

Ordinance and Legislative Options



Presented to the City Council
by the
Planning and Development Department
and the Law Department
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New York Environmental Assessment

- The New York State **Environmental Quality Review Act** requires developers to prepare and file written environmental assessments of all “projects”
- New York State **Department of Environmental Conservation** grants permits for gas drilling and requires environmental assessments with all well permits.
- DEC has prepared a **Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)** - a **comprehensive review** of the potential environmental impacts of oil and gas drilling and production and how they are mitigated
- At the Governor’s request, DEC has initiated a formal process to **supplement this GEIS** to ensure that any issues unique to Marcellus and other horizontal shale formation drilling are adequately addressed
- Localities are pre-empted from regulating the natural gas industry, except roads, nuisances, etc.

Recommendations for Fort Worth Ordinance

- Add **salt water piping standards** to reduce road impacts and emissions
- Consider the following standards:
 - **Vapor recovery systems** for all storage tanks
 - **Electric motors** for compressor stations
 - **Erosion control plans** for all sites requiring significant grading or within certain proximity to water sources
 - **Closed loop mud systems** for all classes of wells
- Separate permit for all **frac ponds**

Legislative Initiatives

- Pursue **additional funding for the Railroad Commission of Texas** to ensure adequate number of inspectors for all phases of drilling and clean-up
- Urge the State to conduct an **environmental assessment** of Barnett Shale development

Next Steps

- Staff will present the **findings and the minority report** of the Gas Drilling Task Force on November 4th during Pre-Council
- Staff will recommend a **public input process**