

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	<p>JOHN AND PAM MCCUE</p> <p>18556 FOX HAVEN CT.</p> <p>BRIGHTON, CO 80603</p> <p>(303) 482-5560</p> <p>September 25, 2019</p> <p>Via Email</p> <p>john.noto@state.co.us</p> <p>John Noto</p> <p>COGCC</p> <p>1120 Lincoln St. #801</p> <p>Denver, CO 80203JBerghorn@VerdadOil.com</p> <p>Jeff Berghorn</p> <p>Verdad Oil</p> <p>1401 17th Street</p> <p>Suite 925</p> <p>Denver, CO 80202</p> <p>Re: County Line 3112/3107/3130 Location</p> <p>COGCC Form 2A# 402092786</p> <p>Gentlemen:</p> <p>After being told in 2018 that this project was a 6 well pad, it has since been expanded to a 32 well pad with 64 and 32 water tanks being erected within 1000 feet of our home.</p> <p>WE ABSOLUTELY OBJECT TO THE SIZE OF THIS PROJECT.</p> <p>We believe that a project of this size will have an enormous negative impact on our home value, quality of life, and daily living. We believe it will take years to complete construction of a project of this size. During that time and for years afterwards, our life will be negatively impacted to such a degree that we have considered selling our home and moving as one of our neighbors has already done. However, we believe that our home value will be so negatively impacted once we disclose that a fracking operation of that magnitude is being planned, that it will be financially impossible. We have no choice but to "ride it out" and see if the COGCC will protect our "health, safety and welfare" as homeowners any better than Weld County did.</p> <p>We have also asked for an "example" of what the operation will look like when the fracking is finished and have been directed to smaller operations. We were told by Verdad that this will be the largest operation in Colorado. It is certainly more than double of any site we could find.</p> <p>The sad fact is that we are powerless against the big business of Fracking in Colorado, most particularly Weld County, which boasts on its website that it is the number one producer of oil and gas in the state of Colorado, with 88% of all crude oil production and 36% of all natural gas being "produced" here.</p>	09/25/2019
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Because we believe that the COGCC will ultimately approve this project in some form, we request the following minimum requirements be added as conditions to the permit, if issued:

1. Size of the Project: We request that the size of the project be reduced. There are 20 wells that have already been permitted directly adjacent to the east of this project and we believe that adding 32 wells 64 oil tanks and 32 water tanks to the property will industrialize the community to such a degree that we will lose the agricultural/residential environment. No one wants to live in the middle of a fracking operation of that magnitude. It will cause enormous irreparable harm to the value of our property.

2. Location of the Project: When this project was originally proposed, it was for 26 wells located over 1000 feet from our home. When Verdad combined the 6 well project with the 26 well project, they located the project closer than 1000 feet to our home. We request that the final location be further to the south of the property. Obviously, it can be done.

3. Well Testing: We request that Verdad be required to test our domestic well should we have a concern with our water at any time. We have been informed that Weld County will perform a baseline test at our request before drilling begins. We are most concerned about this provision. We depend on a domestic well for our daily necessities. We do not have access to community water.

4. Gas Emissions/Air Quality: We request that air quality be monitored and steps be taken to reduce any emissions into the air. We would also request that noxious gases be captured and prevented from being emitted into the air from this project.

5. Noise Mitigation: We request sound walls be implemented to mitigate noise from the drilling location.

6. Light Mitigation: We request that the sound walls be raised to a level that will mitigate light coming from the drilling location.

7. Dust Mitigation: We have requested, and been refused so far, that landscape such as trees be planted on the north side of the property to further mitigation of dust, debris, sound and light impacts.

8. Traffic Mitigation: We request that steps be taken to reduce the traffic during peak hours of the day. There is only one two lane road leading to our home from I-76 and obviously increased traffic will be a problem as Exit 25 at Lochbuie is the only entrance to I-76 from Bromley to Hudson. We have repeatedly asked for a traffic study and those requests have not been addressed. We do not believe that the current infrastructure is in place to support a project of this size. We also request that 168th Avenue be kept free of dirt and debris produced by the project.

9. Wildlife: Because we are very close to a body of water (Bowles Reservoir No. 2) which also feeds from Barr Lake, we believe that a project of this size will have negative impacts on the bald eagles, pelicans, sand hill cranes, hawks and other wildlife that inhabit the area. I know that the bald eagle nest that is directly south of this proposed project that was there for years has already been abandoned by the eagles and can only believe that the other wildlife in the area will be negatively impacted by a project of this size.

10. Conditions to the Permit: We request that all of these provisions (and our previous requests) be memorialized by becoming a condition of the permit with the COGCC and Weld County.

We understand that some version of this operation will eventually be approved. We do not believe we can prevent this from happening, nor is that our goal. However, we do believe that Verdad should make reasonable accommodations to protect our health and safety and to mitigate the negative impacts to us. An operation of this magnitude will most definitely negatively impact the nearby residents. You may think we are being unreasonable, but ask yourself if you would be okay if an operation of this magnitude moved in as your neighbor. We are unapologetic about requesting reasonable accommodations from Verdad.

Finally, we believe that the COGCC should protect Colorado citizens while also allowing the business of fracking to go forward. We are not anti-frackers who believe there should be no fracking allowed. We are absolutely willing to co-exist with the oil and gas. We are citizens of Colorado that moved to a rural part of Colorado, investing our life savings and future earnings into a home for a peaceful and agricultural way of life.

Sincerely,

John and Pamela McCue

	<p>cc: Representative Ken Buck</p> <p>Representative Diana DeGette</p> <p>Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez</p> <p>Attached as public comment to COGCC Form 2A#402092786</p>	
2	<p>Verdad Resources LLC has applied for a permit to construct a drilling pad and a number of wells in Section 31, T1N, R65W of the 6th PM. This well is identified as "County Line Pad". Like a similar wells Extraction Oil and Gas, Inc.(Extraction) has constructed at the Mile High Duck Club Site, this well lies within the Well Head Protection Area of the East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District Northern Water Supply Project (ECCV). ECCV owns and operates a large municipal well field just north of Barr Lake. The District has 17 wells penetrating the shallow and highly transmissive Beebe Draw Aquifer. These wells vary from 70 to 120 feet in depth and are at risk from surface or shallow contamination of the aquifer. The County Line Pad site lies in the recharge area of this aquifer immediately up-gradient of our field. The District wells feed 100,000+ customers in the ECCV and Arapahoe County Water and Waste Water Authority (ACWWA) service areas located in Arapahoe County. As such, protection of the aquifer from surface and shallow contamination sources is critical to these municipal water providers.</p> <p>ECCV is currently amending its Regulations to regulate oil and gas operations within its boundaries, and is working with COGCC on an Intergovernmental Agreement to acknowledge ECCV's siting, inspection, and monitoring authority with COGCC as a referral agency. Until these changes in authority are finalized, ECCV requests that COGCC provide additional scrutiny under SB 19-181 and the Director's Objective Criteria, No. 5(b). In addition, we request that COGCC not approve any final permits within ECCV's boundaries until ECCV and the operator can agree on protective measures and BMPs by separate contractual agreement.</p> <p>This comment applies to all the wells to be drilled on the County Line Pad site as identified in COGCC forms 402092786.</p>	10/07/2019
3	<p>Verdad's application notes that the eagle nest that is located close to their proposed site has been "abandoned". We observed eagle activity on October 4, 2019. A pair of eagles were on the ground in the reservoir and flew into the trees where the nest is located. I have photos and videos of this activity.</p>	10/08/2019

Total: 3 comment(s)