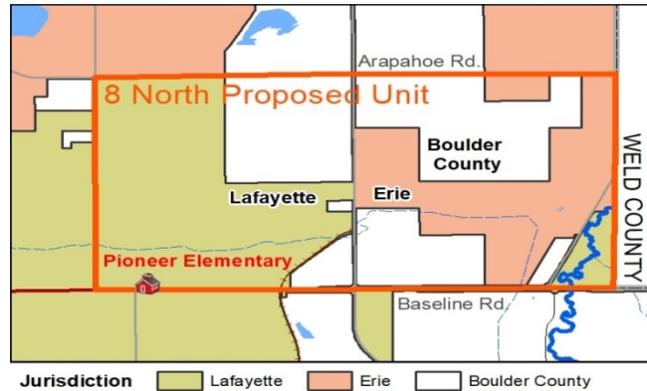


Oil and Gas Development Affecting Pioneer Elementary

Background

In September 2017, 8 North LLC (a subsidiary of Extraction Oil & Gas) filed applications with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) to lay the groundwork to drill for oil and gas in a two-square-mile area between Arapahoe and Baseline Roads and between County Line Road and 111th Street.

The applications ask the COGCC to approve the area as a “drilling and spacing unit” to contain up to 20 wells. The applications give no indication of where in the proposed unit those wells would be located. They will be horizontal wells that will be able to drill minerals out of a large area from a single site on the surface.



Boulder County and the City of Lafayette filed protests to the applications and will be arguing against them at the COGCC hearing currently scheduled for April 30-May 1, 2018. Those arguments will be about protecting the critical areas within the unit (including Pioneer Elementary School, numerous homes, several parks, and county open space land) and the applications’ failure to comply with the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. Boulder County is carefully watching the process for the 8 North applications and evaluating all legal options for protecting people, homes, land and wildlife.

All of the documents related to the applications, as well as more detailed information, can be found on Boulder County’s website at: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/land-use/planning/oil-gas-development/#eight-north>

FAQs

Will wells be drilled near Pioneer Elementary School?

- 8 North has not provided any information on the planned location of its wells or wellpads within the proposed unit. The applications even state that the wells could be placed outside the unit itself.
- There are several limitations for placement of wells or wellpads. Under state law, they cannot be closer than 1000 feet to a school building or 500 feet to a home. In addition, 8 North has no right to place wells on surface lands under which they do not have legal rights to the minerals.
- Although 8 North has not yet responded to Boulder County’s request to indicate where it will seek to drill, it is possible that 8 North could locate its wells on the eastern edge of the unit or in Weld County and access minerals from there.

What needs to happen before wells can be drilled?

- The current applications need to be approved or denied by the COGCC.
- If the initial drilling and spacing unit applications are approved by COGCC, 8 North will need to file additional applications with COGCC to approve specific drill sites.

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- In addition, 8 North will have to seek a permit from the local government in whose jurisdiction the wellpads are planned. No local applications have yet been filed. If the well sites are within Lafayette city limits, the city council will consider the permit application consistent with the applicable regulations, if they are within Erie town limits, Erie's process will be followed, and if they are proposed for unincorporated Boulder or Weld County, the respective county's regulations will govern the application.

What are the opportunities for public input?

- The public can provide comments and concerns to the COGCC as it decides on the spacing unit applications and the subsequent permits, either in person or in writing. Information on participation can be found here: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/oil-gas-cogcc-public-participation.pdf>
- If applications are filed with local government, there will also be significant public involvement in the relevant permitting process when it begins. As an example of those processes, Boulder County's oil and gas permitting regulations are available here: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/land-use-code-article-12.pdf>
- 8 North's parent company Extraction can be contacted at <http://extractionog.com/contact.php>