

From Dan and Jean Ditslear, Longmont Colorado:

I am sorry neither my husband or I was able to make it today. I appreciate you listening to our words through Shelley.

The question seems to boil down to us to one thing whether oil and gas drilling is safe enough to be 350 feet from homes, schools, and parks where children play.

We have an answer for you and its simple. Oil and Gas extraction is a highly industrial DANGEROUS activity. Let us put that another way. Oil and gas extraction is not a safe practice and that is an indisputable FACT. No amount of regulation and oversight will ever change that simple fact. The evidence is all around us. Daily we read about it... an explosion where a condensate tank flew 300 feet into the air, where a truck accident at a well near our home caused some nearby businesses to be evacuated and nearly caused an entire neighborhood of homes to be evacuated if it weren't for an unusually strong wind that day. We look to the east and we see that despite having the "strictest regulations in our country" Weld county has a haze of smog over it. We read about well casings, yes well casings that are meant to prevent water sources from being contaminated, FAILING. We read about a man who was painting a well who was killed when it exploded. A nurse who was hospitalized after being exposed to fracking fluid. Counties in Texas whose cancer rates are higher where drilling occurs.

Oil and gas drilling and extraction is unsafe. It's an indisputable fact.

All of the regulations in the world, all of the monitoring, all of the testing, all of the fines for non-compliance...you can have the strictest most fabulous regulations on the planet and it will never, ever change the FACT that oil and gas extraction is dangerous. Human error is ALWAYS a factor. Mechanical failure is ALWAYS a factor.

Oil and gas exploration simply doesn't belong close to schools and homes. It doesn't belong near where people work or play. It doesn't belong where an accident could cause permanent spoilage of water sources, or illness or death to any citizen.

Current setbacks were created when single well sites were the norm and it was rare for a well to be as close as 350 feet from a home or school, let alone an entire neighborhood of homes. New setbacks should be created to take into account the increased danger created from consolidated sites.

Don't want a patchwork of regulations? Increase setbacks across the board to 1/4 mile. The value of even just a single life is worth much more than the savings that a company experiences by not having to step back that extra distance.

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IS NOT SAFE. Accept that for the truth that it is and start coming to terms with the very reasonable expectation that people's health, safety and welfare should not be put in danger. Period.

Thank you for your time.