

# **Battlement Mesa Health Impact Assessment Update Through July, 2010**

The Colorado School of Public Health is on schedule to complete a Health Impact Assessment for the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners by September 15<sup>th</sup>. This document summarizes the progress the CSPH team has made from the beginning of the contract with Garfield County through the end of July, 2010.

## **Data**

To ensure that the HIA recommendations are based on the best available evidence, the CSPH team has spent a significant amount of time identifying relevant sources of data. Since even publicly available data sets have privacy-related restrictions on access and use, accessing the data has required additional time and resources. Once obtained, analysis of the information to ensure its relevance to the HIA has also required significant time. The CSPH Team has found several partners who have been willing to share their data with us. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Hospital Association, the United States Geological Survey, Garfield County Public Health and Antero Resources have all been working to provide us with information relevant to the HIA.

We have organized our data sources into three basic categories: Health Data, Environmental Data and Social Data. Since we have not collected all of the data that will influence our recommendations, this document is nothing more than a synopsis of work completed to date. It is not a summary of the final report.

### **Health Data**

Through our relationship with CDPHE and the Colorado Hospital Association, we have been granted access to a rich source of data on human health outcomes. We will look at cancer data on leukemia/lymphoma, melanoma and cancers of the breast, lung, colon, prostate, adrenal glands and bladder. In addition to cancer, we will look at hospital and death data related to pulmonary diseases; cardiovascular events (including strokes); neurological outcomes; diagnoses related to the ear, nose and throat; depression and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). We also have information regarding sexually transmitted diseases. Relevant health data will be included as an appendix to the final HIA report.

### **Environmental Data**

The HIA recommendations will be based on groundwater data compiled by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) from a variety of data sources, including Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and ambient air quality data collected by Garfield County. A health risk assessment will help summarize the environmental data and will appear in an appendix.

### **Social Data**

We have collected data on crime, substance abuse, school enrollment and motor vehicle crashes. We anticipate collecting additional data on mental health, substance abuse and economic effects. This baseline information will be used in our assessment of impacts to community health. The data itself will appear in an appendix to the report.

## **Meeting with Habitat Health Impact Consulting**

The CSPH Team spent two days with Habitat Health Impact Consulting, a Canadian company that advises the development of health impact assessments. The Pew Charitable Trusts funded the meeting. They provided guidance on HIA “best practices” for structuring our analysis and report.