

Dear Concerned Citizens:

Thank you to the many people who participated in the Public Hearing regarding the City's proposed Air Quality Study that was held on May 20th. Below are the responses to the feedback received at that meeting.

Attached you will find addenda to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that has been advertised for a consultant to conduct an air quality study. The original RFQ emphasizes that the selected consultant will be expected to deliver a high-quality report that includes clear conclusions that can be understood by the average citizen. All data collected and analysis performed as part of this project shall be made public along with the final report.

The second addendum reflects several amendments to the RFQ regarding their submittal including:

1. The expectation that the Brentwood Saltwater Disposal evaporation project will be included in the sampling;
2. Assurances about scientific validity to avoid inappropriate disclaimers and qualifiers on the results;
3. Clarification of the definition of an "independent analysis"; and
4. Inclusion of calculations of emission potential at full build-out of drilling activity.

In addition, the second addendum also includes answers to specific questions posed by prospective consultants. Several of the answers to these questions include an emphasis on the following that were issues raised by the citizens of Fort Worth:

1. Site selection and sample collection without interference or advance knowledge of the City or the industry.
2. Requested guidance on future unannounced sampling by the consultant to corroborate the initial findings.

Many of the comments that were received at the public meeting and by email are relevant to the work/sampling plan rather than the specific qualifications of the firms. These suggestions will be discussed with the selected contractor as the work/sampling Plan, contract, and prices are negotiated.

1. Determine if there are significant differences in emission readings between older and newer drilling/well sites.
2. Include upwind and downwind measurements of sites.
3. Compare an urbanized control area without drilling or gas production facilities to Fort Worth.

The following suggestions were made by citizens but are outside the intended scope of this study. These questions may be included as part of future studies, as appropriate, or forwarded to the appropriate agency to be addressed immediately.

1. Work with the consultant to design on-going, random 24 hour testing of ambient air using Summa canisters and/or Tedlar gas sampling bags in addition to testing emissions from all equipment at well sites during all phases of operations, including compressors, gas plants, disposal facilities and gathering lines in the City. Seek consultant recommendation on appropriate vapor capturing equipment.
The City is considering alternatives for local screening for non-compliant emissions that could be reported to the State.
2. Consider water and soil testing too.
The City requires pre- and post- water well testing when proximate to drill sites. The City does extensive evaluation of surface water and creek testing in order to ensure water quality.
3. Include heavy metals.
Current literature does not indicate a specific concern about heavy metals and this study focuses on volatile organic compounds. However, the selected consultant will be asked to advise the City on other chemical species that should be monitored in the future.
4. Test flowback and processed water in a high and low pressure environment determine all compounds that are present.
5. Provide access to canisters for citizens to collect air samples.
This program exists at the state level. Residents may call 1-888-777-3186 to obtain a canister for sampling for analysis by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Alternatively, citizens may call the City of Fort Worth Environmental Hotline at 817-392-8700 for assistance in accessing this program.

Finally, several suggestions were made that are regulatory in nature, either at the local or state level, and are not pertinent to the study design itself. However, we have documented those items below and will consider these issues as an action plan is developed at the conclusion of the study.

1. Require industry disclosure of all chemicals and chemical compounds used and unearthed in their processes, listing all chemicals related to fracturing, recovery and disposal processes.
2. Determine safe thresholds of chemical usage and injection and establish a Natural Gas Operations Best Practices Ordinances that mandates compliance.
TCEQ currently sets health effects screening levels.
3. Require annual renewal of permits to provide funding for quarterly testing at every well and compressor site.
While the City currently charges an annual fee for all producing wells to fund inspection activities, the City will evaluate the options to raise revenue to offset additional costs to the City.

4. Require the use of clean natural gas or electrically powered equipment for all natural gas drilling operations.

Please feel free to continue to submit your comments to airqualitystudy@fortworthgov.org. In addition, please check our home page regularly for updates on the upcoming consultant evaluation meetings to be held by the Air Quality Study Committee.

Regards,

City Staff