

August 10, 2010

Mark:

Thank you for your note. I can assure you that your/our fears are being properly addressed.

Darrin  
412 828 6881

**From:** Mark [mailto:MARK.BENKOSKI@COMCAST.NET]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2010 7:17 AM  
**To:** admin@indianatownship.com; middleroadvfd@yahoo.com; Ruralridge175@nauticom.net; Krally, Darrin; Mark.Benkoski@rrd.com  
**Subject:** Important letter to Mayor Peck

8-9-2010

Mark and Doreen Benkoski

366 Melody Lane

Cheswick, PA 15024

Dear Mayor Peck,

As a very concerned resident, I would like to ask what safety measures the township has in place to address the gas and oil wells in Indiana Township? Do the local Fire Departments have Emergency Management pre-plans in place to handle incidents at all the sites in the Township? Is the Township in full compliance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act?

I live just off of Rich Hill Road, and am very concerned about the number of wells going into residential neighborhoods. As per the DEP's web site, there are over two hundred active drilling permits in the township. These commercial operations, as witnessed on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, are both hazardous and potentially deadly. The safety of these sites is questionable. My first hand experience with Marco Drilling Company and the DEP has demonstrated to me personally, little regard for the public's safety or concern. Within a thousand feet of my residence, The Stephen Sokol gas well, which is located off of Rich Hill Road, lies in a residential neighborhood. Had this incident occurred at the Sokol well the death toll would have been far greater. The Sokol well went into operation without notifying me or testing either of my water wells, as prescribed by law.

In addition the Donna S Shields well has been permitted to be drilled 225 feet from my home and approximately 205 feet from my water well. Earlier this year, I sent a letter to Marco Drilling of Penn Hills to address the safety factors associated with their drilling. To date I have not been able to get a response from Marco Drilling other than to hire a lawyer. Attached are copies of the two sites mentioned above. Note the distance the Sokol well is from structures at the site. The permit only shows those structures within two hundred feet.

In conclusion, I and a growing number of people in the township are concerned about the safety these gas and oil wells.

Please reassure us that our fears are being properly addressed.

Thank you,

Mark Benkoski

366 Melody Lane

Cheswick, PA 15024

412-973-6929

cc:

DANIEL L. ANDERSON

Emergency Management Coordinator

DORSEYVILLE VOL FIRE DEPT

Chief Noel Bongartz

MIDDLE ROAD VOL FIRE DEPT

Chief Mike Dolegowski

RURAL RIDGE VOL FIRE DEPT

Chief Bob Ben

---