

## SUMMARY:

Here are some bullets about Longmont's Oil and Gas regulations, their purpose and how they are expected to work with the private sector oil and gas companies.

- Longmont recently amended its land use regulations pertaining to oil and gas operations in an effort address the recent surge in oil and gas exploration occurring in northeast Colorado and make the regulations more up to date with current oil and gas exploration and production methods.
- Longmont's Oil and gas regulations do not ban drilling or the technique of fracking, the regulations encourage oil and gas operators to consolidate operations to fewer overall facility operations.
- The regulations incent operators to voluntary operational and locational standards with a fastrack/administrative review process where the voluntary standards are met.
- The voluntary standards include keeping operational facilities a distance of 750 ft from occupied buildings, platted residential lots, sports play fields and playgrounds,
- A voluntary setback of 300 ft is also recommended from water bodies,
- Additional common sense voluntary standards which incent a fast track review include: noise, and lighting standards,
- The voluntary standards also include closed loop/pitless systems.
- In a concurrent action the City of Longmont and TOP Operating agreed to these standards in an Operator's Agreement for consolidated well sites located on City owned properties, demonstrating that the industry can easily comply with these rules given the technologies utilized by oil and gas operators including directional and horizontal wells.
- The Longmont Oil and Gas regulations reasonably determine that oil and gas operations are subject to the local police powers of zoning and correspondingly limit oil and gas *surface operations and* facilities to non residential zones.

Ultimately the Longmont Oil and Gas regulations recognize that there may be instances where an oil and gas operator's plans as allowed by the State do not conform to the voluntary standards. In that case, an application for an oil and gas operational facility simply proceeds through a conventional land use review process decided by the Longmont Planning and Zoning Commission. Longmont was sued by the State of Colorado for trying to incent Oil and Gas operators to be good neighbors.