

Background/Fact Sheet:
(Current information as of December 9, 2015)

General Information:

- Land use and development in Colorado is usually subject to regulation by cities, towns and county governments by means of subdivision regulations, zoning regulations and building codes. Drilling for oil and gas is a notable exception.
- The State of Colorado, through the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), currently holds all legal authority regarding where and how oil/gas can be extracted in our state. Local government officials, including the Adams County Commissioners and the Adams 12 Board of Education, do not have authority to prevent or limit oil and gas extraction. Colorado law preempts/controls over conflicting local ordinances and regulations regarding oil and gas development.

Background Information on Century and Horizon Mineral Rights Leases

- Both leases were entered after consultation with outside legal counsel with expertise in oil and gas matters and following votes at public meetings. Lease proposals were noted on the meeting agendas for April 1 and April 15, 2015.
- The District's mineral share underneath Century Middle School and Horizon High School is small. Over 500 mineral rights owners are part of the oil/gas pool of which Century is a part. Century is just 1.8 percent of the pooling unit. Horizon is 3 percent of its pooling unit.
- If one or both of these companies move forward with drilling activities, Adams County Commissioners will seek to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the companies. This MOU would outline procedures around noise, lighting, traffic, road surface grading, pipeline construction, well water testing and landscaping measures, including fencing and berming. District officials are in frequent communication with staff for the Adams County Government and will strongly advocate for mitigation measures to minimize impacts upon our schools, students and staff if the companies apply for permits and follow the MOU process.
- State law requires that drilling facilities lie 1,000 feet or more from school buildings. Extraction of the minerals at Century Middle School would occur through surface wells to be drilled at 138th Avenue and Franklin Street (about 6,500 feet from Century Middle School and about 2,500 feet from the Rocky Top Middle School building).
- Extraction of the minerals at Horizon HS is proposed through surface wells to be drilled at 152nd Avenue and Monaco Street. The proposed drilling site is more than 1.7 miles from Horizon HS.
- In the event drilling occurs, oil/gas extraction at Century and Horizon would occur approximately 5,000 feet below the surface of these school sites.