

# Fracking in Mansfield

## Environment and Public Health

Barnett Shale development in Mansfield is protective of public health and the environment.

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### AIR QUALITY

Research shows that Barnett Shale development is protective of public health.

- For over a decade, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has maintained the most **comprehensive air monitoring** network in the Barnett Shale region, where 20,000 natural gas wells have been drilled. The network provides data on all phases of development, including fracking.
- A **peer-reviewed** study of air emissions in the Barnett Shale region concluded that “**shale gas activities have not resulted in VOC levels that pose a health concern.**”
- A December 2014 **air study** measured emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) during fracking and flowback at five gas wells in the City of Mansfield. **All of the measured emissions were below adverse health effect levels.**
- An air quality study of two compressor stations and eight active wells in Tarrant County, which were estimated to have the highest emissions, found that the sites were **not emitting harmful levels of benzene or other compounds.**

### WATER

Natural gas development in Mansfield does not pose a credible risk to local water supplies.

- Hydraulic fracturing has been occurring in Mansfield for more than a decade without a single case of the process contaminating groundwater. Scientific **experts** from Texas and across the country have confirmed that **fracking does not pose a credible risk for contaminating groundwater.**
- According to the **Texas Water Development Board**, mining activities – which include but are not exclusively oil and natural gas production – accounted for **only 1.5 percent of all water consumption in Tarrant and Johnson Counties.**
  - **Underground wastewater disposal** is tightly regulated and tracked, and the water could be recaptured or reused at a later date.
- An estimated 4 to 5 million gallons of water is used to frack one Barnett Shale natural gas well. When one molecule of natural gas is burned, it **produces two molecules of water**, meaning the water used during fracking is replaced in a **matter of months.**
  - Since a Barnett Shale well will produce for decades, it will ultimately yield more water than was used for fracking.

### SETBACKS

Mansfield requires that well sites be 600-feet away from homes and buildings (1,000 feet for hospitals). Activists are pushing for a **1,500-foot setback**, which local groups **admit is a ban on natural gas drilling.**

- A major **air quality study** conducted for the City of Fort Worth in 2011 concluded that “**Fort Worth’s 600-foot setback distance is adequate**” to protect public health, and the data “**did not reveal any significant health threats.**”
- According to the National Association of Royalty Owners (NARO), **setbacks devalue private property** by preventing economic development on otherwise usable land. The lost development also means less tax revenue to benefit the entire community.
- A 1,500-foot setback would mean each well site requires a buffer zone that is nearly 1 million square feet larger than the acreage of **AT&T Stadium and its parking lot.**
- When the City of Dallas passed a new ordinance in 2013 with a 1,500-foot setback, the environmental group Earthworks celebrated it as a “**de facto drilling ban.**” Activists in Denton said they considered a 1,200-foot setback to be a “**de facto ban**” on drilling.