

COGCC Setback Review Stakeholder Group Meeting

Public Perspectives

FRIDAY, August 10, 2012

My name is Robert Winkler. I am a semi-retired disaster prevention & recovery consultant of 40 years who has supported many worldwide organizations. Our family's live in northern Colorado. We are here today because of concerns about the effects on our health, the environment and our property values from the gas and oil industry.

One doesn't need to look far to discover the consequences of living in an industrialized area. Early this year the **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Agency** stated that well pad equipment leaked or vented an estimated 4 percent of natural gas produced to the atmosphere. On closer examination of the **Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's** database we discovered of 60 of the 1,000 spills reported in Weld county last year they were comprised of 824,000 gallons of spilled and "unrecovered" oil, 383,000 gallons of "spilled" and "unrecovered" water and up to 547,000 gallons of "spilled" and "unrecovered" "Other" including fracking fluids. Recent real estate data also states that property values in and around oil fields typically depreciates 25% to 75% once completely industrialized.

Is this what we entrusted you to oversee and monitor as our elected representatives?

This is not a government of the people, by the people or for the people because the laws do not protect all the people. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, cares little about the results of gas industry operations. I've seen the results of an industry in search of quick profits with little regard for its citizens only its shareholders. We have petitioned our elected officials to institute regulations to protect the citizens. Surface owners have no rights. Clearly the officials are for the industry, who, have grossed billions this year and have been subsidized by you the taxpayers.

With that said, I believe the following be considered to make Colorado a better, healthier and safer place to live in the future and are reasonable to protect all of us.

1. The Gas & Oil industry needs to be included in federal exemptions of the **Safe Drinking Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Super-Fund Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabilities Act (CERCLA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Toxic Release Under Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act** and **the repeal of the 2005 energy policy act.**

2. A nationwide moratorium on drilling until the government agencies, independent analysis, and evaluations by sound researchers prove it safe to the citizens of our nation.
3. All toxic chemicals are banned from drilling and fracking fluids.
4. Cities and counties independent inspectors to monitor the operations for abuses. Fines need to be substantial with criminal prosecution for offenders to avoid cost of doing business scenarios.
5. The setback distance to residences or existing water wells should be changed to at least one half mile. Three hundred feet is unacceptable.
6. All leaks in the transportation gas network needs to be monitored, reported, and fixed immediately.
7. Regulations need to be in place to control the complete filtration and disposal of fluids used in drilling and extraction of resources.
8. All fluids used in hydraulic fracturing should be contained in closed loop systems.
9. Infrared monitoring of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) and air quality emissions is provided for detection of toxic vapor leakage in and around well sites.
10. Adequate fire protection and mitigation resources to respond quickly to chemical & other disasters related to the industry's activities must be in place and rehearsed regularly.
11. Operations must be monitored by Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) for compliance including. Night lighting, excessive noise, chemical exposure, etc.
12. Bonds to compensate for lost property values especially for those of us **who have our mineral rights severed.**
13. Initiate impact fee to have independent company's test all wells for aquifer depth and water quality before, during and for a minimum of five years after the well has been fracked.
14. Insurance policies for future health concerns of working in the industry and living near gas and oil fields.
15. Construction, maintenance of roads and bridge infrastructure is responsibility of oil industry and its' ancillary suppliers not taxpayers.
16. Local, county, and state law enforcement needs to monitor the truck traffic and the behavior of transient workers associated with the industry.

For the sake of our family and the countless others who have become ill or have had their lives needlessly disrupted, thank you for you for your support I look forward to your support in our struggle for democracy in our community.