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PACKED "OIL AND GAS DRILLING" TOWN HALL MEETING IN ROCHESTER

Rochester, MI

March 12, 2014

Don't Drill the Hills (DDH) organizers appealed to Oakland County Water Commissioner, Jim Nash, to host a town hall meeting in the Rochester area regarding the potential impacts of horizontal drilling and enhanced oil recovery methods. Last night, over two hundred and fifty people crowded into Rochester High School to participate in the event which included presentations as well as a question and answer period.

"We want our residents to be informed and learn about topics that can affect our quality of life," Nash said in a statement. "As more and more leases are being signed in Rochester Hills and across the county, residents need to know how this industry can affect the environment."

Hal Fitch, Chief of the Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals (OOGM) of the State regulatory agency Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) was invited to speak in counterpoint to Mr. Nash. Unfortunately, Mr. Fitch decided to not participate, citing his concerns the evening would turn into an "emotional debate." However, Fitch later informed a DDH organizer he would be willing to take part in an informational forum in our area in the future.

"We are really looking for balanced information and transparency in the process", said Jeannie Morris, a member of DDH. "The City of Rochester Hills approved leases for the parks surrounding us in December of 2012. We're still waiting for a hearing or informational forum from the City to help us gather accurate data so that we can make informed decisions."

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[Don't Drill the Hills](#) (DDH) is a local, non-partisan grassroots group that is building awareness of the risks of horizontal drilling in high density residential and K-12 school areas. Concerns include: property rights, property values, mortgage and insurance complications, as well as potential environmental risks.

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