

Fun Facts...

...about Urban Gas Drilling in Fort Worth, Texas to provoke change and inspire protest.

1. Task FARCE

The Fort Worth Gas Drilling Task Force appointed by Mayor Moncrief in 2005 to make recommendations for the current ordinance, was heavily weighted with CEO's from all the major gas drillers in the Barnett Shale, their lawyers and a few developers. Citizen representatives were outnumbered and outvoted. The final outcome was predetermined.

2. Women's Breasts vs. Gas Wells

The City of Fort Worth considers “Gentlemen's” clubs more dangerous than gas wells. Gas wells are allowed as close as 200 ft. from a residence. Gentlemen's clubs: 1,000 ft.

3. CONFLICT #1

Mayor Mike Moncrief says that his oil and gas income is NOT a conflict of interest in city council business despite the fact that he made over half a million dollars from his oil/gas stockholdings in 2006, including Chesapeake Energy.

http://www.startelegram.com/metro_news/story/251305.html

4. “Clean Burning”?

Natural gas releases several types of carcinogens, including, benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene.

<http://www.earthworksaction.org/aircontaminants.cfm#GAS>

5. Duck & Cover!

The most toxic material on the planet is a byproduct of gas drilling in the Barnett Shale: NORM (Naturally Occurring RADIOACTIVE Material). And you thought Iran was dangerous. Read more and see a slide show, here:

http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/pt/slideshows/2007/11/radioactive_residue/

6. Null & Void

The gas drilling industry is exempt from Fort Worth Zoning Regulations. How else to explain their Heavy Industrial sites in our neighborhoods?

7. Got Gas?

In May, 2007, the FWISD cosponsored a poster contest, with that unfortunate name, for 9th grade school children. Who were the other sponsors, you ask? Click here to find out:

http://www.barnettshaleexpo.com/fwisd_contest.php

8. CONFLICT #2 (no pun intended)

Taking the “public” out of public schools, the FWISD, refused to allow information about Buzzworms in the Backyard to be distributed to “public” school art students. I guess the kids are busy asking each other if they Got Gas?...and possibly because the FWISD is doing big business with their cosponsors.

[http://www.daleresources.com/pdf/Dale%20donates%20\\$3K%20FWISD.pdf](http://www.daleresources.com/pdf/Dale%20donates%20$3K%20FWISD.pdf)

9. Asleep at the Well

Despite being the first large city in the USA to allow Urban Gas Drilling, the City of F.W. REFUSED to conduct environmental impact studies. Fort Worth is already out of compliance with Federal clean air standards.

<http://www.downwindersatrisk.org/>

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/dfw.html>

10. Fun Factoid #1

Oil & Gas drilling activities are EXEMPT from Federal Clean *Air* Act.

11. Fun Factoid #2

Oil & Gas drilling activities are EXEMPT from Federal Clean *Water* Act.

12. Education Redefined a la P.T. Barnum

When Mayor Moncrief realized that too many F.W. residents were getting info from unbiased sources he had a great idea: Create a website owned and operated by some of the Big Boys of the Barnett Shale. That way, suckers like us won't have to hear any of the Bad News from FWCanDo and others. Voila! **The Barnett Shale Energy "Education" Council** was born.

<http://www.bseec.org/>

13. Drilling Downtown

If you believe that Urban Gas Drilling is nutty, wait until you read about the gas well planned for Downtown Cowtown. The only thing nuttier than that is Mr. Peanut hisself!

<http://fortworthology.com/2007/09/25/chesapeake-to-drill-for-gas-in-downtown/>

[http://www.thelogofactory.com/logo_blog/images_ill/mr_peanut.gif](http://www.thelogofactory.com/logo_blog/images/_ill/mr_peanut.gif)

14. Intangible #1

Remember back in '04, before the Barnett Shale was discovered, when taking a drive out in the country was one of life's little pleasures? Not anymore. That is one of the quality of life intangibles that you can't put a price on. Now gone.

15. Intangible #2

The lights from gigantic gas facilities, burning 24/7, now blot out what few stars were once visible in certain parts of the city. How much is it worth to see the stars from your own backyard?

16. Moneychangers in the Temple

One of the most hypocritical symbols of urban gas drilling is the use of Fort Worth churches for leasing parties by gas drilling companies. Across the city, churches, who are among the largest landowners have eagerly opened their doors for such meetings. Why? The Sheckels. Remember your Sunday School lessons about money being the root of all evil? Remember Jesus driving the moneychangers from the temple? Remember several of the Ten Commandments? That was so last millennium. Welcome to the new, “Good News”.

17. Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

If gas drillers get their way. there will be, at least, 3,000 gas wells in Fort Worth, alone. Considering that pad sites require removal of all vegetation, Fort Worth will lose a minimum of 15,000 acres of greenspace over the next few years, from natural gas production. That is equal to more than **137** F.W. Botanic Gardens.

18. Worst Case Scenario. What If...?

It may be rare, so far, but the odds of a major catastrophe are increasing daily. If a gas well did blowout in an urban neighborhood, what would happen? A gas well DID explode in rural Palo Pinto in '05, leveling and burning one square mile,

leaving behind a crater hundreds of feet wide. It's very easy to imagine the death and carnage a similar explosion would cause in your neighborhood.

<http://www.nbc5i.com/news/5551640/detail.htm>
1