



Environmental Services
222 Laporte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970.221-6600
fcgov.com

MEMORANDUM
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: August 16, 2023
TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Natural Resources Advisory Board
SUBJECT: Recommendations Regarding Proposed Changes to Oil and Gas Policies

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On July 19, 2023, Kristie Raymond (Environmental Planner) and Cassie Archuleta (Air Quality Program Manager) presented to the Natural Resources Advisory Board on updates regarding potential recommendations to oil and gas reverse setbacks as it pertains to new development within the city limits. During the presentation, Kristie Raymond shared a summary of proposed changes. The Natural Resources Advisory Board has reviewed these proposed changes and have made the below recommendations.

Proposed changes with Board recommendations:

**The Board's recommendations are italicized.*

1. Apply oil and gas reverse setbacks to all occupiable buildings, not just residential uses.
 - a. *NRAB is in support and encourages the Council to adopt.*
2. Eliminate the buffer exemption for crossings of arterial roadways.
 - a. *NRAB did not receive adequate information to take a position.*
3. Increase buffer for developments near existing oil and gas operations from 500' to 2000' to match ECMC and Fort Collins new code setbacks.
 - a. *NRAB is in support and encourages the Council to adopt.*
4. Allow modification of standards for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) injection well buffers, no less than 500'.
 - a. *NRAB does not support and encourages for the buffer zone to remain at 2000' for new development.*
5. Decrease soil-gas and ground water monitoring requirements for plugged and abandoned wells from once every 5 years to once prior to permits and once again at the end of a five-year construction guarantee.

- a. NRAB would support an initial early monitoring within the first year following being plugged followed by periodic monitoring indefinitely.*
 - b. NRAB also suggests rephrasing this statement for clarity (e.g. replace “decrease” with “modify”).*
6. No change to buffer for developments near existing abandoned wells (not fully reclaimed) at 500’.
 - a. NRAB is in support.*
7. No change to buffer near plugged and abandoned wells (fully reclaimed) at 150’.
 - a. NRAB is in support.*
8. No change to disclosure requirements for future property owners via a property covenant.
 - a. NRAB is in support.*
9. Add requirements for point-of-sale disclosure notice for new developments and existing homes within a 2,000’ buffer.
 - a. NRAB is in support and encourages the Council to adopt.*
10. Add prohibition on detached occupiable buildings from existing buildings located within the oil and gas buffer.
 - a. NRAB does not support and recommends placing the onus of this decision on the property owner and requiring the disclosure to renters/point-of-sale.*

The Board views the adoption of the proposed changes as an incremental step in achieving Our Climate Future goals, particularly as it pertains to the “Big Move 3: Climate Resilient Community,” “Big Move 11: Healthy Natural Spaces,” and additional environmental health goals outlined in the City’s strategic plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue and its future implications for the community.

Very Respectfully,

Dawson Metcalf, MS
Chair, Natural Resources Advisory Board