

From: [Rick Michael](#)
To: [Oil and Gas Conservation Rulemaking](#)
Subject: Protect Idahoans Living Near Oil and Gas, Docket No. 20-0702-1601
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 06:25:10 AM

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for Docket No. 20-0702-1601, IDAPA 20.07.02 Rules Governing Conservation of Oil and Natural Gas in the State of Idaho.

I urge you to improve IDAPA 20.07.02 to better protect the health, safety, and property of Idaho's people. Specifically, the provision in section 110.04, Surface Owner Protections, should be strengthened to cover the actual cost of repairing all damages and surface disturbances. This can be better achieved by requiring a \$10,000 surface use bond to be posted by the operator. \$5,000 is simply an inadequate amount to cover major accidents, spills, or damages.

I also urge you to increase to a minimum of 500 feet the setbacks located in sections 200.04, 420.01, and 430.01. The current 300 foot proposal is inadequate to protect people living near oil and gas. Placing oil and gas infrastructure close to people's homes and workplaces can negatively impact their health, property value, and quality of life.

Emissions from oil and gas operations contain methane, but can also contain toxic volatile organic compounds such as benzene, toluene, ethyl-benzene, and xylene. This, coupled with the risk of accidents, impacts to their property value, reduced quality of life caused by odor, noise, dust, light, spills, and traffic necessitate a greater setback distance.

I strongly urge you to implement these important improvements.

Sincerely,

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