

To Pew Impact Project:

In your Letter of Response inviting us to submit a full proposal (Reference log no.: 2009-000792-109), you asked us to address two specific items:

Based on the timeline for full proposal preparation and review, it is likely that you will not receive a final funding decision on this proposal until early April. Please carefully review the timelines for the decisions you hope to address with the HIA, and explain whether this will allow adequate time for your HIA to inform the decisions you hope to address.

Although gas permitting in Colorado generally occurs on a fast track (30-60 days), we have reason to believe that the permitting process for this CDP/MLUIR will not proceed at the same fast pace. This is in part due to the placement of the project within a residential community, the resulting public outcry and HIA request, and the public knowledge of the HIA being proposed. We also believe that our outreach to COGCC has helped them understand what to expect from an HIA. We believe they are willing to consider HIA recommendations for this permitting decision.

The Antero project also differs from many projects in Colorado in that the county Board of Commissioners may also set conditions for permitting. This gives CSPH a second decision-maker and process to address. Because the GCBOCC has requested this information, and the public opinion that supports the HIA, we feel confident that the GCBOCC will not proceed with approval before the HIA provides recommendations. GCBOCC has provided a Letter of Support.

On the other hand, in the interest of providing information in a timely manner and demonstrating that HIA does not have to unduly hold up the permitting process, we plan to proceed with the HIA on a brisk timeline. This is possible because many of the initial steps of this HIA process have been accomplished or are in process at this time thanks to pilot funding from the NIOSH sponsored Mountains and Plains Education and Research Center. Initial screening and justification for HIA has been documented by our work (White Paper and Literature Review) and others (Saccomanno Institute Paper), as well as recent anecdotal reports of hazard exposure in other communities in the United States (DISH, Texas). GCPH has been involved in health concerns over gas development for several years. CSPH and GCPH have also carried out many steps of community outreach, decision-maker outreach and advocacy for the HIA process, as demonstrated by the attached Letters of Support and stakeholder meeting minutes. In addition, exposure, health and population data are available for analysis in Garfield County, GCPH already has a web pages dedicated to oil and gas concerns and extensive GIS mapping. The expertise of the team at CSPH also allows us to accomplish much in a shorter time frame.

We anticipate that we will begin assessment and analysis in May 2010. We will be prepared to submit a draft HIA report with recommendations to stakeholders and decision-makers by August 2010 and a final report in September 2010. This is within the anticipated decision-maker time frame for our efforts to impact the permitting decisions.

Based on media coverage of the Battlement Mesa proposals, we are aware that the county government has been considering funding an HIA. Please discuss the status of this decision. If funds are expected, please clearly address how additional resources from the Health Impact Project would be utilized.

The Garfield County Board of County Commissioners has indicated that they would like CSPH/GCPH to continue HIA activities without waiting for the Pew funding decision. To that end, next week we will propose to GCBOCC that the county fund this HIA until we are notified by Pew of the funding decision. If Pew does grant funds for our HIA, we will adjust our budget, with the assistance of Pew, to reflect the county funding up until that time. If Pew does not fund the HIA, the county would have to decide and vote as to whether to fund the remainder of the HIA, less items not of interest to the county, such as the HIA symposium and education modules. There are no guarantees at this time that the County will fund the HIA.

CSPH is seeking Pew funding and technical support for several reasons. First, we feel the assistance provided by Pew will be invaluable, not only for this (our first) HIA, but also for future efforts to institutionalize and expand the use of HIA in our state and region. Second, Pew funding will increase the public profile of this effort and help validate this new tool and raise interest in HIA in this region. Third, funding from Pew will increase the likelihood of success of this HIA: Pew funding will provide the community (including industry stakeholders) with independent validation of our CSPH team and our approach and will improve the likelihood that our recommendations will be adopted by decision-makers. Finally, Pew funding for the HIA allows us to build a record of developing independent recommendations free of any potential undue influence from one of the major stakeholders in the process. We feel that at this early, delicate stage of HIA introduction to the community it is vital that we establish a record of impartiality and transparency with all stakeholders, something that can best be achieved by outside funding of the HIA.

The GCBOCC has indicated that they would like to fund a prospective exposure and health monitoring study. We will use to information from the HIA to design this second study. We believe that each of the two studies will bring significant added value to the other, allowing both Pew and Garfield County to benefit from the investment of funds.

Thank you for your consideration of our HIA Proposal. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions not addressed in this letter of the grant proposal.

Roxana Witter, MD, MSPH, MS  
*Instructor*  
*Colorado School of Public Health*  
*University of Colorado Denver*  
[Roxana.witter@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Roxana.witter@ucdenver.edu)  
303-724-5106 (office)  
720-252-7481 (cell)