

Public Comments

The following comments were provided by members of the public and were considered during the technical review of this application.

No. Comment	Comment Date
<p>1</p> <p>We have been contacted by the Pleasant View community, at least one of whose residents is a member of the Sierra Club. After having researched the situation and the threat the community faces from Encana's plans for industrial-scaled fracking in this residential/agricultural neighborhood, we share their extreme concern, and request that you deny/reject all Form 2 and 2a permit applications for this project area.</p> <p>Some of the specific reasons why this project should be rejected include:</p> <p>Roads leading in and out of the proposed fracking zone are not clearly publicly owned, and private ownership is not clearly held solely by the mineral rights seller, said problematic ownership leading Encana to file numerous documents of dubious authority to get around rules which would prevent its access and egress from well sites.</p> <p>There is an historic cemetery on which Encana or its appointees may have already trespassed without approval, which would have to be compromised to make room for fracking operations access and egress.</p> <p>Fracking operations would result in massive increases in traffic, road and neighborhood impacts and pollution along East County Line Road, impacts which have not been sufficiently related to or vetted by Boulder County.</p> <p>The community sits on quaternary alluvium, which could facilitate drainage of inevitable fracking spills and leaks into the Boulder Creek watershed, a potentiality which has not been related to or vetted by Boulder County.</p> <p>There is historical significance to the Pleasant View Ridge school house, a site that will be compromised by fracking operations.</p> <p>The vast majority of the community, with the exception of the profiting mineral owner, does not want this massively industrial-scaled activity adjacent to their homes, and feels it will ruin their lives, health, home values, and futures, forcing some to consider immediately selling or vacating their homes.</p> <p>There are water wells of varying ages in the vicinity that would not be adequately protected by standard surface casing depths. These surface casing depths would need to be extended by at least an additional 200' to provide nominal protection to these water sources. In addition, continuous post-drilling water quality monitoring would be necessary, instead of the standard single post-drilling water sampling, said continuous monitoring results to be available real-time to a community representative.</p> <p>For all these reasons and more, we respectfully request that you act on behalf of the citizens of the Pleasant View community, and take the necessary steps to have these permits and fracking activities denied or rejected.</p>	12/26/2014
<p>2</p> <p>As a real estate investor, I can assure you that the development of the Pleasant View site will negatively impact the market values of local properties. Even with mitigation measures such as road restoration, landscaping, etc., the economic fallout within the immediate area northeast of Boulder could be significant..... Studies have shown that, nationally, residential properties located within 1,000 yards of a drilling operation experience a potential market decline of anywhere from 10-30%. Drilling in Pleasant View makes no business sense!</p>	01/12/2015
<p>3</p> <p>I have lived in southwest Weld County for 17 years near the proposed Rasmussen operation. I am concerned that this High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing will permanently alter the character of this unique area. Many of the properties in this area were homesteaded in the 1800's and formed the community of Pleasantview Ridge. The church and general store that once stood at the intersection of</p>	01/12/2015

WCR1 and Road 18 no longer exist, but a school house dating from 1899 still stands and is listed on the National Register of Historic buildings. Boulder County officials recognized this as a heritage agricultural area. That is what prompted them to buy development rights on hundreds of acres to the north and west of my property. There is not another place quite like this anywhere along the Front Range.

I am a Ph.D. chemist who has worked in the chemical manufacturing industry for 30 years so I am somewhat sympathetic to the oil and gas industry. My concerns relate not to whether oil and gas development should occur but rather how it should occur. In my industry we adhere to strict EHS standards, are heavily regulated and are held accountable for property damage, spills, emissions or any adverse effect on public health and safety. The oil and gas industry should be held to the same standards. I know the COGCC has voted to tighten standards and I applaud the commission for doing so.

Even with these new rules in place I am still concerned about my family's health and safety during the proposed drilling operations. Although the jury may be out on the exact long term effects of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, many recent studies show that there is ample reason for concern. The New York State Department of Health released a 184 page study on December 17th which documents these concerns in some detail. Among the concerns raised are the health effects of air emissions, particulate levels and noise, and the environmental effects from methane which is a very powerful greenhouse gas. Groundwater and surface contamination are also of great concern. Many people in this vicinity use wells and Boulder Creek lies barely half a mile from the proposed drilling site. Since no environmental impact study is required, only the COGCC is in a position to protect the citizens and the environment when operations of this type proceed.

I am concerned about the value of my home, since home prices are known to be adversely affected by High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing. I know from past experience that high intensity lighting and excessive noise rob people of sleep night after night and make it difficult for them to function in their own jobs and family responsibilities. I am concerned about loss of wildlife habitat. Past drilling operations have been of relatively short duration. A twelve well pad will disrupt wildlife for long enough to drive out some populations that live here or migrate through. We have had fox, white tailed deer and even bears in the area. I photographed a bald eagle in a tree in front of my house just last week. We have owls that hunt on our property every year as they migrate through and pheasants that mate and raise their young here. I fear we will never see these birds again after this drilling begins.

I have coexisted with oil and gas operations the whole time I have lived here but not without incident. In 2006 an ENCANA drilling crew drove down my driveway and damaged scores of trees and spilled oil along a 500 ft. section of road (case #2006-1102). I had no prior notification by ENCANA that they planned to bring a drilling rig down this road, and I was not informed after the accident happened. I came home at dusk and discovered the mayhem with no one on site. I had to drive to the well head and demand to speak with someone in authority. This same crew used chain saws to cut back large established trees near the cemetery at the corner of WCR1 and Road 18. They had no permission to do so. My neighbor's property was so severely contaminated with asbestos that Anadarko ended up buying part of his property from him. Trucks that service wells north of my property continually cut a corner on my property and eventually they drove the frost down far enough to freeze my meter which then had to be replaced and moved by Left Hand Water. The same trucks continue to cut the corner at WCR 1 and Road 18 and consequently have ruined the culvert there multiple times. I assume most of the people in oil and gas development are good and conscientious people but accidents happen and a massive scale-up of drilling operations will inevitably raise the risks for all of the residents in this area. I am not confident that all incidents are reported or properly investigated, nor am I confident that ENCANA is able to adequately protect the property rights of homeowners or the environment near the drilling site.

Road 18 is the only access to six homes in our neighborhood. It is also the only access for fire, ambulance and law enforcement vehicles. Years ago I was blocked by a tractor trailer stopped in the road to put chains on his rig. What if that been an emergency situation? The amount of truck traffic required for this activity will significantly impede traffic at the intersection of WCR1 and Road 18. I have seen no other large well pads that access public roads at a small intersection as this application proposes. WCR1 is heavily traveled between Hwy 52 and Hwy 66 by commuters of all types and has significant bicycle use on narrow shoulders. This is a real safety concern. Also, there is a historic cemetery at the intersection which needs to be preserved in its current state. Road 18 is on private property and is not a county road. It is not designed to handle the existing truck traffic, let alone an exponential increase that would come from the current proposal.

In its current state, I believe the ENCANA Rasmussen application should be withdrawn. If that is not to be the case, I respectfully ask that ENCANA be required to make significant changes to their proposal. I am requesting that the drilling be done from existing well locations or from a location(s)

	<p>that is not so close to the many homes near the intersection of WCR1 and Road 18. Access to the drilling site(s) should be directly from WCR1 and not Road 18. The access point directly north of the Rasmussen home is much better suited to the proposed operations. The impact of increased traffic on WCR1 should be discussed with Boulder County since that entity is responsible for maintenance between Hwy 119 and Hwy 52. If Road 18 is used for drilling these wells, a credible Transportation Plan should be presented which provides unimpeded access to residents, and which ensures that the cemetery and vegetation around it are preserved and that the road is returned to its current condition after drilling is completed.</p> <p>Electric or natural gas powered drilling rigs and all other possible noise suppression measures should be used. A Low Frequency Noise Analysis should be conducted. All possible dust mitigation measures should be taken including the use of fresh water on dirt roads. ENCANA should be required to mitigate light pollution by the use of carefully placed, low intensity directional lighting. Many other industrial operations do this routinely. Surface casings on each well should extend a minimum of 200 ft. beyond standard depth to protect shallow wells and surface water. Baseline testing of air and water should be done before, during and after drilling operations. The best way to mitigate many of these issues would be to complete a pipeline to the centralized collection facility in Erie before drilling begins. If drilling is done before completion of the pipeline, low profile condensate tanks should be used and the tank battery should be shielded by walls and vegetation.</p> <p>I am for energy independence and for developing natural resources, but unless companies like ENCANA are progressive and proactive in addressing concerns about High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, they may win battles now but they will lose the war in the long run. Only the COGCC can push these companies in a direction so that the conversation in Colorado is about how to frack, and not whether to frack. Lastly, I request the courtesy of a written response to each of the concerns raised above.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.</p>	
4	<p>I am not opposed to drilling, and I believe we need energy independence.</p> <p>I am totally against the high density, high volume fracking that oil and gas companies are doing now. They have no regard for the health, air, water and contamination of land. I know from personal experience that land and aquifers</p> <p>have been polluted, 53 acres of our land was contaminated and one of my siblings aquifer was contaminated in the Fort Lupton area. These companies won't let people talk about it and it is not recorded! Please slow this mass fracking down and focus on the lives and well being of the people who live by these proposed high volume sites. I know our property values will drop drastically. Our small country road cant handle that kind of traffic! Would you want this in YOUR</p> <p>FRONT YARD??????</p>	01/14/2015
5	<p>According to the Colorado oil and gas conservation commissions online data; Encana Oil and Gas appears to have an approximate ground water contamination rate of 44% in Weld County. Such alleged COGCC facility ground water contamination rates warrant further investigation into whether this operator can operate in a manner consistent with the protection of public health safety and welfare are in accordance with the COGCCs mission.</p> <p>Also, there is a compendium of health studies that show mining using hydraulic fracturing is not safe and cannot be conducted in a manner consistent with public health, safety and welfare.</p> <p>http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/</p> <p>Colorado citizens need to be able to protect themselves, their families, their environment, the values of their homes and exercise their civil rights to safety, but they cannot, and are in fact prohibited by the state and fracking industry to do so</p> <p>The associated risks of the fracking industry are too great, and a precautionary principle must be addressed before any operations take place. I recommend that the Rasmussen Well Pad 19H-M268 Form 2A #400750429 and 12 associated Form 2s located in Section 19 T2N R68W permit(s) be denied immediately.</p>	01/14/2015

Total: 5 comment(s)