

November 5, 2015

Dear Public Official,

I am writing to urge you to protect Colorado citizens from the massive expansion of oil and gas drilling currently taking place across the state, particularly as it encroaches into residential areas.

Synergy is proposing a 20-well oil and gas facility within Wadley Farms, located in unincorporated Adams County and surrounded by several densely populated housing developments in Thornton. I am greatly concerned, not only about the impact a large-scale facility will have on my neighborhood, but the precedent it will set.

I discovered that no existing regulations adequately protect my home and family. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's newly proposed recommendations maintains the current 500' setbacks and excludes the well-being of thousands of unincorporated residents throughout Colorado. These new regulations heavily favor the oil and gas industry, sacrificing the rights of citizens directly impacted by industrial drilling too close to homes and schools.

What remains egregiously unaddressed, not only in Wadley Farms but throughout Colorado, are the real effects of bringing heavy industrial activity near homes and schools:

- An exorbitant amount of truck traffic onto neighborhood streets, greatly endangering the lives of residents going about their daily routines, and the vast number of children walking to school or accessing buses throughout the day.
- Truck traffic exponentially heightening daily ambient noise, and increasing air pollution due to dust from existing dirt roads and diesel fumes.
- Possibility of industrial disasters caused by nature and/or human error. According to State data, over 400 spills of oil and other toxic chemicals occurred in 2014. Explosions, just barely 500' from homes could prove deadly.
- Potential contamination of ground water and water wells as related in the COGCC Document 2315200 of methane and benzene contamination in the Laramie-Fox Hills Aquifer.
- The lack of trained personnel and equipment to fight oil and gas fires. An average response time of 20 minutes from the designated fire station to begin an emergency evacuation greatly increases the likelihood of structural and human casualties.
- A significant loss in property values due to the growing general attitude of prospective buyers unwilling to invest in homes near oil and gas facilities.
- An increase in VOC emissions resulting in increased ozone. It cannot be ignored that an emergence of research points to the negative impacts excessive air pollution, light, and noise can have on both physical and mental health.

It is the responsibility of elected officials to protect their citizens. https://www.municode.com/library/txflower_mound/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=spageor_ch34en_artviiioinagawedrop_div5oigawepe_s34-422oigawepe demonstrates that safeguarding citizen's basic rights to safety, health, and economic well-being by setting 1500' setbacks is possible. It is my request that you listen to the voices of your constituents and address these real and growing issues by enacting sound regulations and policies, specifically through establishing 1500' drilling setbacks to better protect people's homes and families.

Sincerely,