

**FORT WORTH LEAGUE OF NEIGHBORHOODS  
2008 GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE PROPOSED REVISIONS  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**KEY ISSUES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS**

The Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods Board of Directors has endorsed its Gas Drilling Committee's extensive list of recommendations on proposed revisions to the City's gas drilling ordinance. All of them are important and we urge their implementation by the Fort Worth City Council. Among all the recommendations, several are key issues for neighborhoods:

1. All gas drilling activity noise should be trapped and attenuated at the source of the noise.
2. All compressors should be fully housed, with roofs.
3. The Trinity Trails should be a protected use with attendant review process for gas drilling activity near them. Retain and expand the current definition of public buildings. Retain the current definition of public parks.
4. Change the distance calculation from a school to a wellsite so that the calculation for ALL schools (whether outside or inside another protected use) begins at the property line rather than the building line.
5. A Gas Drilling Review Committee should include neighborhood representation and should review and provide opportunity for public comments and public discussion with City Staff and industry representatives on locations of all well sites, pipelines, compressor stations, and truck routes. Notification of reviews for gas drilling activities should extend to residential property owners close to these sites as well as to neighborhood associations close to these proposed sites.
6. Pipelines should be allowed in City right of way to lessen or eliminate their placement on residential property.
7. No owner waivers should be allowed if a company wishes to drill closer than 600 feet from a protected use. Only the City Council should have the power to grant such a waiver.
8. All of our environmental recommendations are important. We highlight two:
  - A. Establish a panel of experts in urban gas drilling environmental effects which would review the City's gas drilling ordinance immediately and make recommendations on improvements. The same panel should review (annually or bi-annually) how well City of Fort Worth regulations are working and make recommendations to the City Council on improvements.
  - B. Lake Worth, other bodies of water and their immediate watershed areas that are part of Fort Worth's water supply should be designated as "Environmentally Sensitive Areas"--ESAs. An additional permit and control category for ESAs should be established which would allow minimum impact gas drilling and gathering-related activities only in safe proximity to these areas and which are designed to eliminate, as much as possible, any negative environmental impacts resulting from such activities.

9.
  - A. Hire a Gas Well Drilling Neighborhood Ombudsman to work with and represent neighborhoods on drilling issues (except leasing) and environmental issues caused by or related to gas drilling or gathering activities.
  - B. The City should convene bi-annually a Gas Drilling Ordinance Review Task Force (with representation from the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods, the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, and City Council district neighborhoods) to review provisions of the ordinance and make recommendations to the Fort Worth City Council for revisions to the ordinance.
10. Urge the Texas Legislature to:
  - A. Amend current state laws so that gas producing operators are no longer classified as public utilities or common carriers thereby removing their ability to use the power of eminent domain to place pipelines in urban settings.
  - B. Provide funding to insure the Texas Railroad Commission provides adequate numbers of gas well inspectors to inspect Barnett Shale wells on an annual basis; review, adequately evaluate, and issue permits; observe field activities during the drilling and fracturing processes; and perform compliance monitoring during the production phase.
  - C. Give municipalities in the Barnett Shale increased local authority to direct and restrict the location of pipelines within their boundaries.