

To: Garfield County Commissioners
From: Floyd Diemoz
Date: April 12, 2011

To: Colorado School of Public Health, 2nd draft
Feb 2011 - This is a submittal for public
comments.

From a March 01 Post Independent article, I first became aware of the Colorado School of Public Health's draft of the Battlement Mesa Health Impact Assessment addressing health and welfare issues relating to an expanded natural gas development in the area of those communities.

The school, is a teaching collective of Colorado University at Denver, University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University. A copy of their study is available on the Garfield County's website.

There absolutely are concerns that must be addressed with additional gas development. I was, however, surprised at how a college level report could be so unprofessional.

The primary goal of the school more than likely was to produce an endless parade of dangers, illness, fears, and degradations that we will face with additional gas development. I yellow lined the reports chapters 5 though a number of appendices and noted well over 100 contaminants, illness and negative outcomes that might be expected. This report, along with previous Glenwood Post Independent's news articles and letters on the devastation that could be upon us as a result of gas production, should frighten anyone.

Did the professors in their discussions with students ever mention a very real illness not mentioned in the report? Could a small number of citizens exposed to a Nocebo effect come down with a sociogenic illness like hypochondria? We all know what a Placebo is; if you believe something will get you better, it often will. Nocebo, also a medical term, is the opposite of a placebo; meaning if you believe something will get you sick, it often will.

For each of the multitude of potential negative outcomes described in this report, will there be one chance in one that it will occur; like a truck driver speeding in a cloud of dust running a stop sign? Or will it be one chance in twenty million that a man or woman will get breast cancer because they were working in the natural gas industry at night under artificial lights? (see Page 54.)

I repeat – yes, there will be problems to address, but someone needs to ask the researchers why they produced such a presumptuous report. Within its 100 plus pages, the report's list of benefits due to natural gas development can be expressed in a sentence of less than 30 words.

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Addendum attached: 3 page listing of reports potential effects due to gas development

The second draft of the Battlement Mesa health Impact Assessment has identified ways in which Antero's proposed natural gas development project can potentially affect the health of Battlement Mesa residents.

List of concerns form report that can result in hazards to the health and welfare of the community.

Areas of Concern

1. Air Pollution
2. Water & Soil Contamination
3. Traffic
4. Noise
5. Light Pollution
6. Community Wellness
7. Economic Impacts
8. Healthcare System Impacts
9. Accidents
10. Malfunctions
11. Drop in Property Values

Exposure to fires

Exposure to explosions

Exposure to uncontrolled release of chemicals

Increased crime

Sexual diseases

Heart disease

Obesity

Stress

Ozone

Climate change is not likely to be a measurable impact on the Globe

Climate change has potential human health effects

Truck exhaust

Irritation of eyes

Irritation of skin

Irritation of respiratory tract

Ozone concentration at ground levels

Asthmatic exposure

Carbon monoxide emissions

Odor

Benzene including dozens of other dangerous chemicals and gases

Birth defects

Dust

Radon

Air Quality

Ingestion of contaminated soil

Inhaling VOC's (volatile organic compounds) when showering

Wind erosion from pad sites

Surface run off from pad sites

Water contamination

Impact of water quality on streams, creeks & puddles

Volatile organic compounds in aquifers off gassing into homes

Road dust

Risk for injury or death in motor vehicle accidents

Walking and biking routes impeded

Multi-vehicle crashes

Truck traffic near schools

Workers exceeding speed limits

Vibrations

Noise – contributes to: cardiovascular disease

Hypertension

Psychological symptoms

and Respiratory impairments.

Noise – contributes to Stress leading to: feelings of displeasure

Interference with thought

Interference with feelings

Interference with activities

Interference with moods

Interference with performance

Interference with cognition

Fatigue

Lights at night: Alter melatonin and hormone release

Disrupts normal “circadian” rhythms

Working at night can be carcinogen based; with linkage to breast cancer

Noise – elderly more vulnerable

Project will affect well-being of community environment & social environment

Increase in population could lead to larger school class size:

Strain on school facilities

Cultural clashes

Student turnover that could be disruptive in classrooms

Compromise learning ability

Students arriving late in district will not receive extra state funds

Increase in suicide

Loss of worker productivity due to sexually transmitted infection and resulting personal embarrassment

Divorce

Alcoholism

Conflict between – “newcomers” and “old-timers”

Crime

Domestic violence

Rape

Prostitution

Assault

Child abuse

Homicide

Abuse due to alcohol and drugs
 Drug abuse – especially methamphetamine
 Lack of walk-in services to test for sexually transmitted infections
 Rise of industrial presence can lead to reduced quality of life on residents – leading to anxiety and depression
 Cultural clashes
 A diminished access to outdoor recreation space
 Quality of outdoor activities diminished
 Might have to leave area to experience a peaceful walk, rather than walk near residence
 Damages to public roads
 Antero project has already led to changes in social cohesion – decreased social cohesion
 Additional law enforcement needed
 Private property has been shown to decline in value
 Cost of goods and services may increase due to increased economic activity caused by gas development
 Stress – suppresses immune system
 Accidents due to human error
 Hazardous material spills
 Damaged gas lines can explode
 Spills of drilling liquids and production water
 Databases have recorded numerous incidents of:

- well fires
- Blowouts
- Tanker spills
- Condensate tank emissions
- Pit discharges

It is estimated that 12 spills of 5 barrels or more may be expected in Battlement Mesa
 Cancer of known association and cancers community members voiced their concerns:

Hodgkin Lymphoma	Colorectal Cancer
Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas	Bladder cancer
Multiple Myeloma	Prostate Cancer
Leukemias	Breast Cancer
Melanoma	

Cancer of the adrenal gland

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Positive health effects of drilling is expected to be low

Are current federal, state and COGCC regulations sufficient to protect public health from the above hazards?

Benefits due to natural gas development. An increased workforce could help support new business that could enhance the community experience and relieve the harmful effect of personal economic tension- could bring additional school funding.

Floyd Diemoz rough review of HIA draft report revision1 April 10, 2011