 2012

Mr. Martin S. Triche  
4554 Highway 1  
Napoleonville, LA 70390

Dear Mr. Triche,

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals/Office of Public Health (DHH) is reviewing environmental data collected by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in the vicinity of Bayou Corne to determine the potential for the general public's exposure to contaminants. This letter is to alert you of high levels of methane found in industrial water wells in the area.

The DHH has received and reviewed the following industrial well water methane data related to the Bayou Corne event:

DATE (S) SAMPLED	STATE REGISTRATION #	SAMPLED BY	METHANE CONCENTRATION (ug/L)	DATE(S) REVIEWED BY OPH
08/23/2012	007-89	LDEQ	22,400	09/4/2012
08/23/2012	007-97	LDEQ	26,600	09/4/2012
9/5/2012	007-95	LDEQ	21,000	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-73	LDEQ	20,400	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-98	LDEQ	20,500	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-88	LDEQ	15,400	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-89	LDEQ	11,000	9/13/2012

9/5/2012	007-90	LDEQ	9,550	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-80	LDEQ	10,300	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-87	LDEQ	27,700	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-81	LDEQ	21,800	9/13/2012
9/5/2012	007-72	LDEQ	10,100	9/13/2012

As seen in the above table, the overall range of methane is 9,550 – 27,700 ug/L. The guidance from the U.S Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining in “Technical Measures for the Investigation and Mitigation of Fugitive Methane Hazards in Areas of Coal Mining”(Sept 2001), that was provided to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital by the Center for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR), states on page 34 that there is an immediate action level of 28 mg/L (28,000 ug/L). See weblink <http://arblast.osmre.gov/downloads/Mine%20Gases%20and%20Dust/FINAL-Methane.pdf>.

The remedial action called for is located on page 106 of the document. With levels as high as 22,400, 26,600, and 27,700 ug/L it would appear that immediate remediation is warranted.

DHH encourages local residents to heed evacuation orders issued, avoid restricted areas, and discuss any health concerns they may have with their physician. DHH will continue to monitor the situation for possible impacts on public health and review environmental data as it is made available to the agency. If you have any questions, please call me at 504-458-5428.

Sincerely,



Raoult Ratard, MD, MS, MPH, FACPM  
 State Epidemiologist  
 LDHH/Office of Public Health