

ELECTION LETTERS - The Denton Record-Chronicle - Denton Record-Chronicle (TX) - October 28, 2014 - page EDIT01

October 28, 2014 | Denton Record-Chronicle (TX) | Page EDIT01

ELECTION LETTERS

The Denton Record-Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor pertaining to the Nov. 4 general election. All regular submission rules apply. The deadline for letters concerning statewide races and local propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot to be received in this office was 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. None will be published after Friday, Oct. 31.

Vote no on ban

The scare tactic used in the Frack Free Denton mailer "One Fracking Blowout" should be reserved for Halloween. Only ghosts are missing.

The myth alleges that dangerous levels of emissions were released during an April 19, gas well incident in Denton.

The facts from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) determined that the well owned by EagleRidge Energy, suffered a pipe separation.

It was capped off the same day with no fire, explosion, danger or health risk to the public, while following OSHA rules.

TCEQ air samples for determination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the air both before and after the incident, determined that no compounds exceeding the air monitoring comparison values (MCV) for either long-term or short-term exposure existed.

EagleRidge had estimated that the event resulted in the release of 1,281 pounds of natural gas VOCs or 100 MCV of total natural gas, which was below the reportable quantity level of 5,000 pounds.

The TCEQ's investigation estimated that the total emissions were well below EagleRidge's estimate of 83.7 Mcf for the entire event.

An independent third-party investigator, KJ Environmental (KJE), reviewed the TCEQ findings and noted that, based on TCEQ's findings, no acute or chronic health effects were realized.

KJE also noted that many of the contaminants found in the air by TCEQ "are not found in natural gas production emissions and have no relationship to any EagleRidge operations." TCEQ concluded there were "No violations associated to this investigation."

Vote no on the ban.

Bill Lawson,

Denton

Vote to ban fracking

In my research to better understand the issues surrounding the fracking ban, I just read these two opposing articles: <http://tribtalk.org/2014/10/03/why-denton-should-ban-fracking> and <http://tribtalk.org/2014/10/03/why-denton-shouldnt-ban-fracking>.

Ed Ireland, executive director of the Barnett Shale Energy Education Council, has basically one point to make and it's all about money. According to him, if we ban fracking, it "will lead to economic damage."

All of his catchphrases center around money. "Negative economic impacts" ... "potential losses" ... "local entities would give up millions of dollars over the next decade" ... then he goes into the legal battle **Denton** may face if we succeed in passing the ban.

Which is all about money.

All that money that someone might be making from fracking? It's not going into my bank account.

What is going to directly affect me is the air that my husband, daughter and I breath every day.

Adam Briggie, vice president of the **Denton** Drilling Awareness Group, conveys that **Denton** has the worst air quality in the North Texas area, due in large part to byproducts of fracking.

He points to peer-reviewed studies showing that people in close proximity of fracking have issues with headaches, nosebleeds, breathing difficulties, nausea and sleepless nights.

Our groundwater is being affected - chemicals that weren't there before fracking are there now, and I'm not a fan of arsenic.

Ask me to choose between someone else getting rich or my family having good air quality, water quality and health - I choose my family. So should every single **Denton** voter.

I will be voting for the fracking ban.

Julie Simmons,

Denton

Ban fracking

In January 2013, **Denton** passed an ordinance requiring a 1,200-foot setback on well sites from

homes and other protected uses. In January 2014, new horizontal wells were hydraulically fractured within 200 feet of homes in my neighborhood.

That's crazy, right? This is allowed to happen in spite of our ordinance because industry says the ordinance doesn't apply to anything that was permitted before 2013, which is at least 270 wells in **Denton**.

Denton tried to protect its citizens by setting responsible limits, but industry continues to say those limits don't apply.

Due to the unreasonableness of industry, any new regulation will not apply to the wells in **Denton** and the only way to stop them from fracking near our homes, schools, parks and hospitals is with a ban.

The people trying to convince you that we just need "better" regulation know this. They financially benefit from fracking and are trying to protect their pocketbook, not **Denton's**.

Do not be misled by their assertions that a ban on fracking will hurt **Denton's** economy. If they were truly concerned about **Denton**, they wouldn't be threatening to sue us.

Please vote for the ban on hydraulic fracturing in the city of **Denton**.

Maile Bush,

Denton

Frack ban is a drilling ban

Some, opposing hydraulic fracturing, have claimed that a frack ban is not a ban on drilling.

This is incorrect, indicating a lack of understanding of the oil and gas drilling and completion process.

The first commercial hydraulic fracturing operation was in 1949. Since that time, hydraulic fracturing has become a normal part of the well drilling/completion process, applying to horizontally and vertically drilled wells.

A vertically drilled well is fracked to increase the permeability of the producing zone, enabling the oil and/or gas product to flow to the well bore.

Without the ability to hydraulically fracture the producing zone, the vast majority of vertically drilled wells would not produce oil or gas in commercial quantities, not justifying the cost to drill and complete the well.

And, until the late 1980s, all wells were vertically drilled wells. A number of wells drilled today are still done vertically.

And, horizontally drilled wells must be fracked. Industry experts have known about the oil/gas shales for years, but shale development was not feasible without recent horizontal drilling and multistage fracturing technology.

Before you vote on banning this technology in the city of **Denton**, please understand the true ramifications of approving a frack ban, which is a de facto drilling ban.

Look up industry information, opposition information and even Wikipedia, which goes into some explanation of the fracturing process.

Pat Sloan,

Denton

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