



Board of Trustees Action Items

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For Immediate Release
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Erie Board of Trustees Action Items – March 7, 2012

Board Approves 180 Day Moratorium on Acceptance of New Oil & Gas Applications – During a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the Board of Trustees approved an ordinance imposing a temporary (180 Days) moratorium on the acceptance, processing and approval of any land use applications related to mining and mineral extraction – including oil and gas development. The moratorium, approved as an emergency ordinance, is effective immediately. Reasons given in the proposed ordinance for the imposition include:

- To allow time to enter into an agreement between the Town and oil and gas operators wherein the operators would voluntarily agree to comply with Town requirements. Such requirements may exceed Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission requirements - including a plan to reduce airborne Volatile Organic Compounds related to mineral extraction.
- To review the Town's Unified Development Code with regard to oil and gas development regulations, with an eye towards updating if there are reasons to do so.

LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN AND OPERATORS: Recognizing municipalities such as the Town of Erie have limited authority when it comes to the oversight of oil and gas operations within its boundaries, at the Board's direction, Town Staff is continuing to work with the state regulatory agency (Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission) and oil and gas operators to address local concerns. Staff provided a progress update to the Board of Trustees during their January 24, 2012 meeting which included draft recommendations for a local agreement between the Town and oil & gas operators conducting business within Erie and the Erie Planning Area. Draft terms of a local agreement include but are not limited to the following:

1. Air-Quality Monitoring

- a. Town of Erie staff will immediately begin to design and implement an air-quality monitoring system.

2. Water Quality Monitoring

a. The Town will implement real-time source water monitoring of Total Organic Carbon, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Total Suspended Solids, Oil, Ammonium, and Nitrates.

3. Establish an Erie-Specific Oil & Gas Operations Checklist

a. On a case-by-case review basis the checklist will establish specific requirements for:

1. Land-use issues including:

- a. Maximize equipment and wellhead setbacks
- b. Increase advance notification to one-half mile radius prior to new drill and refrac activity
 - i. Prior to commencement of location activity, operator will provide a summary of planned operations including identified access points and operational timeline to Town staff for posting to local community information page
- c. A specific plan for site prep, mobilization, and demobilization
- d. A specific plan for interim and final reclamation and re-vegetation
- e. A specific plan for noise, light, and dust mitigation

4. Require Steel-Rim Berm instead of sand/soil around tanks and separators

5. Require Closed-Loop System for drilling and fracing operations

6. Require the Use of HLP VRU at all production sites

7. Require Traffic Management Plan for each site

8. Town Right-of-First-Refusal to sell water to operators as a way of reducing truck traffic

a. Special class of water-purchaser/premium rate

SOURCE WATER MONITORING EQUIPMENT: As part of continued efforts to better monitor oil and gas operations within the Town of Erie, during the February 28, 2012 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of source water monitoring equipment in an amount of \$50,000. Since January of this year, the Board has been developing a checklist for rules regarding oil and gas monitoring. One concern is the potential of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing process coming in contact with Erie's drinking water. The Board directed staff to investigate methods of detecting such chemicals in Erie's source water. Staff determined that the appropriate monitoring sites would be the pretreatment building of the Water Treatment Facility, Prince Reservoir, and Erie Reservoir. An additional hand held meter would provide spot checks on the rest of the equipment and allow staff to monitor well water at citizens' homes upon request. Staff intends to phase the purchase of this equipment. Phase 1 equipment (2012) will monitor the source water in the pretreatment building at the Water Treatment Facility and will include the handheld unit for spot monitoring. In 2013, Phase 2 efforts would include the implementation of the reservoir monitoring equipment.

MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit the Town of Erie Oil & Gas Operations Webpage

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings – The next regularly scheduled [Board of Trustees](#) meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are held in the [Town Hall boardroom](#) located at 645 Holbrook Street in Erie.

More Information – Board of Trustees Action Items are brief summaries of some, but not all, agenda items and do not serve as the official meeting minutes. Select this link to view archived Board of Trustees meeting online via the Town's [On Demand Video](#) service. To request approved meeting minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at nparker@erieco.gov .

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