



STAND TOGETHER AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING



STAND-LA EDUCATION MATERIALS

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STAND TOGETHER AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING

LOS ANGELES

In Los Angeles, home of the nation's largest urban oil field, one in three residents lives within a mile of an active oil well. Drilling near homes, schools and hospitals threatens our families with the risk of serious illnesses and catastrophic accidents.

WHO WE ARE

STAND-L.A.

IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS SEEKING TO END NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ANGELENOS ON THE FRONTLINES OF URBAN OIL EXTRACTION.

We believe that city officials are responsible for protecting the health and safety of their constituents. The risks associated with neighborhood drilling are well documented and unjustifiable. Our communities—not oil and gas corporations—should have the power to shape a safe and healthy future for our families and for Los Angeles.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

WHAT WE'RE CALLING FOR

The laws regulating oil extraction in Los Angeles have failed to protect our communities. We can't afford to wait. We are calling on the City of Los Angeles to enact a 1,500 foot human health and safety buffer around all oil extraction activities.

OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS ARE:

COMMUNITIES FOR
A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

ESPERANZA COMMUNITY
HOUSING CORPORATION

HOLMAN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

LIBERTY HILL FOUNDATION

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY – LOS
ANGELES

REDEEMER COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP

CONNECT WITH US

@STAND_LA

Facebook.com/STANDLosAngeles

www.stand.la

An aerial photograph of Los Angeles, California, showing the city's skyline and surrounding areas. The image is used as a background for a poster. The title "STAND TOGETHER FOR LOS ANGELES" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The words "STAND TOGETHER" and "LOS ANGELES" are on the left side, and "FOR" is on the right side, separated by a horizontal line.

STAND TOGETHER FOR LOS ANGELES



MISSION STATEMENT

STAND-L.A. is an environmental justice coalition of community groups that seek to end neighborhood drilling to protect the health and safety of Angelenos on the front lines of urban oil extraction.



WHO WE ARE



We are concerned residents, good neighbors, communities of faith, environmental justice champions, researchers, nurses, students, mothers and fathers.

Founding Coalition Members

- **Communities for a Better Environment**
- **Esperanza Community Housing Corporation**
- **Holman United Methodist Church**
- **Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles**
- **Redeemer Community Partnership**



WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING?

Neighborhood drilling happens when oil is extracted dangerously close to homes, schools, and even hospitals.

In 2015, a panel of independent scientists concluded that “community public health risks of exposures to toxic air contaminants...are most significant within 1/2 mile from active oil and gas development.”*

In Los Angeles, there are **130 schools, 184 daycare facilities, 213 elderly homes** and nearly **628,000 residents** within a half mile of an active oil well.*

*Source: A 2015 report by the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST)



WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING?

Oil drilling operations release toxic chemicals like hydrogen sulfide gas, methane, benzene, carcinogens and endocrine disruptors. As these dangerous emissions are pumped into the air that our families breathe, our community's health suffers from:

- headaches
- upper respiratory illness
- asthma
- nausea
- nosebleeds
- increase in cancer risk

These risks are further magnified in children, whose bodies are more susceptible to toxic pollution.



ANGELENOS AT RISK

Los Angeles sits atop the nation's largest urban oil field, which poses a unique public health risk that is magnified by our population density.

This risk is disproportionately concentrated in communities of color that already suffer from cumulative health, environmental and economic burdens.

Neighborhood drilling is fundamentally a matter of racial and economic injustice.

1,071 ACTIVE OIL WELLS
IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

759 ACTIVE OIL WELLS
ARE LOCATED 1500 FT. FROM
HOMES CHURCHES SCHOOLS HOSPITALS

74.4%
of residents who live within
1,500 feet of drilling sites are
people of color



OUR GOAL: A HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY BUFFER

STAND-LA is seeking a 1500 foot human health & safety buffer around all active oil wells. Our proposed ordinance is based on sound legal precedent and is well within the jurisdiction of the L.A. City Council to implement.

OUR PROPOSED ORDINANCE

The purpose of this proposed ordinance is to protect the City of Los Angeles' public health and safety, air quality, water quality and supplies, and climate by (1) prohibiting the operation or establishment of any oil or injection well within 1,500 feet of any residence, school, medical clinic, or hospital and by (2) requiring nonconforming uses to be discontinued within a specified period of time, unless exceptions apply.

The proposed Ordinance will amend the City's municipal code by including a section on "Human Health & Safety Well Setbacks" to provide that "No Oil Well (including injection wells) or Temporary Geological Exploratory Core Holes, shall be drilled or operated, nor shall any accessory equipment or structures be operated or maintained within 1500 ft. of any Residential Building, Mobile Home, Child Care Facility, School (Elementary and High), Educational Institution, Medical Clinic, or Hospital."

The amendments will also provide for an amortization period for the discontinuance of nonconforming oil wells. The amortization period will be based on factual and legal analyses to adhere to and satisfy legal standards.



HELP US SHAPE L.A.'S FUTURE

The global climate fight must start here at home.

As L.A. re-envision itself as a sustainable, forward-thinking city, we must first address the environmental and health impacts of oil extraction that our communities experience every single day.

The success of the global climate agreement reached in Paris hinges on local leaders taking action. You have the power and responsibility to protect Angelenos from neighborhood drilling and move our city toward a sustainable future.

We are asking you to stand with us as we call for a **1,500 foot human health buffer** to put a **safe** distance between oil wells and the places where Angelenos live, work and play.

WWW.STAND.LA

@STAND_LA

#THEDIRTYDOZEN

Throughout the Los Angeles Basin, oil companies reported repeated use of **12 notorious** toxins during extraction and production.

#TheDirtyDozen expose Californians to unacceptable health risks, including:



irritation to
eyes, nose or skin



respiratory
illness



cancer
risk



damage to
nervous system



cardiovascular
disease



reproductive &
endocrine disruption

CRYSTALLINE SILICA

METHANOL

HYDROCHLORIC ACID

HYDROFLUORIC ACID

2-BUTOXYL ETHANOL

ETHYL GLYCOL

XYLENE

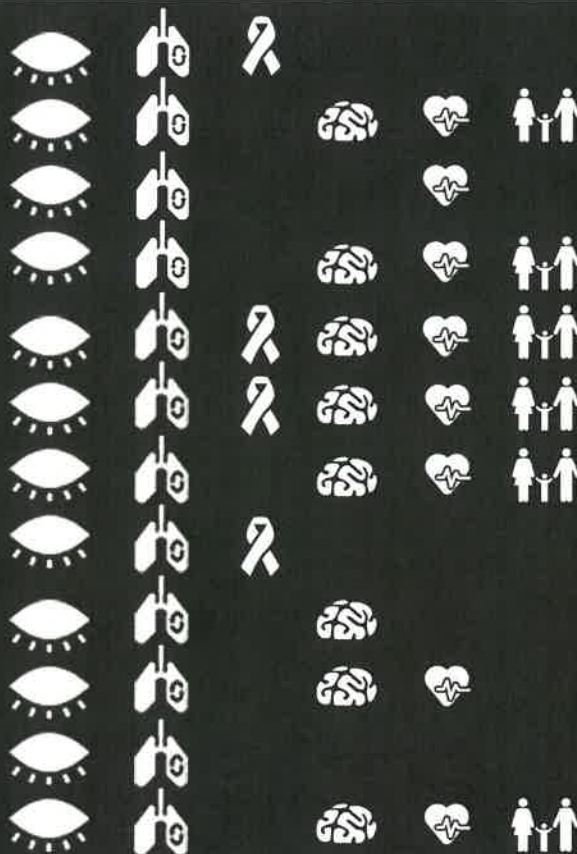
AMORPHOUS SILICA FUME

ALUMINIUM OXIDE

ACRYLIC POLYMER

ACETOPHENONE

ETHYLBENZENE



THE FULL EXTENT OF
THE RISKS OF OIL
RECOVERY TECHNIQUES
IS STILL
UNKNOWN.

Under SCAQMD rule, oil
companies are allowed to
keep the identity of
certain used chemicals
hidden from the public if
the companies claim it is
a "trade secret."

OIL DRILLING SITES IN LOS ANGELES ALSO EMIT SMOG-FORMING GASES THAT WORSEN
LOS ANGELES' AIR QUALITY, INCLUDING:

HYDROGEN SULFIDE

causes nausea, headache, dizziness
at low concentrations, and shock, coma,
and death in high concentrations

**BENZENE
TOLUENE
& XYLENE**

known
carcinogens,
reproductive harm

**NITROGEN OXIDES
(NOX)**

causes increased death
rates due to heart disease

**VOLATILE ORGANIC
COMPOUNDS (VOCs)**

respiratory harm, increased asthma

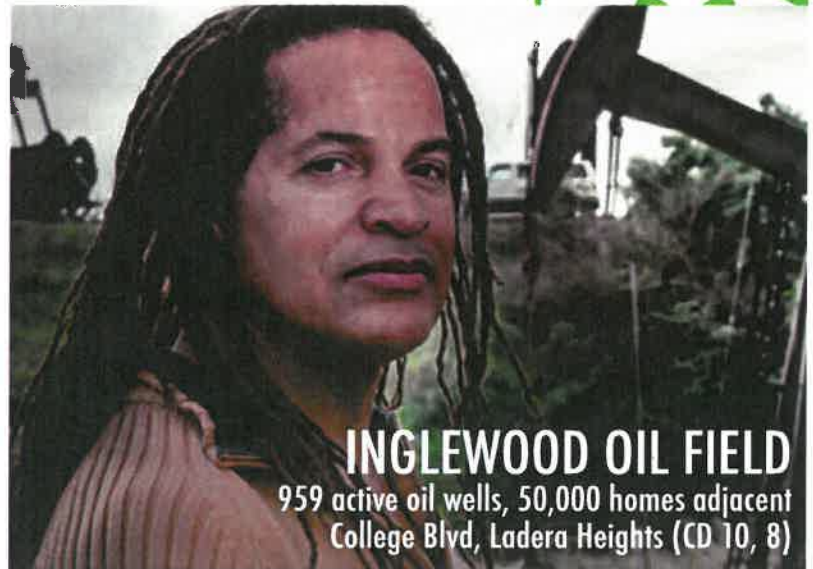
Communities of color
are exposed to
significantly higher levels of NOx
than whites, causing 7,000
additional deaths per year.



FAMILIES ON THE FRONTLINES / WHEN OIL IS YOUR NEIGHBOR

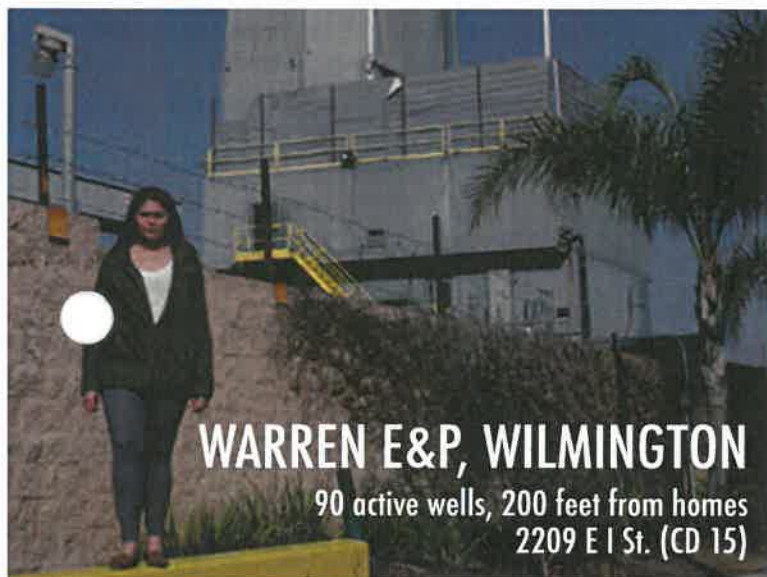
"I DRIVE PAST THE FIELD EVERY DAY GOING TO WORK, AND ALWAYS NOTICE DIESEL OR INDUSTRIAL FUMES LIKE SULFUR."

CHARLES ZACHARIE
BALDWIN HILLS RESIDENT



INGLEWOOD OIL FIELD

959 active oil wells, 50,000 homes adjacent
College Blvd, Ladera Heights (CD 10, 8)

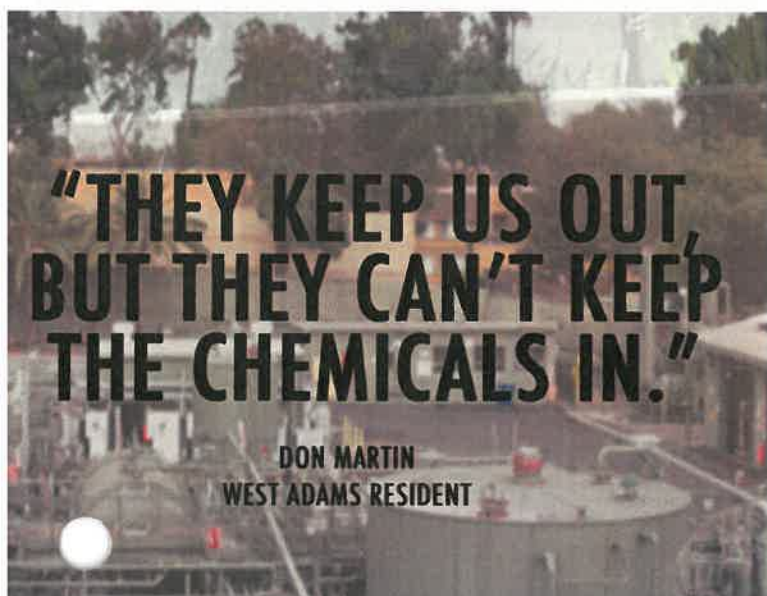


WARREN E&P, WILMINGTON

90 active wells, 200 feet from homes
2209 E I St. (CD 15)

"THE COMPANY IS OFFERING FALSE SOLUTIONS THAT DISTRACT FROM THE REAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. A GIFT CARD IS NICE BUT IT WON'T PAY FOR AN EMERGENCY ROOM VISIT."

ASHLEY HERNANDEZ
WILMINGTON YOUTH ORGANIZER



"THEY KEEP US OUT, BUT THEY CAN'T KEEP THE CHEMICALS IN."

DON MARTIN
WEST ADAMS RESIDENT

MURPHY DRILL SITE

29 active wells, 200 feet from homes
2126 W Adams Blvd. (CD 8)



Liberty Hill

#DRILLINGDOWNLA

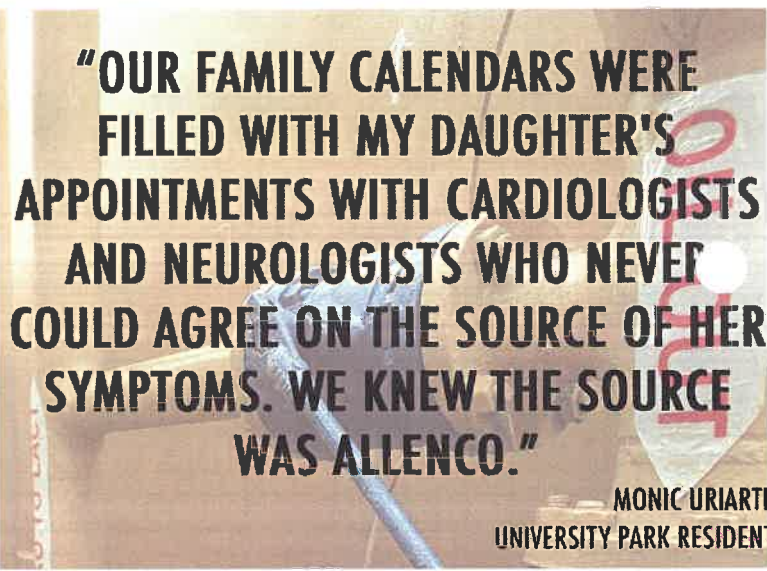
FAMILIES ON THE FRONTLINES WHEN OIL IS YOUR NEIGHBOR

1.7 MILLION ANGELENOS LIVE LESS THAN A MILE FROM AN ACTIVE OIL WELL.

In The Liberty Hill Foundation's *Drilling Down* report, mothers, fathers, senior citizens, and students all share their experiences of exacerbated health ailments—including nosebleeds, nausea, respiratory illness, and dizziness—associated with oil operations in their neighborhoods.

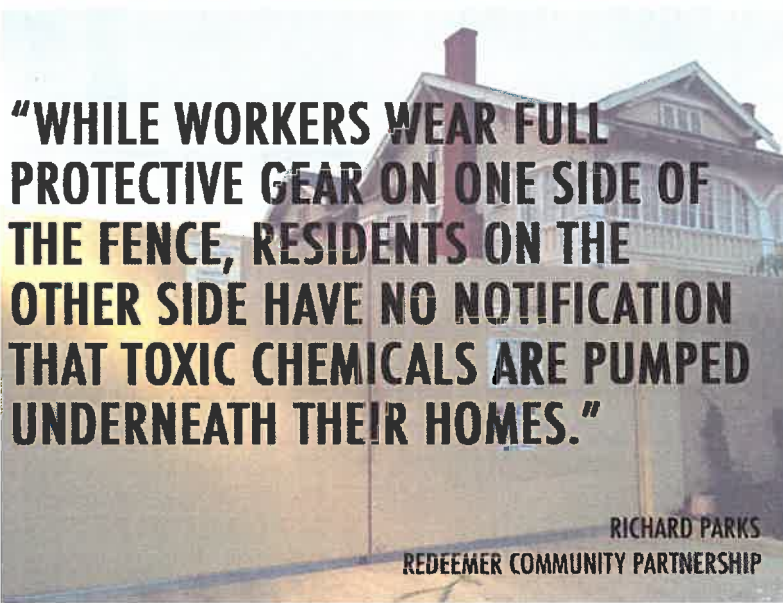


ALLENCO DRILL SITE
21 active wells, 30 feet from homes
814 W 23rd St. (CD 1)



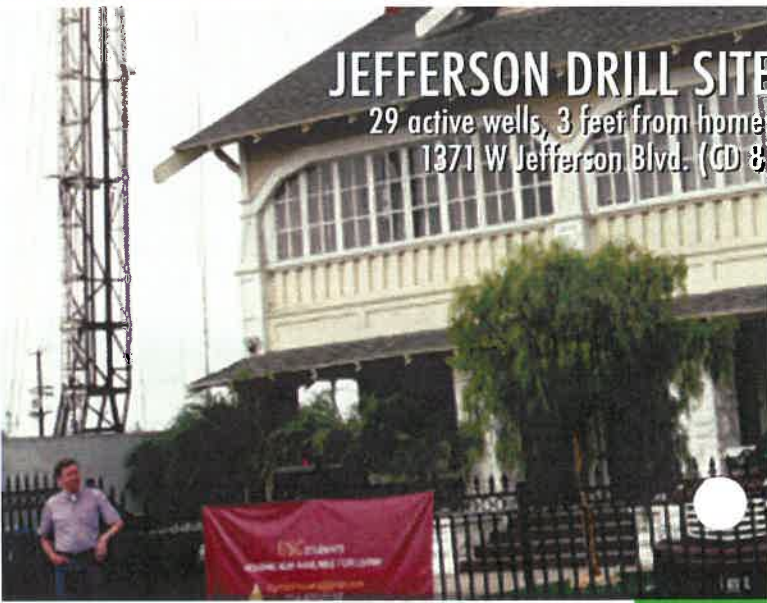
"OUR FAMILY CALENDARS WERE FILLED WITH MY DAUGHTER'S APPOINTMENTS WITH CARDIOLOGISTS AND NEUROLOGISTS WHO NEVER COULD AGREE ON THE SOURCE OF HER SYMPTOMS. WE KNEW THE SOURCE WAS ALLENCO."

MONIC URIARTE
UNIVERSITY PARK RESIDENT



"WHILE WORKERS WEAR FULL PROTECTIVE GEAR ON ONE SIDE OF THE FENCE, RESIDENTS ON THE OTHER SIDE HAVE NO NOTIFICATION THAT TOXIC CHEMICALS ARE PUMPED UNDERNEATH THEIR HOMES."

RICHARD PARKS
REDEEMER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



JEFFERSON DRILL SITE
29 active wells, 3 feet from homes
1371 W Jefferson Blvd. (CD 8)

#DRILLINGDOWNLA





Oil Drilling Results in one of the Largest Causes of Global Climate Change

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities, and oil-fueled transportation is one of the biggest culprits in human production of carbon dioxide—the source of about one-fifth of global-warming emissions worldwide.
- The combustion of fossil fuels such as gasoline and diesel to transport people and goods is the *single largest source* of CO₂ emissions in California, amounting to 173 million metric tonnes per year of CO₂ equivalent.
- About 20 pounds of CO₂ are produced from burning one gallon of gasoline, and about 22 pounds of CO₂ are produced by burning a gallon of diesel fuel.

Did you know that emissions from:



Oil Extraction

Getting Oil & Gas out of the ground, leaking methane

= 4%

(about 20 million metric tonnes per year of CO₂ equivalent)

+



Oil Refineries

Turning crude oil into gasoline & diesel

= 6-9%

(at least 29 million metric tonnes per year of CO₂ equivalent)

+



Transportation

Burning the gas & diesel in cars, trucks, etc.

= 37%

(173 million metric tonnes per year of CO₂ equivalent)

= Almost half California's greenhouse gas emissions (≈47%)

These sources are inextricably linked:

Keep it in the Ground!

The high emissions from extracting, refining, and burning oil transportation fuels means we can't save humans from catastrophic climate change without phasing out these fossil fuels.

- Global warming will progress faster than previously believed, because increased temperatures will increase natural methane emissions, leading to more warming. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151126104037.htm
- The world has already warmed 1 °C relative to pre-industrial times. Even if CO₂ levels stopped rising today, the world would warm 1.6 °C—more than 3/4 to the 2 °C target limit [needed to avoid catastrophic climate change]. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn28469-carbon-emissions-hit-new-high-and-temperature-rise-soars-to-1-c/>
- Glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica will melt 10 times faster than previous estimates, resulting in sea level rise at least 10 feet in as little as 50 years, (according to James Hansen, former NASA lead climate scientist). <http://phys.org/news/2015-09-eyes-oceansjames-hansen-sea.html>

Transform to Clean Energy by 2050

 **Phase OUT by 2050:** All Oil Drilling, Refineries, Natural Gas & Coal Power Plant Electricity

 **Phase IN:** Electric Vehicles, Renewable Electricity (such as Solar, Wind, Storage), Efficiency

 **STOP Immediately:** Extraction in residential areas & Extreme Crude Oil & Natural Gas

- The transition is technically & economically feasible.
- Cutting greenhouse gases 80% by 2050 is now California policy.
- Building clean energy infrastructure creates sustainable jobs. Germany alone has around 5,000 employees in the solar power industry, employment in the American solar industry as a whole has grown by 20%.

Stop Drilling in Los Angeles!

- Start in our own backyard & support a phase out neighborhood drilling through human health & safety buffers.

Phase-in Electric Vehicles & Public Transit, starting with:

- Support Vehicle Electrification such as California's [Charge Ahead](#) and Senate Bill 350 Implementation
- Support Altern. 7 to the massive LA 710 freeway / Port goods movement expansion & Electrify freight transportation (see [Moving California Forward, Zero and Low Emissions Freight Pathways](#))
- Increase funding for Public Transit & Biking improvements

Build Clean Renewables & Jobs

- Support development of clean energy infrastructures and jobs in Los Angeles.
- Shift to available clean electricity, including Energy Efficiency, Demand Response, Local Rooftop Solar, Energy Storage, and Transmission Improvements that are generally cheaper; hold the CPUC, LADWP, & utilities accountable.

The Benefits of stopping use of Fossil fuels:

- **We can stop our fast progression toward catastrophic climate change.**
- **We can stop deadly smog:** Nearly half of the people in the U.S. live in counties that have unhealthful levels of either ozone or particle pollution. California has 6 out of the top 10 most air-polluted cities in the nation.
- **We can stop the unfair, heaviest burden of pollution impacts on low income & communities of color** Communities of color are exposed to significantly higher levels of NOx (nitrogen oxides from fuel combustion) than whites, causing 7,000 additional deaths per year.
- **We can build the new & equitable clean energy economy, ensure that the most polluted and poorest communities have a fair share of health.**



Dirty Dozen: The 12 Most Commonly Used Air Toxics in Unconventional Oil Development in the Los Angeles Basin

A Report from the Center for Biological Diversity

INTRODUCTION

For the first time in California, operators of oil and gas wells have been forced to disclose some of the chemicals they use in extreme oil and gas production techniques. These reports confirm that dangerous extraction methods are using harmful and toxic chemicals and exposing Californians to unacceptable risks.

Starting June 4, 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (“SCAQMD”) began requiring oil and gas well operators to submit reports (“Event Reports”) that disclose where and when they plan to use unconventional recovery techniques such as acidization, gravel packing and hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”). The same rule — Rule 1148.2 of SCAQMD’s regulations¹ — requires operators to disclose the chemicals used in their operations in a publicly available chemical report within 60 days of completion (“Chemical Reports”). In early August operators started disclosing many of the chemicals being used.

These disclosures demonstrate that air toxics — chemicals considered among the most dangerous air pollutants because they can cause illness and death — are being used routinely in extreme energy-recovery techniques in Southern California. This report demonstrates the need for a prohibition on these activities, as well as full disclosure of all chemicals used in all phases of oil and gas production.

FINDINGS

Approximately one month’s worth of Chemical Reports is now available on the SCAQMD website. A review of the first month’s Chemical Reports, made available through the website’s online search function,² showed that oil and gas well operators are using many harmful chemicals in their acidization, gravel packing and fracking operations. Operators must also clearly indicate any chemical considered an air toxic by SCAQMD, whose jurisdiction includes Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The 12 most commonly used air toxics in recent months are:

¹ SCAQMD Rules and Regulations, Rule 1148.2, available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/reg/req11/r1148-2.pdf>

² Available at <http://xappprod.aqmd.gov/r1148pubaccessportal/>

The 12 Most Commonly Used Air Toxics in Unconventional Oil Production in the L.A. Basin

Rank	Chemical	Number of Times Used ³	Known Health Effects ⁴
1	Crystalline Silica	117	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, immune system and kidneys; mutagen. Known human carcinogen. ⁵
2	Methanol	85	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, reproductive and cardiovascular system; mutagen, developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor.
3	Hydrochloric Acid	43	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, immune system, cardiovascular system and blood.
4	Hydrofluoric Acid	16	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, reproductive system and cardiovascular system; mutagen, developmental inhibitor.
5	2-Butoxy Ethanol	13	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, reproductive system and cardiovascular system; mutagen, developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor; linked to liver cancer. Also linked to adrenal tumors. ⁶
6	Ethyl Glycol (Monobutyl Ether)	11	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, reproductive system and cardiovascular

³ In some cases, the same chemical ingredient was listed as being used multiple times in the same Chemical Report for different purposes. In such cases, each use is counted separately.

⁴ Unless otherwise noted, health effects are documented by TEDX Endocrine Disruptor Exchange. Spreadsheet of health effects listed by chemical is available at <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/chemicals/multistate.php>.

⁵ SCAQMD Staff Report for Proposed Rule 1148.2 – Notification and Reporting Requirements for Oil and Gas Well Chemical Suppliers (April 2013) Appendix A, p. A-14, available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/hb/attachments/2011-2015/2013Apr/2013-Apr5-031.pdf>.

⁶ U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System, Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (EGBE) (2-Butoxyethanol) (CASRN 111-76-2), available at <http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0500.htm>; See also Abraham Lustgarten, ProPublica, Buried Secrets: Is Natural Gas Drilling Endangering US Water Supplies?

			system; mutagen, developmental inhibitor, and endocrine disruptor; linked to liver cancer.
7	Xylene	10	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, reproductive and cardiovascular system; developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor.
8	Amorphous Silica Fume	7	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver; linked to lung cancer.
9	Aluminum Oxide	7	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, and brain and nervous system.
10	Acrylic Polymer (Acid)	6	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys and cardiovascular system; mutagen and developmental inhibitor.
11	Acetophenone	6	Causes skin irritation, corneal injury, hematological effects; possible damage to lung, kidney and liver. ⁷
12	Ethylbenzene	6	Harmful to skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, kidneys, reproductive system and cardiovascular system; mutagen, developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor.

BACKGROUND

There has been a growing controversy over unconventional oil development in California. New and dangerous techniques tied to oil production, including fracking, acidization and gravel packing, have been used increasingly in California, with little or no oversight by the state.

Recently, however, SCAQMD began requiring operators to disclose what chemicals they use in these unconventional and extreme methods of oil extraction. Operators must first file an Event Report, which discloses where the well is located, what method will be used for extraction and other basic information. Within 60 days of the operation, operators must also submit a Chemical Report, which identifies all the substances used during the extraction process, with key exceptions.

Approximately one month has elapsed since operators submitted the first Chemical Reports. The SCAQMD posts the reports online and allows the public to search and download the information in a variety of ways.

⁷ U.S. EPA Technology Transfer Network Air Toxics Website, Acetophenone, available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttnatw01/hlthef/acetophe.html>

The SCAQMD requires reporting for three types of unconventional oil extraction — acidization, gravel packing and fracking. Each method carries significant risks to public health, safety and the environment. The number of Event Reports submitted for each method is summarized in the table below:

Month	Acidization	Gravel Packing	Fracking
June	35	22	4
July	54	32	6
August	81	41	1
Total⁸	170	95	11

Acidization

Acidization is a process in which a combination of hydrochloric acid and other acids are mixed with brine and other chemicals and injected underground to dissolve oil-bearing formations. Once the surrounding rock is dissolved, oil flows to the well more freely. Since event reporting began in early June 2013, operators have filed at least 170 Event Reports pertaining to acidization in SCAQMD jurisdiction.

Gravel Packing

In gravel packing, gravel is injected with a chemical mixture into the well to form filters that help prevent the buildup of sand inside the well. Minimizing sand buildup increases the flow of oil to the surface. At least 95 Event Reports pertaining to gravel packing have been submitted to SCAQMD since June 2013.

Fracking

Fracking is a recovery method in which large amounts of water, sand and harmful chemicals are injected under extremely high pressures into a rock formation to create fractures in the oil-bearing rock and allow oil to flow to the surface. At least 11 Event Reports pertaining to fracking have been submitted to SCAQMD since June 2013.

“Trade Secrets” Claims Conceal Key Information

The full extent of the risks of unconventional oil recovery techniques is still unknown, in part because SCAQMD allows oil companies to keep the identity of certain chemicals hidden from the public if the companies claim it is a trade secret.⁹ Instead of disclosing what chemicals are used, the company merely submits a vague description, which SCAQMD substitutes for the real chemical information when the reports are posted online.

These descriptions are often so vague that they do not provide the public with any information about what chemicals might be used. For example, some “trade secret” chemicals are described as a “lubricant,” “surfactant,” or simply “mixture.”

⁸ The numbers include original Event Reports as well as revisions (49 for acidization, 45 for gravel packing, 0 for fracking) and cancellations (11 for acidization, 4 for gravel packing, 0 for fracking). Thus the number of times each practice has actually occurred will be slightly lower than the number of reports submitted to SCAQMD.

⁹ Rule 1148.2(f)(2)

Extremely Dangerous Chemicals Used Routinely

The chemical information that is disclosed provides valuable information about the names and types of chemicals used in unconventional oil recovery. Operators must also clearly indicate chemicals considered an air toxic by SCAQMD. Air toxics include toxic air contaminants and hazardous air pollutants and are considered among the most dangerous types of air pollutants because they can cause illness and death.¹⁰ The most commonly used air toxics in the reports are listed below:

Crystalline Silica:

Reported use in 127 instances.

Used for many purposes, including as a proppant, cement extender, bonding agent or gelling agent.

A known mutagen. Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, immune system and kidneys. Exposure can result in silicosis.

Known human carcinogen.

Methanol:

Reported use in 85 instances.

Used for many purposes, including as a non-emulsifier, corrosion inhibitor, wetting agent, bonding agent, surfactant and clay stabilizer.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, cardiovascular system and reproductive system; a mutagen, developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor.

Hydrochloric Acid:

Reported use in 43 instances.

Used to dissolve underground rock formations; extremely dangerous and can become flammable or even explosive. Direct contact can cause severe burns.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, immune system, cardiovascular system and blood.

Hydrofluoric Acid:

Reported use in 16 instances.

Used to dissolve underground rock formations; extremely dangerous and an acutely toxic chemical.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, cardiovascular system and reproductive system; mutagen and developmental inhibitor.

¹⁰ Toxic air contaminants are those that "may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health." California Health and Safety Code § 39655.

2-Butoxy Ethanol:

Reported in 13 instances.

Used as a cleaning agent and solvent.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, cardiovascular system and reproductive system; mutagen, developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor; linked to liver cancer. Also linked to adrenal tumors.¹¹

Ethyl Glycol (Monobutyl Ether):

Reported in 11 instances.

Used as a weighted spacer blend, crosslinker and solvent.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, reproductive system and cardiovascular system; also a mutagen, developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor; linked to liver cancer.

Xylene:

Reported in 10 instances.

Used as a cleaner and solvent.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, immune system, kidneys, cardiovascular system and reproductive system; a developmental inhibitor and endocrine disruptor.

Amorphous Silica Fume:

Reported in 7 instances.

Used as a bonding agent.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver; linked to lung cancer.

Aluminum Oxide:

Reported in 7 instances.

Used as a cement extender.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, and brain and nervous system.

Acrylic Polymer:

Reported in 6 instances.

Used to prevent fluid loss.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system,

¹¹ U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System, Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (EGBE)(2-Butoxyethanol) (CASRN 111-76-2), available at <http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0500.htm>; See also Abraham Lustgarten, ProPublica, Buried Secrets: Is Natural Gas Drilling Endangering U.S. Water Supplies?

immune system, kidneys and cardiovascular system; mutagen and developmental inhibitor.

Acetophenone:

Reported in 6 instances.

Used as a cleaner and corrosion inhibitor.

Health effects include skin irritation, corneal injury, hematological effects and possible damage to the lung, kidney and liver.

Ethylbenzene:

Reported in 6 instances.

Used as a wellbore cleaner and solvent.

Health effects include damage to the skin, eyes and other sensory organs, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and liver, brain and nervous system, kidneys, reproductive system and cardiovascular system; a mutagen and endocrine disruptor.

Conclusion

The information that has become publicly available from SCAQMD's Rule 1148.2 has confirmed that unconventional oil recovery methods use numerous harmful air toxics that pose a threat to public health, safety and the environment. These inherently dangerous techniques pose an unacceptable risk to public health and should not be allowed in California.

In addition, the practice of hiding the identity of chemicals that pollute our air and water under claims of trade secrecy should be discontinued, and SCAQMD and other state and federal agencies should disclose to the public the full range of chemicals being used in all phases of oil and gas development.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 625,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Los Angeles Times

South L.A. residents want city to act on Jefferson Boulevard oil drilling site



The view of the Freeport-McMoran oil drilling site from a neighbor's house. (Barbara Davidson / Los Angeles Times)



By **Emily Alpert Reyes** • Contact Reporter

JANUARY 25, 2016, 3:00 AM

At a packed hearing at City Hall more than a year ago, South Los Angeles residents argued that oil drilling had caused foul smells, thunderous noise and other nuisances in their neighborhood west of USC.

They urged the city to examine whether the oil company had been violating decades-old city rules before allowing additional drilling on the Jefferson Boulevard site. And they pushed for the city to impose stricter conditions to protect neighbors, including enclosing the drilling equipment in a building, as oil producers have done elsewhere in the city.

Residents say they are still waiting for the city to take action. "How does the Planning Department hear all these health and safety concerns — and then just walk away as if it never happened?" asked Richard Parks, president of the nonprofit Redeemer Community Partnership.

The company now running the Jefferson Boulevard site, Freeport-McMoRan, disputed their nuisance claims. It ultimately withdrew its plans to drill one well and redrill two others, but neighborhood activists said that even if nothing new was planned, they still wanted the city to examine whether the company had been following the rules.

The demand for action at the Jefferson Boulevard site is part of a growing push for the city to step up its oversight of oil drilling.

Roughly 1,000 active oil and gas wells are scattered across the city, many near homes and schools. As L.A. politicians demand action to protect Porter Ranch residents displaced by a natural gas leak just north of the city, on county land, environmental and neighborhood activists are pressing them to reexamine their own power over oil and gas facilities within city limits.

Youth and environmental groups recently sued the city, arguing that the Planning Department had been improperly "rubber-stamping" drilling applications and had required fewer protections for neighbors around drilling sites in predominantly black and Latino neighborhoods than those in white areas.

The lawsuit singled out the Jefferson site as an example. The facility, which sits next to apartments in a largely Latino and black stretch of South Los Angeles, is closer to homes and other "sensitive sites" than any other L.A. drilling facility, according to the nonprofit Community Health Councils.

In their letter to the city last year, community groups said they wanted an annual review of city conditions on the drilling site, the installation of air and noise pollution monitoring equipment that operates around the clock, and other changes to protect neighbors.

Industry groups have been skeptical of the push for city action, stressing that a number of state, county and regional agencies also regulate drilling. Sabrina Lockhart, a spokeswoman for the California Independent Petroleum Assn., said that calls to reexamine city rules for the Jefferson site were "veiled attempts to stop operations that will hurt the local community through job loss and reduced revenue and royalty benefits."

The Planning Department, which has been the focus of the criticism, has downplayed its role in overseeing drilling. Department head Michael LoGrande declined to answer questions about the Jefferson site because the facility is mentioned in the recent suit against the city.

But at a Planning Commission meeting in October, LoGrande said that enforcement of any kind of site-by-site conditions is generally handled by another city department — Building and Safety — and that enforcing any conditions tied to oil drilling is "more of a state issue."

Environmental and community activists counter that the city has a unique and broad role compared with other agencies that regulate specific aspects of oil production, such as air quality.

The city "is the one that fundamentally allows that facility to exist where it exists," said Angela Johnson Meszaros, a staff attorney with the nonprofit law firm Earthjustice.

Jefferson Boulevard oil drilling site



Sources: Mapbox, OpenStreetMap

Angelica Quintero / @latimesgraphics

Johnson Meszaros and community activists point to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, which says the city can change or revoke approvals by the Planning Department for a number of reasons, including if the resulting activity jeopardizes the health or safety of neighbors, creates a public nuisance or violates local, state or federal law.

But city codes do not spell out how severe the problems must be to trigger action. Ed Penwick, an attorney who represents oil producers and royalty owners, said the city used to have "a highly skilled, knowledgeable, well-respected-by-all-parties petroleum administrator" to help weigh such claims, but it no longer has an expert filling that role full time.

That puts the Planning Department in a tough position because it could also be sued for interfering with the rights of the oil company, Penwick said.

As drilling expanded across the city decades ago, Los Angeles set out site-by-site rules to protect neighbors. But city officials say L.A. has no system to proactively and regularly check whether oil companies are hewing to city conditions. Instead, it responds to complaints.

For instance, at the AllenCo Energy Inc. drilling site on 23rd Street, neighbors said they endured headaches and nosebleeds for years. After environmental officials investigating noxious odors fell ill while visiting the site, the company suspended operations. City Atty. Mike Feuer sued to prevent AllenCo from reopening the site, saying it had created a public nuisance.

But amid the uproar, the city did not scrutinize whether AllenCo was following a long list of requirements that officials had imposed before allowing drilling at the South L.A. facility.

In the AllenCo case, neighbors took their complaints to the South Coast Air Quality Management District — not to the city — which was one reason why L.A. officials didn't immediately get involved. At the Jefferson site, residents complain that they have gone to the city Planning Department, yet still not spurred action.

In addition, environmental activists complain that rather than strengthening protections at the Jefferson site, L.A. has weakened them.

When the Jefferson site was first approved in 1965, the city insisted that the company operating it should hang on to neighboring buildings as a "buffer." But city officials altered that rule in 1999, allowing then-empty buildings to be sold off and used as housing. When they were sold, the deed stated that oil operations next door could cause noxious fumes, loud noise and safety hazards.



Richard Parks, president of the nonprofit Redeemer Community Partnership, and others protest at the Freeport-McMoRan oil drilling site on Jefferson Boulevard. (Katie Falkenberg / Los Angeles Times)

Across the street from the drilling site, Edna Roberts says noise routinely sends her to the back of her South Los Angeles apartment. "It's noisy and dusty," Roberts, 92, said one summer afternoon last year, gesturing at the yellow walls of the facility visible from her front porch. "You can dust 50 times and it doesn't do anything."

More than four years ago, oil droplets drifted from the drilling site onto one of the neighboring buildings — an episode Parks and other activists say shows L.A. should have never allowed them to be occupied. In a letter, they said Freeport-McMoRan should be required to relocate tenants out of the "buffer" buildings.

Freeport-McMoRan spokesman Eric Kinneberg said the buildings had already been rented out to tenants years before the change in the conditions, though he was unable to provide documentation to show

that. He said the city had designated the building as a buffer "to require disclosure to prospective occupants that the buildings were located next to a facility with 24-hour continuous operations."

The company has argued against changing the conditions imposed on the site, contending that any problems there have not risen to the level of a health or safety threat.

South Coast Air Quality Management District records show that the Jefferson site had two violation notices in the last two years for excessive emissions from a unit that treats water, which the company characterized as minor. The facility has not had any violations from the state Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources for a decade, according to state records.

And the company said it hadn't been cited for noise violations since it acquired the facility. Freeport-McMoRan told the Planning Department it had fixed sidewalks, replaced missing bricks and repainted building eaves to address community concerns. And it stressed that the site generated more than \$2 million annually in royalties.

The push for a review, it said in a letter to the city, was "simply a harassment tactic."

Residents have pointed out that the Municipal Code states that a planning official — the chief zoning administrator — has the power to impose added conditions on urban drilling sites if needed to protect neighbors. So do the rules specifically imposed on the Jefferson Boulevard site.

"Your hands are not tied," West Adams resident Michael Salman wrote in a letter to the planning official who handled the recent Jefferson case, arguing that the Planning Department had both the power and responsibility to impose added conditions to protect neighbors. "In fact, the opposite is true."

City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, who represents the area around the drilling site, said he believes it is time for L.A. to reexamine the city requirements there.

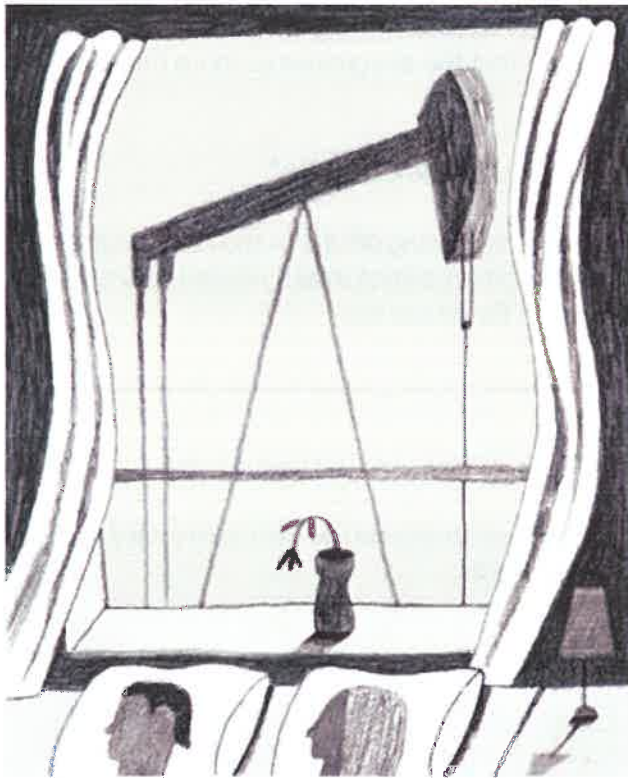
"The Planning Department should take a hard look," he said.

The New York Times

The Opinion Pages | EDITORIAL

The Danger of Urban Oil Drilling

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD NOV. 27, 2015



Many Los Angeles residents are familiar with a sight that may seem strange to outsiders: an oil pump operating mere feet from businesses or homes. A recent lawsuit claims that the city has systematically failed to address 'drilling' environmental consequences, especially in lower-income neighborhoods that are majority black and Latino.

Los Angeles is currently home to over 1,000 oil wells. The 1970 California Environmental Quality Act requires the city to conduct a preliminary review before approving a new drilling project to determine whether a more extensive review of its environmental impact is necessary. The lawsuit, filed by the advocacy groups Youth for Environmental Justice, the South Central Youth Leadership Coalition and the Center for Biological Diversity, alleges that the city routinely exempts projects from that provision. The plaintiffs found only one case in which the city actually required a full environmental review for oil drilling.

The suit further alleges that the city grants drilling applications in a discriminatory manner — for instance, by allowing dirtier diesel drilling rigs in the majority-black and Latino neighborhoods of South Los Angeles and Wilmington, while requiring quieter and less polluting electric rigs on the city's wealthier west side. And it says the city has required higher walls around drill sites in majority-white neighborhoods, offering residents there greater protection from dust, sounds and lights.

Pollutants from oil drilling, such as benzene, can cause cancer and other illnesses. Wilmington's cancer rate is among the highest in Southern California. Residents there and in South Los Angeles have also experienced headaches, nosebleeds, asthma and eye irritation, among other health problems. Some have complained of drilling noise that goes on all night. One drilling site is less than 100 feet from a clinic serving people with HIV. Many wells are very close to playgrounds, homes or schools.

Environmental justice advocates have been saying for years that poor people and racial minorities are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards around the country. Los Angeles appears to be a dramatic example of this problem.

Michael LoGrande, the city's planning director and a defendant in the suit, said before the suit was filed that the city would seek expert advice and acknowledged that "Angelenos residing in communities throughout the city have been and continue to be affected by oil drilling operations."

City officials declined to comment to The Times on the lawsuit, but their duty seems clear: to review the potential environmental impact of all new drilling projects, as the 1970 law requires, and then to figure out what steps need to be taken to protect people from hazards associated with oil wells. In addition, the city should arrange for appropriate medical care for those who become sick.

A more thorough examination of drilling applications may force Los Angeles to examine a larger question, too: whether drilling for oil so close to homes and schools is ever truly safe.

Los Angeles Times

Op-Ed California's appearance at the climate change talks belies an L.A. oil and gas health threat



Plaintiffs stand on the steps of City Hall after papers were served in a new lawsuit that accuses Los Angeles of "rubber stamping" plans for oil drilling operations close to homes and schools in predominantly black and Latino neighborhoods. (Los Angeles Times)

By **Kelvin Sauls**

DECEMBER 7, 2015, 5:00 AM

Gov. Jerry Brown and a delegation of California officials are in attendance at the U.N. climate change conference in Paris. They are there, in part, to tout the state's efforts to cut carbon pollution and simultaneously grow the economy. Yet as much as California's environmental progress deserves recognition, it is hardly sufficient, and that is especially true at the local level.

Yes, California's system for measuring air quality is more stringent than the national standard, but it doesn't save us from breathing the dirtiest air in the country. Our clean energy goals are ambitious, and yet California remains one of the top oil-producing states in the nation — often drilling in the backyards of our state's poorest and most vulnerable residents. And while the state-mandated cap-and-trade program puts a price on carbon in order to reduce it, that does little to cut pollution in areas where power plants and refineries are housed.

“

California lacks the political will to ... protect hundreds of thousands of its citizens from the dangerous and exploitative practices of oil and gas companies.

The reality is that California lacks the political will to establish and fully implement regulations that could protect hundreds of thousands of its citizens from the dangerous and exploitative practices of oil and gas companies. There is a real disparity between the environmental dangers faced by low-income communities of color and their more privileged white neighbors.

I serve as senior pastor at the Holman United Methodist Church in South L.A.'s West Adams district. My neighborhood is tightly packed with historic homes, apartments, housing for seniors, a convalescent home and a home for nuns. Children ride their bikes and play basketball in a parking lot near the church. Several schools are located just a few blocks away. Only a wall and a plot of asphalt separate homes in the neighborhood from some 30 active oil wells at the Murphy drill site, operated by Freeport-McMoRan Inc. Oil company workers stand on one side of that wall, dressed head to toe in protective gear and masks, while kids live and play on the other, unprotected and complaining of headaches, nosebleeds and asthma.

These issues are not unique to West Adams — just ask the residents of Porter Ranch, forced out of their homes because of an uncontrollable methane leak at a Southern California Gas Co. facility. But the worst situations are in the poorest communities.

In University Park, a neighborhood only a couple of miles away from my church, a drilling site run by the Allenco Energy Co. was shut down because of community pressure but only after two federal investigators fell ill with nausea and headaches after visiting the site. The Environmental Protection Agency found that the oil company was not taking required precautions to shield the surrounding area from pollutants.

Living less than a half-mile from active oil extraction is considered unsafe, yet a report by Community Health Councils found that 580,000 Angelenos live within just a quarter of a mile — a mere 1,320 feet — from an active well. The state's own scientists have raised alarms about the risks. Nearly six months ago, the California Council on Science and Technology released a report on the dangers of oil operations in dense urban settings. Among other things, it recommended mandatory setbacks around oil wells to minimize human exposure to toxins. Despite the documented threat and the technology council's recommendation, Los Angeles' elected officials have yet to establish a human health and safety buffer to shield homes, schools and hospitals from oil extraction.

In November, a lawsuit was filed against Los Angeles claiming that city officials rubber-stamp oil drilling permits despite state laws that require environmental review. The plaintiffs — many of whom are young people who live near oil and gas sites — allege that the problem is particularly acute in low-income

neighborhoods. The suit also contends that extraction is allowed in South Los Angeles and Wilmington with fewer protections and restrictions than at sites in West L.A. and the Wilshire area.

At the Paris climate conference, California may well look like a world leader on environmental solutions. But here at home, thousands of families that live close to drilling sites in Los Angeles are still exposed to severe health and safety dangers. If the state and the city continue to let oil companies drill and extract oil next to schools, homes and hospitals, no matter what Jerry Brown says in Paris, our environmental battles are far from won.

Los Angeles Times

Southern California air board puts new restrictions on urban oil fields



Allenco's oil pumping facility in University Park is shown in 2013. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)



By **Tony Barboza** · **Contact Reporter**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015, 2:06 PM

Urban oil fields in Southern California must improve the way they control odors and respond to complaints from nearby residents under new rules adopted Friday by air quality officials.

The regulations approved on an 11-2 vote by the South Coast Air Quality Management District board come after a surge of complaints in recent years over noxious fumes in South Los Angeles, Huntington Beach, Whittier and other communities where oil production facilities operate near homes and schools.

The highest-profile case has been Allenco Energy Inc., the oil field in the University Park neighborhood near USC whose foul emissions prompted hundreds of complaints of headaches, nosebleeds and respiratory problems after it ramped up production five years ago.

The South Coast air district cited Allenco for 18 violations before the company voluntarily suspended operations at the site in November 2013. But community groups complained that the air district and other oversight agencies took little action to stop the violations.

The air district says the rules will force the oil industry to address foul odors before they become a public nuisance.

Under the regulations, oil field operators must adopt new odor-control measures and post signs in English and Spanish with instructions on how to report odor complaints, among other requirements. Well operators with ongoing odor issues will have to submit a plan to fix the problem.

Facilities within 1,500 feet of homes, schools and healthcare facilities would face more stringent requirements. Operators will have to submit reports on the cause of any confirmed release of odors, oil mist or droplets. In some cases, they will have to install monitoring systems to alert them when leaks and other problems occur.

The regulations will apply to as many as 240 facilities operating more than 4,000 onshore oil and gas wells across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Industry groups had been fighting the odor-control regulations, saying they unfairly single out oil and gas operations. But their opposition evaporated Friday after an amendment by Air Quality Management District board member Clark E. Parker Sr. Under his motion, operators will have to conduct daily inspections of well equipment only within 100 meters -- or 328 feet -- of homes, rather than 1,500 feet as originally proposed.

The last-minute changes angered environmentalists and community activists.

"AQMD is weakening the rule to provide more protection to the oil industry than to the community," Bahram Fazeli, policy director for the environmental justice group Communities for a Better Environment, said at Friday's public hearing.

Barry Wallerstein, the air district's executive officer, said the changes were minimal and that the rule remains the most stringent in the nation, adding, "these are leading-edge controls for urban oil fields."

Air quality regulators also revised rules adopted in 2013 that require companies to notify residents and report the chemicals used during drilling, hydraulic fracturing, acidizing and other well-stimulation techniques.

Operators will now have to give 48 hours' notice of such activities instead of 24, among other changes.

Concerns over air emissions from oil wells have emerged across Southern California over the last few years as production has increased at sites in some residential neighborhoods.

An air district review found Allenco generated by far the most complaints in the region, with more than 250 logged since 2010. An Angus Petroleum Corp. facility surrounded by homes in Huntington Beach had more than 100 complaints. Another oil field near USC, the Freeport-McMoran site on Jefferson Boulevard, had 15 complaints.

About 1.7 million people in the Los Angeles Basin live within one mile of an active oil or gas well, and more than 32,000 reside within 328 feet, where air toxics can pose risks to human health, according to a July report by the California Council on Science and Technology.

The state-commissioned report recommended an epidemiological study of people living near oil production sites and rules limiting how close the operations can be to homes and schools.



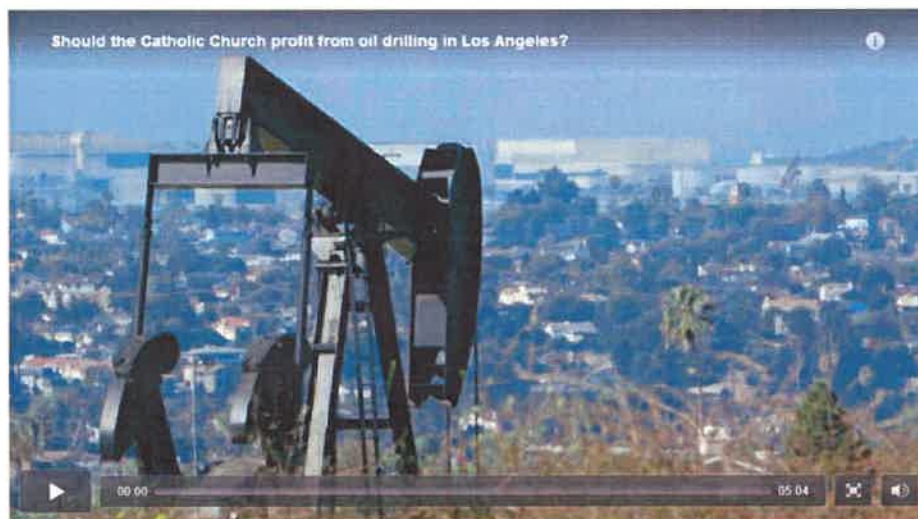
AMERICA TONIGHT
MON-FRI 9:30PM ET/6:30PM PT

Is Los Angeles giving oil drilling in neighborhoods a pass?

Living above one of the largest concentrations of oil in the world, many residents say L.A.'s drilling lacks oversight

August 14, 2015 4:15PM ET | Updated August 26, 2015 2:15PM ET

by **Karen Foshay** - [@karenfoshay](#) & **Michael Okwu** - [@MichaelOkwu](#)



Should the Catholic Church profit from oil drilling in Los Angeles? 4:59

America tonight | August 13, 2015 [f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#)

Biniyam A. Nake, 16, doesn't know much about one neighbor in his South Los Angeles neighborhood.

"They are kind of secretive. They have high walls, so a lot of people don't know they are here," he said. "There is funny smoke, but [you] don't know where it's coming from...and then, on the door, you see, 'Can cause birth defect,' all the warning...and you kind of wonder what's there."

Except for a few signs, it's tough to figure out that their neighbor is a Murphy Oil Corporation drilling site, which is also close to a nursing home, a mental health care facility and an assisted-living center.

Resident James Breton lives across the street from the Murphy site, but only learned a few years ago that it was an active oil field.

"I think it's too close. Look how close the apartment are. Look how close it is to that hospital," he said. He added: "I thought drilling was isolated from communities like this, but it's in the heart of it."

Los Angeles has one of the largest concentrations of petroleum in the world, and pumping oil is part of backdrop of living in the City of Angels. Sometimes, the drilling operations are disguised as buildings, though many of the 3,000 oil wells in Los Angeles County hide in plain sight – like the one in Aiken neighborhood.

The Murphy Oil site is one of at least 17 oil sites in Los Angeles that are dangerously close to schools, homes and churches, according to a January study by the Council of Health Communities. The study found that many of the oil sites are located in low-income neighborhoods.

America Tonight visited a few of those drilling sites, including the Jefferson Oil site, which operates next to an apartment complex. From one kitchen window, 30 oil wells and several barrels bearing hazardous material labels can be seen.

"On this side of the wall, there will be workers in head-to-toe protective gear standing behind red danger tape," watchdog Richard Parks showed us. "While here, residents—here's their bedroom windows—where they have no notification that any of toxic chemicals are being pumped underneath their home next door."



Many of the 3,000 oil wells in Los Angeles County hide in plain sight, located in regular urban neighborhoods.

America Tonight

Despite increased drilling at the Jefferson and Murphy sites, neither has been subjected to an environmental impact report. In fact, according to the Council of Health Communities study, 15 other sites in the city have also been exempt from environmental impact reports.

That's not surprising to Michael Salman, a UCLA history professor who lives near both sites. He says he started looking into the city's oversight of Murphy in 2014 after learning at a community meeting oil operators were drilling new wells at Murphy without approval. Salman found that city officials consistently granted "categorical exemption" to oil operators who wanted to drill new wells, old wells or add significantly new equipment to their sites.

"The categorical exemption means that a project is considered exempt from any environmental review at all," said Salman, who added the use of exemption is "a failure on the part of the city."

Planning administrators have granted the exemptions, noting drilling of old or new wells is not considered a "new project" and therefore not subject to environmental review.

"The city of L.A. has never done any environmental review, even less than a full environmental impact report for any project at any well site in the city of Los Angeles that I have been able to find," he said.



One of the many drilling sites located in Los Angeles neighborhoods. America Tonight

After reviewing city planning records and databases, with the exception of one environmental impact report, America Tonight couldn't find any environmental impact report on any active oil site in Los Angeles for the last 30 years. Officials at the city's planning department couldn't recall any environmental impact reports being done.

Like the Murphy site, homes and schools surround the Allenco Oil site in South Los Angeles, with landscaped walls around the site. In 2010, Allenco increased oil production by 400 percent, according to the Los Angeles Times, but was not subjected to an environmental impact report. Soon after the increase, residents began to complain to local government agencies of bloody noses, headaches and noxious smells. More than 250 complaints were eventually reported, but the site remained open until it voluntarily closed in November 2013 after four EPA inspectors fell ill while at the facility. (The company is reportedly negotiating with the city to reopen the site.)

Residents were surprised to learn that the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles owns the land at Murphy and Allenco – all the more surprising perhaps given how outspoken Pope Francis has been about climate change. Though the Church declined an interview with America Tonight, a spokeswoman did confirm the Church gets oil royalties, but wouldn't say how much. She also said the Church can't get out of the leases with the oil companies as long as oil is being pumped.

When asked if an environmental impact review would be required this time around, Los Angeles City Councilmember Gil Cedillo, who represents the area around the Allenco site, didn't know and said he would have to check with his staff. A community meeting to discuss the reopening is scheduled for next week.

He also said there is "no evidence" the city has a pattern of not requiring environmental impact reports and added the oversight is "robust."

"There is no evidence that there is rubber-stamping of any project, particularly that impedes in the health and safety of the public," Cedillo said.

“They are kind of secretive. They have high walls, so a lot of people don't know they are here. There is funny smoke, but [you] don't know where it's coming from ... and then, on the doors, you see, 'Can cause birth defects,' all these warnings ... and you kind of wonder what's there.”

—Biniyam Asnake

Salman disagrees, saying that the city is not following its own environmental laws – and that Los Angeles leaders know it.

"The City Council people have been advised of this repeatedly," he said.

At the Murphy site, Freeport MacMoRan Oil & Gas, the oil operator, was granted a categorical exemption to install a gas burner. If approved, the burner, which has not been subjected to an environmental review, may end up outside the oil site enclosure and closer to Asnake's bedroom.

"It's kind of scary," he said. "So when I wake up, that's what I'm going to see."

Company officials at Freeport MacMoRan did not respond to repeated requests for comment, but the company has stated in public meetings that the burner is not an expansion of use and is not a new project.

For a city that's trying to be the national model of green and sustainable living, Salman said he thinks the current landscape in Los Angeles is an embarrassment.

"California has a reputation for being a leader in environmental protection," he said. "And yet, here in urban Los Angeles, it's going in the wrong direction."

Los Angeles Times

South L.A. residents ask pope to intervene in fight over oil operation



University Park residents are preparing a video message to Pope Francis urging him to help stop AllenCo Energy from resuming operations on two acres it leases from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. (Francine Orr / Los Angeles Times)



By **Louis Sahagun** · Contact Reporter

JULY 22, 2015, 8:25 PM

Residents of a low-income South Los Angeles community are asking Pope Francis to intervene with the Los Angeles Archdiocese to prevent an oil operation from reopening two years after its noxious emissions sickened neighbors.

Residents are sending the pope a videotape urging him to help stop AllenCo Energy Inc. from resuming operations on two acres it leases from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. Pope Francis issued an encyclical a month ago calling on policymakers to take urgent action to pursue alternatives to fossil fuels.

On the tape, residents tell stories about foul odors that led to nosebleeds and respiratory ailments, afflictions that ceased after AllenCo closed down its operation in the University Park neighborhood, about half a mile north of USC, to fix leaks and improve its equipment.

Their complaints, reported by The Times in 2013, led to city, state and federal investigations, including an on-site inspection that sickened U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials and resulted in more than \$99,000 in fines.

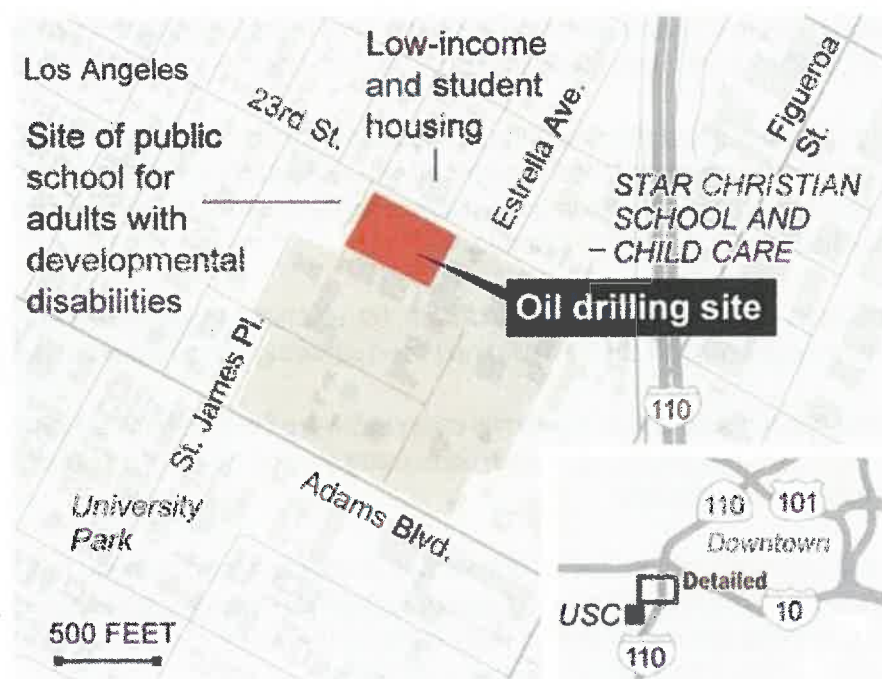
AllenCo says it has since made improvements that are designed to eliminate the harmful emissions and comply with state and federal regulations.

After an EPA investigation, AllenCo agreed to spend about \$700,000 on upgrades, including certification that all flame and combustible gas detectors, fire-suppression systems, atmospheric tanks, pressure vessels and piping were up to code. It also agreed to fully enclose a 30-foot-long open trench to prevent noxious mixtures, mostly of oil and water, from being exposed to the atmosphere.

AllenCo trying to reopen

Residents of a low-income South Los Angeles community are asking Pope Francis to intervene with the Los Angeles Archdiocese to prevent an oil operation from reopening two years after its noxious emissions sickened neighbors.

Source: Times reporting



"We're superclose to reopening," said Tim Parker, vice president of operations at AllenCo.

Before resuming operations, however, AllenCo's improvements must be tested or approved by federal, state and local agencies — and those hurdles have not been cleared. Seven of 11 idle wells at the facility, which was up for sale in 2012, have yet to yield a satisfactory demonstration of their mechanical integrity, state officials said.

Neighbors say they don't believe the improvements will stop the harmful emissions, and they don't believe the company because it denied for years that its emissions were dangerous.

“

Our goal is to persuade the pope to ... say, 'Hey, this is an opportunity to put my encyclical into action at the ground level.'

- Gabriela Garcia, of Strategic Action for a Just Economy



In the video, residents read from a prepared letter asserting that AllenCo "has made a mockery of the regulatory system and was allowed to operate despite their gross negligence, while our community suffered the consequences."

Among the eight people narrating the video, shot mostly outside the facility's entrance in the 800 block of West 23rd Street, was Gabriela Garcia, 33, who has lived less than a block away for 14 years.

"My 12-year-old daughter hasn't had a nosebleed or dizzy spell since AllenCo closed down," said Garcia, a community organizer with the nonprofit group Strategic Action for a Just Economy. "Our goal is to persuade the pope to call the Los Angeles archbishop and say, 'Hey, this is an opportunity to put my encyclical into action at the ground level.'"

Others on the video include Monic Uriarte, 50, and her 14-year-old daughter, Nalleli Cobo, who was among neighborhood children who had been suffering from frequent nosebleeds.

"Until AllenCo shut down, our family calendars were filled with my daughter's appointments with cardiologists, neurologists and gastroenterologists who never could agree on the source of her symptoms," Uriarte said.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez was unavailable for comment. In a prepared statement, the archdiocese said that although it "cannot unilaterally change the leases to stop oil drilling and has no control of the site, the health and well-being of the entire community is always a priority; that is why we support public safety and air quality regulations."

The site was donated to the archdiocese in the 1950s by descendants of Edward L. Doheny, one of Los Angeles' early oil barons. AllenCo bought the oil production facility on the site in 2009 and within a year increased production more than 400%, from 4,178 barrels to 21,239 barrels in 2010.

The neighborhood complaints began that same year. Over the next three years, the South Coast Air Quality Management District logged 251 complaints. The agency responded by issuing 15 citations against AllenCo for foul odors and equipment problems.

AllenCo voluntarily suspended oil production in 2013 at the request of U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), pending completion of investigations by the EPA, the air quality district, the state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, the city attorney's office and the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Since then, residents have lodged only a handful of complaints with the air quality district about headaches, itchy throats, nausea and nosebleeds.

AllenCo is trying to negotiate a settlement of the lawsuit filed against it by Los Angeles City Atty. Mike Feuer. The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court accuses the company of ignoring years of evidence that it exposed neighbors to harmful noxious fumes and odors.

In May, the AQMD issued a permit allowing AllenCo to restart operations. However, the company still has to comply with the requirements of the EPA, the state Conservation Department and the city Fire Department.

The company must notify the EPA that it has completed all the improvements at least 15 days before restarting operations.

L.A. in talks with oil producer about reopening facility near USC



Los Angeles City Atty. Mike Feuer says the city is in settlement talks with AllenCo, the operator of an oil production facility in South Los Angeles that halted operations after neighbors complained that fumes were making them sick. The company wants to resume operations. (Mark Boster/Los Angeles Times)



By **Louis Sahagun** · Contact Reporter

JULY 15, 2015, 12:24 PM

AllenCo Energy is trying to negotiate a settlement with the Los Angeles city attorney's office as part of an effort to resume operations of an urban oil field that prompted hundreds of complaints of nosebleeds and respiratory ailments due to its emissions, officials confirmed Wednesday.

AllenCo voluntarily halted oil production at the site, in a mostly low-income South Los Angeles neighborhood about half a mile north of USC, two years ago at the request of U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), and after health and environmental safety authorities were sickened during a tour of the property.

Since then formal complaints of respiratory ailments and nosebleeds in the University Park neighborhood have all but disappeared.

"The neighborhood has been at peace for the past few years," said Sandy Novarro, a spokeswoman for the Esperanza Community Housing Corp., a nonprofit affordable housing developer in the area. "So, we're very worried about the company trying to reopen."

AllenCo declined to comment. But City Atty. Mike Feuer, who filed a lawsuit in 2014 to stop AllenCo from reopening, said "the company appears to be trying to bring its operation into compliance with the environmental and community safety law at the core of our lawsuit."

"If there is to be a settlement," he said, "it must contain strong measures to protect the health and safety of the surrounding community."

Feuer's lawsuit accuses the company of ignoring years of evidence that fumes from its oil field were sickening residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

Feuer's investigation found that AllenCo willfully disregarded violation notices issued by oversight agencies and that regulators did not aggressively enforce their numerous and repeated citations.

As a result, AllenCo exposed neighbors "to noxious fumes and odors which have resulted in adverse health effects on community members in the form of severe headaches, nausea, nosebleeds, chronic fatigue and respiratory ailments, including asthma," said the complaint, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District in May issued a permit allowing AllenCo to restart operations, but it does not relieve the company of having to comply with the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources and the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Over the last two years, AllenCo has made improvements at its facility, but many of those modifications still have not been tested or approved by federal, state and local agencies, officials said.

Seven of 11 idle wells on the property, which is leased from the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, have yet to yield a satisfactory demonstration of their mechanical integrity, said Don Drysdale, a spokesman for the state Department of Conservation.

The site was donated to the Archdiocese in the 1950s by descendants of Edward L. Doheny, one of Los Angeles' early oil barons. AllenCo bought the oil production facility on the site in 2009 and within a year increased production more than 400%, from 4,178 barrels to 21,239 barrels, the complaint said.

Other agencies, in addition to the air district, had cited AllenCo for violations in the years after the company ramped up oil operations.

The city Fire Department had issued citations for failing to repair and maintain fire protection systems. State safety inspectors cited the company for failing to inventory and label hazardous materials. Water quality inspectors noted chemical containers stored outdoors without covers.

But none of the agencies took additional steps to stop the violations. Neighborhood activists have complained that oversight agencies should have moved more forcefully.

Los Angeles Times

South L.A. residents protest noise, odors from drilling site near USC



South Los Angeles residents marched and rallied Thursday to protest noise, odors and other day-to-day irritants from an oil drilling site west of the University of Southern California.



By **Emily Alpert Reyes** · **Contact Reporter**

APRIL 23, 2015, 2:10 PM

South Los Angeles residents marched and rallied Thursday to protest noise, odors and other day-to-day irritants from an oil drilling site west of the University of Southern California campus.

“No one should have to endure this in their neighborhood,” said Eddie Ko, who said he lives a few blocks away from the drilling site with his wife and 5-month-old child.

The Jefferson Boulevard wells border several homes, and the company that owns the site, Freeport-McMoRan, had notified air quality officials that it planned to start “maintenance acidizing” at the site Thursday. It later said the work had been canceled for that day.

"The work is designed to remove calcium deposition from building up inside the well bore," company spokesman Eric Kinneberg said in an email, calling it "routine and conventional well maintenance work." Kinneberg said the work had been postponed because of scheduling conflicts and would be rescheduled for a later date.

Neighbors have been suspicious of the use of acid and other chemicals at the site, pressing the city to conduct an environmental review of how drilling activities there affect residents.

"If you're going to be bringing in the kind of chemicals, with large tankers, into a residential area, you've got to convince me that this is OK," said Nathan Pacilla Smith, who lives opposite the site near where Thursday's march ended.



U9C students and other local residents protest noise, odors and other irritants from an oil drilling site near campus. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

Earlier this year, Freeport-McMoRan withdrew an application to drill and redrill wells at the Jefferson site after community activists objected to the plan, arguing the city should scrutinize fumes, noise and chemicals at the site before allowing the company to move forward.

Richard Parks, president of the nonprofit Redeemer Community Partnership, said the city should hold the company accountable and protect residents, whether new work moves ahead on the drilling site or not.

"What's missing right now is the political will to move this forward," Parks said.

Los Angeles lawmakers pressed last year for a citywide moratorium on acidizing and other controversial methods of stimulating oil and gas wells. But the city planning department cast doubt on the proposal,

aying that it lacked employee who were expert in petroleum engineering and that there wa "legal uncertainty" about how much citie could regulate uch practice .

Oil and gas companies have defended well stimulation technologies as safe and proven. The Western States Petroleum Assn. has threatened to sue if the city pursues such regulations, according to a letter to the L.A. City Council from Deputy City Atty. Saro Balian.

Despite such obstacles, the moratorium plan is "absolutely still proceeding," with Councilman Mike Bonin and other lawmakers proposing that the city hire or retain an expert in petroleum and natural gas engineering to assist, Bonin spokesman David Graham-Caso said Thursday.

"We have to get this done right because it's an absolute priority for protecting neighborhoods," Graham-Caso said.

'Routine' planning hearing raises questions about L.A.'s oversight on oil drilling

Molly Peterson

November 24, 2014



A City of Los Angeles zoning administrator will consider approval for expanded oil drilling work at the Freeport McMoran-owned Jefferson Drill Site tomorrow, in what has historically been a routine hearing.

West Adams neighbors who seek full environmental review of operations there say the hearing is anything but.

The dispute draws attention to a not-so-simple question: What's L.A.'s role in regulating oil and gas operations?

The neighborhood group believe they know. "The purpose of a city, the primary purpose of a city, is to ensure that its residents are safe," says Angela Johnson-Meares, a lawyer with Physicians for Social Responsibility, who is working with the drill site's neighborhood groups.

Authority over oil production has long been a complex web in urban areas. State law grants authority to the Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources over subsurface operations.

Regulators at the South Coast Air Quality Management District enforce federal and state laws, and in recent years, have taken an interest in airborne toxic chemicals, requiring operators to disclose their use in some circumstances.

On Budlong Avenue, along the drill site's northeast edge, Jackie Garcia stands in her doorway a fading sunlit blue sky ablaze with pink and orange. She has lived here for years, opposite where they've pulled 7 million barrels of oil from the ground since 1965. Just a few weeks ago she heard that the current owner, Freeport McMoran, stores acid and other hazardous chemicals on top of drilling.

"It's kind of dangerous, I don't agree with that at all," she says.

A mother of two, Garcia has a third baby on the way. But she's never complained to the city.

"I didn't think that I was — that I had the option," she says.

The city of Los Angeles has always held some authority over oil through the fire department.

"They can ensure that they have inspection from the fire department to make sure that fire safety equipment exists," Meares says. "They can ensure that toxic chemicals stored at a site are not done to residential or school children."

A comprehensive review of Los Angeles Fire Department records for oil operations in West Adams over the last 60 years doesn't find that the city has done much of that. They reveal only one inspection for the property, in 2011, when an inspector found a mislabeled piece of equipment; remedy was simple.

Later that year, a mishap reported to the state office of Emergency Services sprayed "a fine mist" of oil over a house and onto cars parked along the street. The L.A. Fire Department is listed in state records as the administrative agency, but no records show that the LAFD responded.

Meares was surprised. "I guess I thought I would see evidence of the fire department having checked in, at least if not routinely, at least at certain periods of time over the past 50 years," she says.

The city of Los Angeles also holds sway over oil operators through the conditions written into Planning Department-issued permits.

Planning Department officials directed comment about the Jefferson Drill Site to the office of Councilman Bernard Parks, who represents this area. His spokeswoman Kimberly Brigg says, "He's not taking a position on the issue."

How the Planning Department manages drill operations more generally is revealed in a recent report sent to the City Council on the state of oil and gas regulation in Los Angeles.

Its analysis bolsters the arguments of West Adams residents that tracking oil in L.A. is too difficult. "There is no comprehensive way in which to track all oil and gas activity, permit, and their subsequent condition of approval," the report's author writes.

Over half a century at the Jefferson Drill Site, operations have changed. Pumping pulls up less oil than it did at peak, in the mid-1970s, but more natural gas, and much more brackish water.

But according to the planning department's report, "updates to the code section have not kept time with the changing industry, economy [or] urban environment."

Freeport McMoRan declined an interview. In a statement, the company emphasized that its Jefferson operations are routine and conventional, that questions in the zoning hearing are narrow, and that nothing it's doing deserves environmental review.

But longtime West Adams resident Richard Parks disagrees. In October, he says, Freeport trucked in 20,000 gallons of acid to clean out an injection well — a kind that regional air regulators aren't monitoring.

"And I'll tell you the scariest thing. When they finished this acid job, plants on the northeast corner turned brown and died," Parks says. "They were burned. It looks like hydrochloric acid burns. If this is what Freeport's operations are doing to the plant life. What is it doing to our lungs?"

Until they get an answer to that and other questions, Parks and his neighbors say they're going to keep going to every hearing, routine and not.