How Close is Too Close?

Urban Drilling and Distance Regulations

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Date & Time: **Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015**

3:30-4:00 p.m. Reception with light refreshments
4:00-5:00 p.m. Lecture and Q & A

Location: Room 205, Wolf Law Building
CU Boulder

Since the beginning of the shale and unconventional oil and gas boom in the early 2000s, setback distances have emerged as important policy tools for regulating the proximity of drilling and hydraulic fracturing sites to homes, schools, and other public gathering facilities in Texas. Setback distances allow cities to address several issues associated with drilling and fracking (e.g., human health effects, noise) with one technical policy. However, setbacks remain contentious within the oil and gas industry because they reduce well density and limit production in city territories. Currently, municipal setbacks in Texas range from 200 to 1,500 feet. To inform current debates about local control and oil and gas drilling in urban areas, this talk examines how Texas municipalities determine setback distances and why certain setback models have become common.

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