

**COMMENTS ON 895208 EASTERN HILLS 17-18 2H Gas and Oil Well Permit
FROM MCGC NEIGHBORS
July 20, 2014**

MCGC Neighbors, a registered Neighborhood Group in Aurora along the E-470 corridor, was notified about this proposed development and was given an opportunity to comment. We take the responsibility of being a Neighborhood Group very seriously, and we want our comments to reflect the overall position of the residents. To that end, we requested comments from the community regarding this proposed development. The results and feedback from the people who responded are summarized at the end of this document. Similar comments were grouped together, in the interest of avoiding duplication.

Some residents are very much in favor of this proposed oil and gas well permit and cite increased revenue to the City, jobs for the community, royalty payments to property owners, and no danger to the surrounding areas. Some are not in favor of people providing input about property they do not own.

Other residents are very much against this proposed oil and gas well permit and cite potential hazardous impacts to air quality and water wells, increased traffic and noise, negative impact to property values, and negative impact to future development in this area. This proposed development requests 4 variances from City zoning codes, and many are against any variances from City zoning codes, particularly without a review by the Planning Commission with a public hearing.

We asked 3 questions, and here are the results from those who responded.

21% are in favor of the permit including the 4 variances
79% are against the permit with the 4 variances
0% are undecided

17% are in favor of the permit, provided it conforms to zoning codes, i.e. without the variances
75% are against the permit, even if it conforms to zoning codes, i.e. without the variances
8% are undecided

17% are in favor of the permit, provided it goes before the Planning Commission with a public hearing
71% are against the permit, even if it goes before the Planning Commission with a public hearing
12% are undecided

Below are paraphrased comments from those who responded. Similar comments are grouped together to avoid duplication.

Comments in Favor of the Proposed Development

Oil and gas provides jobs, supports service industries, such as grocery stores, restaurants, etc., pays royalties to land owners, and pays many other fees which bring in revenue. It is better to have that money here than in the Middle East.
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There is no danger from oil and gas wells and the distance from the proposed site to neighborhoods is more than adequate.

Oil and gas operations would not impact the area at all; Colorado has the furthest setbacks from houses in the country, along with some of the most comprehensive rules.
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This is in Unincorporated Arapahoe County and Aurora has nothing to do with this. All the parameters were set by the County Commissioners 2 years ago.
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Information provided to the community was incorrect and prejudiced.
People should not have a say about property they do not own.
The Eastern Hills well site is in the shadows of the electric power line towers, which are twice the height of the proposed variance, and the site is without the permanence of the towers.
While the drilling rig is high, that is a temporary structure and would only be visible for a few weeks. A finished well is actually quite small and not much bigger than a pad of utility boxes.

Comments Against the Proposed Development

Planning Commission review with a public hearing should be required, especially for variances.
These sites are too close to existing neighborhoods, and will be even closer to future neighborhoods.
More research needs to be done before oil and gas wells are permitted this close to neighborhoods.
This well site is a concern due to, possible contamination of the water source for well water, the possibility of earthquakes, the potential negative impact to property values, debris from the site, and how the site will be presented aesthetically, as we will have to look at it for many years to come.
It would be prudent to know how similar projects have affected other neighborhoods with regard to environment, health, and property values.
Conform to regulations or seek approval for variances with a public hearing (as everyone else must do).
City is only seeing dollar signs with no regard for potential toxins or public opinion.
Controversial, heavy industrial activity should not be permitted without any public input.
This area is already dealing with potential toxins from the landfill, so what other potential toxins are being flared off from the open flame that is visible from 3 miles away on East Jewell?
Since the Oil and Gas industry is exempt from Planning Commission review with a public hearing, are City Council members even aware of all the proposed well permits, and which Council Members voted for this exemption?
A public hearing should be required and this development should not just be processed administratively.

The majority of the people who responded are against this development due to: potential health hazards; potential negative impact on property values; concern about water wells; aesthetic concerns; and flaring. Additionally, people are very concerned about oil and gas development projects being processed administratively. Projects with this type of impact and longevity deserve to be reviewed thoroughly and with a public hearing, and we respectfully make that request.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond.