

# BCC Battlement Concerned Citizens

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Battlement Mesa, Colorado 81635

February 4, 2010

To The PEW Charitable Trust:

I am writing on behalf of the Battlement Concerned Citizens to express our support for the proposed Health Impact Assessment by the Colorado School of Public Health for the Battlement Mesa community.

Battlement Mesa is an unincorporated community of approximately 5,000 people in Western Colorado, with a large senior population. On May 27, 2009 Battlement Mesa Co., the developer of Battlement Mesa, made a public announcement that they had reached an agreement with Antero Resources for exploration and development of natural gas within the Battlement Mesa PUD, and that Antero was planning to drill 200 natural gas wells within our community.

The Battlement Concerned Citizens was formed in August, 2009 by a group of residents that felt that their concerns over health, safety and welfare were not being adequately addressed.

We circulated a petition throughout the community last fall, obtaining over 400 signatures, requesting that Garfield County, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment defer action on any applications to allow oil and gas development to occur within Battlement Mesa until a Health Impact Assessment had been completed. That petition was presented to the County in October, 2009 and is currently moving forward, with the County agreeing to perform a Health Study. Garfield County is also facilitating and coordinating a Health Impact Assessment with the assistance of the Colorado School of Public Health, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Grand River Hospital District.

There have been air quality studies conducted in Garfield County in the past, but relationships between public health and natural gas production remain largely unknown. Moreover, none of the aforementioned reports focused on urban drilling, the accumulated impacts of multiple wells and their associated effluents upon people; nor did the reports track the effects of gas development upon an elderly population demographic.

The people of Battlement Mesa want a well-founded decision related to natural gas production within their PUD, and in so doing, public health risks need to be studied in more detail to ensure public health protection during all stages of development.

The natural gas industry is hazardous and our community deserves additional levels of protection if multiple wells are to be developed. Therefore, we fully endorse the proposed Health Impact Assessment by the Colorado School of Public Health, and look forward to sharing our thoughts, concerns, and resources with them. We also encourage the Pew Charitable Trust to fund this very important and worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald E. Galterio".

Ronald E. Galterio  
Co-Chair  
Battlement Concerned Citizens  
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