

Denton (TX) City Council Enacts Drilling - Mondaq.com (UK) - May 20, 2014

May 20, 2014 | Mondaq.com (UK) | Mr Justin Scott

Amidst complaints from citizens, the Denton, Texas city council

unanimously enacted a drilling moratorium, which will be in effect

until September 9th. The ordinance, which was adopted by

the council at its May 6th meeting, stated that

"...increased drilling in close proximity to residential and

other protected uses...have resulted in negative and deleterious

effects on Denton citizens, calling into question whether the

various interests could be better balanced by additional review of

the city's ordinances and regulations..." The city of

Denton sits atop the Barnett Shale formation in North Texas. The

city has previously imposed moratoriums in 2012 and 2013 as it

revised previous drilling ordinances. Previous ordinances

established a 1,200 foot setback from residences, schools and

parks, but drilling opponents have focused on the provision which

allows drilling within 250 feet of a previously permitted well

site.

The moratorium prohibits the acceptance, receipt, processing, or

approval of applications for gas well permits within the Denton

city limits. The council's actions follow the expiration of a

standstill agreement between the city and Dallas-based EagleRidge

Energy LLC, which had been drilling within the city limits under legacy permits at sites near neighborhoods that were developed after the permits had initially been issued. Denton Public Information Officer Lindsey Baker stated that "[d]uring the standstill agreement the intent was to negotiate on mutually agreeable terms that we could move forward with. But unfortunately those negotiations fell through so thereafter the council decided to enact a moratorium so that they could go back to the gas well ordinance and make revisions that could better address some of the issues that we have been concerned with."

An organization called the Denton Drilling Awareness Group has presented the city council with a petition containing 1,871 signatures asking the council to consider a ban on hydraulic fracturing or to put a measure banning hydraulic fracturing on the ballot in November. The 1,871 signatures are well in excess of the minimum number necessary to certify the petition for public hearing by the city council. The city council will then have 60 days to hold a public hearing on the proposed ban and vote on the proposal, which, if rejected, would be placed on the November ballot. The potential **fracking** ban would be a first for a municipality in Texas.

Media Coverage Resources:

"Barnett Shale Town Denton, TX, Enacts Drilling

Moratorium"

"Denton Group Seeking Fracking Ban Cites

Gains"

"Denton City Council reinstates moratorium on new

drilling permits"

The content of this article is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter. Specialist advice should be sought about your specific circumstances.

Mr Justin Scott

BakerHostetler

811 Main Street

Suite 1100

Houston

Texas

77002-6111

UNITED STATES

Tel: 2166210200

Fax: 2166960740

E-mail: mkohuth@bakerlaw.com

URL: www.bakerlaw.com

[Click Here for related articles](#)

(c) Mondaq Ltd, 2014 - Tel. +44 (0)20 8544 8300 - Copyright é 1994-2014 Mondaq ® Ltd. All rights reserved. Provided by SyndiGate Media Inc. (Syndigate.info).

CITATION (TURABIAN STYLE)

Scott, Mr Justin. "Denton (TX) City Council Enacts Drilling Moratorium And Will Consider Possible

Ban On Fracking." *Mondaq.com (UK)*, May 20, 2014. *NewsBank: Access World News*.
[https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AWNB&docref=news/14DEEA716E785108](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/14DEEA716E785108).

Copyright © 2014 Al Bawaba (x)