

# Drinking Water and Radon Testing in Dimock, PA



## ATSDR will be in Dimock, PA to conduct free testing of drinking water and indoor air.

### ATSDR will

- Contact you to talk about the sampling
- Test your drinking water, bulk water (if you use it) and radon in indoor air in summer 2017

### Who are we?

- The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) – a public health agency which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Local office in Philadelphia, PA

### Why is ATSDR testing drinking water and radon in Dimock?

- Since 2011, residents in the area have been concerned about possible water contamination caused by natural gas drilling in the area.
- In 2012, EPA sampled 64 private wells, including yours.
- ATSDR looked at the water sampling results to determine whether water in the area could harm health. A report called a “health consultation (HC)” was completed by ATSDR.
- The HC reported that contaminants that cause health problems were found in the water that was sampled.
- The HC recommended further water testing for contaminants that might be associated with nearby natural gas well activities. We will also test for bacteria in the water.
- Residents have also been concerned about radon in their homes, so ATSDR will test radon in water and indoor air.

### What harmful substances may be found in drinking water?

EPA water testing in 2012 found levels of contaminants that may be harmful to your health, including

- **Arsenic**  
May affect your skin and can increase the risk of cancer
- **Manganese**  
May affect the nervous systems in bottle-fed infants
- **Sodium**  
May be harmful to those on a low-sodium diet
- **Iron**  
Affects the taste of water and may cause staining
- **Methane gas**  
May be an explosive hazard if it builds up inside your home





## What will ATSDR do?

- Choose participants from homes that were tested by EPA in 2012 and still have problems with their well water.
- Conduct **free water testing** of tap water and bulk water (if you use it).
- Use air monitors during the water sampling since gases may build up when water is run for a long time.
- Ask some questions about people's wells and their water use.
- Send the water testing results to the participants about 3 months after sample collection.
- Make recommendations for reducing exposure to contaminants in water.

## What will ATSDR do to test radon?

Although EPA did not test for radon in 2012, ATSDR will test radon in water and indoor air.

ATSDR staff members will

- Test radon levels in sampled water.
- Leave radon sampling devices in these homes and pick them up in three days.

## What should you do now?

- To have your water tested or if you have questions, please contact Robert Helverson with the ATSDR Region 3 office at 215-814-3139 or by email at [gfu6@cdc.gov](mailto:gfu6@cdc.gov).

