

## 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**

1

12/19/2017

Hi. My name is An Hards and these comments are written in the interest of myself and my husband Robert Hards as the owners and residents of 1415 County Rd 36 Berthoud CO 80513, Building Unit 3 in the buffer zone in the Weld County Oil and Gas Location Assessment (WOGLA) by Nickel Road Operating for the proposed fracking site located at 3N68W5 (NW/4 SW/4). This is the same proposed location as that which is the subject of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation

Commission (COGCC) Form 2A 401441194 to which this comment is appended. My husband and I were not given 30 days notice prior to the submission of COGIS Form 2A 401441194 because supposedly our Building Unit does not fall within the COGCCs definition of buffer zone, although no data are provided on the COGCCs website to substantiate that conclusion. Nevertheless, this proposed fracking site is less than 1000 ft from our home and 4 of the proposed 8 well bores traverse directly under our property including one that appears to run approximately 5 ft outside our master

bedroom window. Therefore, regardless of whether or not our home meets the COGCCs definition of being in a buffer zone, I am compelled to comment.

The COGCCs mission statement is to foster the responsible development of Colorado's oil and gas natural resources including among others, The efficient exploration and production of oil and gas resources in a manner consistent with the protection of public health, safety and welfare. (emphasis added). While not the COGCCs direct

responsibility, Weld County Charter Section 22-5-100 Oil and Gas Goals and Policies Section B Policy 2.2 is to Encourage the clustering of oil and gas drill and well sites (emphasis added) whenever possible and Policy 2.4 is to ...Discourage efforts to increase the amount or size of drilling window (emphasis added). The Weld County Policies are consistent with although more elaborate than the COGCCs mission to be consistent with protection of

public health, safety and welfare. The proposed placement of the Nickel Road Operating proposed fracking site located at 3N68W5 (NW/4 SW/4) is not.

The siting rationale document 41464283 states that Based on the information provided in this siting rationale, alternative sites to the north, south, east and west are not feasible for the location. To the North, it is claimed that an alternative location would not be feasible due to the inability to effectively reach the proposed wellbore landing points, yet a number of other operators drilling in the area believe that they can effectively reach landing points at an even further

distance, e.g. see Great Western Operating Co Document 41457487, Wilson IC03-382H, maximizing mineral development and resource recovery. An alternate explanation (mine) is that such a site is off the surface area owners

property and it is possible that the surface area owner to the North was not interested in the Operator's proposal. An alternative location to the south, it is claimed, would place the location in closer proximity to the Building Units already located within the Buffer Zone. No rationale is provided for why the site could not be located further East or West (although the former is obvious as the site would again be off the surface area owners property). Moving the site

further West would place the site closer to the Building Unit belonging to the surface area owner who is being reimbursed for the intrusion onto their property and also the Dreith Building Unit which appears on the COGCC CIS

online map (as well as during a drive by on County Rd 3) to already be in the exclusion zone of the fracking site on their own property. Thus, moving the proposed site further to the West is in actuality more consistent with the policy to

encourage the clustering of drill and well sites and limit the disturbance of larger areas of property. This is also consistent with the COGCCs mission to protect the public health, safety and welfare, as for example:

Public Health:

Regardless of the protection put in place, light, noise, smell, dirt, etc will be apparent from our property as the prevailing winds blow directly from the proposed site toward our home. These are all direct health hazards.

Safety:

Regardless of the protections put in place, well bores from the site are running directly under our property and our neighbors properties both to the North and South. Fracking has been implicated in contribution to earth movement including earthquakes (<http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/oklahoma-earthquakes-linked-fracking-study> ; <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2017/02/18/pennsylvania-confirms-first-fracing-related-earthquakes/> ).

Obviously shorter term there is the potential for earth movement around the foundations of both our home as well as

barns.

Regardless of the protections put in place, there is a source of live water running less than 500 ft from the site. Fracking has been implicated in water contamination (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/01/05/some-states-confirm-water-pollution-from-drilling/4328859/>)

Welfare:

While the operator attempts to put protections in place for public health and safety, there is no pretense of attempting to protect the welfare of Building Unit owners in the vicinity of a fracking site. The presence of fracking sites

reduces the desirability of the local area (<http://www.resource-mediast.org/drilling-vs-the-american-dream-fracking-impacts-on-property-rights-and-home-values/> ) and consequently property values (<http://priceofoil.org/2016/01/26/fracking-affects-property-prices/> ) with no compensation to anybody other than the

mineral rights owner and surface area owner on which the site is placed. Decreased property values will eventually affect the local tax base with negative trickle down effects to all associated institutions.

In conclusion, the area around the Nickel Road Operating proposed fracking site located at 3N68W5 (NW/4 SW/4) has already been significantly affected by the plethora of fracking sites. Everywhere you look around our home you see a fracking site or multiple fracking sites. A limited number of surface area owners are profiting from the situation. The rest are losing our home equity and the desirability of the area into which we moved. As my doctor stated to me

yesterday, she and her husband had considered moving from Boulder County to Weld County recently, but when they looked at the fracking situation, they knew that they should stay in Boulder County. Moving this site further East would

at least put it closer to those profiting from it and away from those of us who have only increased risk to our health, safety and welfare.

Total: 1 comment(s)