

SAMPLE LETTER YOU CAN USE IN YOUR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dear COGCC,

As residents of Arapahoe County and recreationists of Aurora Reservoir, we are deeply concerned about the consequences of Crestone's proposed large-scale oil & gas development plan known as the Lowry Ranch Comprehensive Area Plan (CAP). We are appalled to know that this proposed CAP includes 164 fracking wells in dangerously close proximity to neighborhoods and the Aurora Reservoir in Arapahoe County. The impacts to our air quality, limited and precious water resources, health, and economy would be massive and cannot be ignored:

Air Quality

The Lowry Ranch CAP is being planned for a region that is known for failing to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards and is designated as being in severe nonattainment of federal ozone standards by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Adding emissions from 164 new fracking wells will only worsen this crisis. Throughout the Lowry CAP's lifecycle, pollution and Green House Gas emissions estimates will emit:

- 420,478.07 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
- 3,887.92 tons of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)
- 3,854.88 tons of Nitrous Oxide (NO_x)
- 1,238.09 tons of Methane (CH₄)

Water

If approved, the Lowry Ranch CAP will require an average of 24,360,000 gallons of fresh water for each well. Unlike other high water-use industries, such as agriculture, this water becomes highly toxic industrial wastewater and cannot be returned to the water cycle. It is gone forever. Throughout the life of the CAP, these wells will ***permanently destroy over 4 BILLION gallons of fresh water!***

In addition to colossal water use, an impact analysis prepared on behalf of Civitas clearly states the risk for groundwater contamination. According to the report, "spills and releases" and "a wellbore integrity issue due to improper construction could impact aquifers encountered during drilling operations"² jeopardizing the drinking water supply for over 389,000 Aurora residents.

- 9 well pads will be closer than 2,059 feet of surface water
- 1 well pad 1400 ft east of Aurora Reservoir
- 5 wetlands within 1,000 ft

Health

Living in close proximity to oil and gas operations poses serious risks to public health. Research from the Colorado School of Public Health has shown that air pollution caused by fracking may contribute to acute and chronic health problems. Toxic chemicals such as benzene and toluene, which are emitted during the fracking process, can impact the blood, brain, lungs, and increase the risks of cancer for residents living nearby.³ The Lowry Ranch CAP will expose residents to:

- 22.72 tons of Benzene
- 15.9 tons of Toluene

Specifically, residents of Aurora - Colorado's third-most populous and most diverse city - will likely suffer serious health impacts due to its continued rapid expansion and growth - both industrial and residential. Southshore, the neighborhood closest to the Lowry Ranch CAP, is the site of an

additional master residential project including 511 single family homes, two schools, and four recreation facilities⁴.

Recreation

The Aurora Reservoir is home to Aurora's largest park & open spaces. It's a multi-recreate safe haven with activities such as fishing, boating, windsurfing, kayaking, swimming, scuba diving, and hiking. We must protect the places we recreate in; it's the Colorado way. A large-scale oil and gas development plan encompassing roughly 40,500 acres with 164 toxic wells, many as close as 1400 feet (1/4 of a mile) east of the Aurora Reservoir, would be devastating.

We urge the Arapahoe County Commissioners and COGCC to deny the Lowry Ranch CAP. We urge you to prioritize our health, air quality, water resources and recreational opportunities. We urge you to say no to oil and gas drilling underneath our water sources, homes and schools⁵ in this established and rapidly growing community.

Sincerely,
Aurora Residents & Neighbors

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1. [RULE 314.E.\(10\) CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS: LOWRY RANCH COMPREHENSIVE AREA PLAN](#)
 2. [RULE 314.E.\(10\) CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS: LOWRY RANCH COMPREHENSIVE AREA PLAN](#)
 3. <https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu>
 4. <https://auroraco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=22bc6087978a4a26853132d73a4da246>
 5. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MxNzFxFqNGeCqjWf0Gz0D_l8_rd0AFi/view