

Dimock, Pennsylvania – Cabot Oil and Gas

- **Fall 2008** – A drilling rig of a Cabot Oil and Gas subsidiary hits a “[methane pocket](#)” but kept drilling despite leaking gas. Families near the well experience cramps, rashes and headaches. At least one family is told to evacuate its home to avoid dangerous levels of methane.
- **January 1, 2009** – [A drinking water well explodes](#), and state officials determine the cause—a buildup of methane.
- **February 27, 2009** – The state Department of Environmental Protection [issues Cabot a Notice of Violation](#) for the unpermitted discharge of natural gas into state waters and failure to prevent gas from entering groundwater. Cabot has to provide water to four residences.
- **April 15, 2010** – DEP issues an enforcement order to Cabot to stop fracking in part of Dimock and to plug three wells believed to be linked to contaminated water in 14 homes there. Cabot is required to [pay a \\$240,000 fine, as well as \\$30,000 per month](#) until its prior obligations are met.
- **September 2010** - [DEP announced](#) that Pennsylvania American Water Co. would construct a 5.5-mile water main from its Lake Montrose water treatment plant to supply the affected Dimock residents with a reliable source of quality drinking water. In November, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, or PENNVEST, approved an \$11.8 million grant and loan package for the project, with the commonwealth intending to recover the cost of the project from Cabot.
- **December 15, 2010** – [In a settlement agreement](#), DEP acknowledges that drinking water in 19 homes were contaminated from Cabot’s drilling.
- **December 16, 2010** – The 19 families whose water was affected will share [\\$4.1 million paid by Cabot](#). They also will have gas mitigation systems installed in their homes *but they dropped the plans to construct the water line*.
- **October 19, 2011** – DEP tells Cabot [to stop providing water](#) to affected homes.
- **December 28, 2011** – The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) releases [results of its evaluation](#) of water well data from 18 water wells in

Dimock. They found elevated levels of coliform bacteria, methane, ethylene glycol, DEHP (an endocrine disruptor), aluminum, arsenic, lithium, manganese, sodium, and iron.

- **January 19, 2012** – EPA [begins testing water](#) in Dimock homes.
- **July 25, 2012** – [EPA announces](#) that with added filtration systems, [water in Dimock is safe to drink](#), and that it doesn't plan to conduct any more tests.
- **August 22, 2012** – [DEP allows Cabot](#) to frack in the part of Dimock where it had drilled seven wells before it was ordered to stop fracking.
- **July 27, 2013** – The [Los Angeles Times](#) uncovers an internal EPA document indicating that regional EPA staff had argued to continue their investigation after tests found a link between fracking and methane contamination in drinking water.
- **May 24, 2016** - The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [confirms the presence of harmful contaminants in Dimock's water](#).

The report finds:

Chemicals in the private water wells in Dimock are at levels high enough to affect health in 27 private water wells, and pose a physical hazard at 17 private water wells.
An immediate risk of explosion or fire exists for five residences (methane >28 mg/L); cautionary level exceeded in 12 additional wells (methane >10 mg/L).

- **August 2017** - ATSDR sampled and tested water in 25 homes in the Dimock area.
- **June 6, 2018** - ATSDR issues results from 2017 testing of water in Dimock
 - In a letter to Dimock resident Ray Kemble, ATSDR reports that his replacement water, from tap water in Montrose brought on site in a storage tank, contains disinfection byproducts and recommends "point of use" water treatment before consumption. ATSDR adds: "Contaminants detected in your well water include arsenic, iron, manganese, lithium, uranium, and the natural gases ethane and methane."
- **June 15, 2020** – PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro files official charges against Cabot Oil & Gas as part of a two- year grand jury investigation into environmental crimes committed by unconventional oil and gas companies across the Commonwealth.