

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: November 30, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: 7.A

SECOND READING:

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

TYPE OF ITEM: Special Reports/Presentations

PRESENTED BY:

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SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:

Air Quality And Oil And Gas Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

During the November 30, 2021 Council meeting, staff will provide updates on several current air quality and oil and gas topics affecting the City. Staff will provide an update on the closure of the last two active oil and gas wells within the City and discuss oil and gas activity outside the city, north of Union Reservoir. Findings from the City's 2021 Union Reservoir monitoring study will be summarized. Staff will also update Council on the relocation of the West Longmont air quality monitoring station.

Dr. Helmig of Boulder A.I.R. will provide an update on Longmont's ongoing air quality study. Data collected at the monitoring stations will be described and compared to other air quality data collected along the Front Range. Longmont's data is always available to the public in near-real-time online, and quarterly analysis reports can be found on the City's website.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None.

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:

Oil and Gas Updates:

Staff have been working with local oil and gas operators on the closure of the last two active oil and gas wells in Longmont. The Tabor #7 oil and gas well, located just south of the Innovation Center off Quail Road, was plugged during the last week of June 2021, and all equipment and infrastructure has now been removed. The City of Longmont has agreed to pay half of the plugging costs, and in return, K.P. Kauffman, the well owner, has agreed to never drill within Longmont again. The Stamp #31-2C well, located on the northwest side of Union Reservoir, was plugged during the first week of July. Tanks, pipes, and other oil and gas related infrastructure have now been removed. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) is overseeing testing to verify that soils and groundwater are clean. The City of Longmont has contracted Terracon to provide third-party oversight on sampling events.

The Knight wells, located outside the city north of Union Reservoir, were drilled between February and June 2021. The hydraulic fracturing/completion phase of the Knight wells began in August and finished in mid-October 2021. The Knight wells are now preparing for production, which is anticipated to begin in late November. Throughout the development of the Knight wells, the City has conducted environmental monitoring adjacent to the wells and at Union Reservoir. The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) also collected data adjacent to the Knight Wells during development.

Air Quality Monitoring Station Move:

Staff and Boulder A.I.R. have moved the station formerly located at the Vance Brand Airport because of concerns about impacts on the research level data being collected from ongoing development at the airport. The air quality station has been relocated to just off the west end of the Lykins Gulch bike path.

Air Quality Study Update:

In March 2019, Council funded a regional air quality study for the City of Longmont with monitoring stations located at Union Reservoir and in West Longmont. Renewals of the contract with Boulder A.I.R. have extended the air quality study through 2022. Data collection began in late 2019 and is publicly viewable in near-real-time at <http://www.bouldair.com/longmont.htm>. For those interested, quarterly data analysis reports are also available on the City's website at <https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-n-z/public-information/oil-and-gas/monitoring-and-reports-oil-and-gas>.

Dr. Helmig of Boulder A.I.R. will provide an update on Longmont's ongoing air quality study at the November 30, 2021 Council Meeting. Data collected at the Union Reservoir and Vance

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Brand Airport monitoring stations will be summarized and compared to other data collected in the Front Range.

ATTACHMENTS:

None