

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS**  
**SUBMITTED TO OFFICE OF CONSERVATION**  
**BEFORE OR AFTER HEARING**

**(LAC 43, Part. XIX, § 3929E and F)**

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:08 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID "  
**Attachments:** AB05F60E.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID "

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11/14/2014 9:05:18 AM Transmission Record  
Received from remote ID:  
Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 1  
Elapsed time: 02:19 on channel 0

John Cowan  
1187 Scarlet Oak Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
November 14, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225) 242-3428

**Reference: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**

First, thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Second, during the public-forum I felt Hellis was disrespectful to DNR by continuously referring to the "well-site" prior to receiving your approval to drill.

Third, while I admire Hellis' statement they would "adhere to the highest guidelines" when building their well – I also assume the people who manufactured the wireless microphones at the public hearing (of which at least two failed) adhered the "highest guidelines". Moreover, one of Hellis' witnesses stated that Hellis had made, "substantial efforts to minimize environmental impacts," which means they presuppose there will be environmental impacts. Additionally, Mr Connors in referring to fracking accidents stated, "they do happen and we deal with them when they do." While Hellis and those representing Abita Springs focused mainly on the well and well casings—certainly the most catastrophic potential failure—the other significant impacts were mainly discounted or glossed over. Because of the close proximity of large population centers in nearby neighborhoods, Lakeshore High School as well as numerous other schools within just a few miles, I believe these impacts – such as air, traffic, noise and other pollutions must be taken into much greater consideration in this instance.

Finally, I am extremely concerned that Hellis will not agree to sign any legally binding documents about their current – or future – plans for this site.

As DNR, I believe it is your fiduciary duty to reject this and any other applications for fracking wells in this area.

Very Respectfully,



J.C. COWAN

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:03 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID "  
**Attachments:** AB05F657.TIF

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11/17/2014 8:01:24 PM Transmission Record  
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Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
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Page record: 1 - 1  
Elapsed time: 01:42 on channel 0

**Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is Eunice Price. I've been a resident of Slidell for the past 15 years and live on Doubloon Bayou. I have two children who are ages 16 and 15. I am a member of Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany.**

**I have a private well on my property which supplies water for all of my residential needs (bathing, drinking, cleaning). I am concerned that hydraulic fracturing will contaminate the aquifer which supplies my water. For that reason, I ask that you (Department of Natural Resources) deny Helis' permit application.**

**Thank you for your consideration to my concerns.**



**EUNICE E. PRICE**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

ENGINEERING DOCKET NO. 14-626  
KABS POITEVENT ETAL NO.1 WELL

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:18 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID "  
**Attachments:** AB05F646.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID "

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11/17/2014 10:16:50 AM Transmission Record  
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Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 1  
Elapsed time: 00:33 on channel 0

136 Cheron Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70448

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 92475  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

November 17, 2014

RE: Engineering Docket NO. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not grant a permit to Helis Oil and Gas for the well they wish to drill in St. Tammany Parish. No need to go into all the negative aspects of this as you have heard them all – positive aspects as well. But the salient fact is that there is never a 100% guarantee that everything will go as planned. And that is the problem.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



E. J. Winchell, Ph.D.

l'd

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:02 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID "  
**Attachments:** AB05F659.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID "

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11/17/2014 11:00:50 PM Transmission Record  
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Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 1  
Elapsed time: 00:24 on channel 0

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 92475  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

November 17, 2014

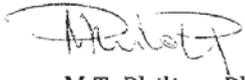
RE: Engineering Docket NO. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please do not grant a permit to Helis Oil and Gas for the well they wish to drill in St. Tammany Parish. One cannot be certain there will be no environmental damage, no matter how many precautions are in place.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Philipp", written in a cursive style.

M.T. Philipp, Ph.D.

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:52 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID '9856742977'.  
**Attachments:** AB05F64E.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID '9856742977'.

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11/17/2014 12:50:03 PM Transmission Record  
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Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
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Page record: 1 - 3  
Elapsed time: 00:57 on channel 0

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Sat. 9-5, Closed Sunday



# The UPS Store™

## Fax Cover

To: MR. JIM WELCH Fax #: 225-242-3428

Date: 11/17/14 # of Pages (including cover sheet): 3  
LIVE MANDEVILLE

From: JUDITH C. JONES Phone #: 601-259-3797 -Cell

Subject: Docket 14-626, Eads Portement et al #1 well

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3433 Hwy. 190, #375  
Mandeville, La. 70471  
November 17, 2014

Docket # 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 well

Dear Mr.Wells:

I am a Mandeville homeowner and a native of Louisiana.

The data on solely water pollution from fracking should make it clear you must deny the Helis Oil application. Although I focus on water pollution, there are many other reasons to deny the permit.

I recommend the documentary film Split Estate (1 hour, 15 minutes) on the results of fracking in Colorado as a resource for your decision in this case.

The experts for both pro and con fracking argue on the time required for pollution of water to occur. The pro fracking have argued that leeching of chemicals into the rivers and water table would take from one hundred to millions of years, or essentially for us, never. The con fracking were claiming leakage would occur from ten to one hundred years. In fact, leakage has occurred near fracked wells between four months and two years after drilling, according to people living near the wells. The leakage has resulted in severe health problems, abandoned homes, and financially ruined communities.

There are 700 chemicals used in the fracking process, some known and documented, others deduced and proprietary. Benzene alone has disastrous negative health effects. St Tammany Parish Councilwoman Maureen O'Brien asked the experts addressing the Council on the fracking issue how benzene could be cleaned from the water. Even the pro fracking experts told her, she reported in her constituent meeting, that it basically could not be done!

St Tammany has such unstable soil that homes are built on packed fill. Much of our Parish is true marsh land or in flood plains. We have 4 rivers, 3 bayous, sit on an aquifer, and about 2 lakes, one of which enters the Gulf. When you have explosive forces underground strong enough to crack rock, common sense tells you it will wreck havoc on our land and buildings. Once the land and rock are disturbed, then the fracking chemical fluids will mix with our multiple water resources.

My neighbor has combed state records to learn that Mr.POITEVENT OWNS 49% OF HELIS OIL IN ADDITION TO THE 60,000 ACRES in question in St. Tammany Parish. As a public official you are charged with considering the public good. How can the profit of one man be more important than known health risks and damages to 250,000 residents?

When bad health problems reach an epidemic level in a community, the health industry will profit. But sick people don't have the interest or money to spend on elective expenses with local retailers. Thanks to all the medical bills, they don't even have enough to make their previously normal purchases in the economy. Employers large and small lose money on absences due to illness.

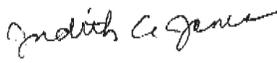
This financial loss to the community is the reality rather than the prosperity claimed by the pro fracking lobby. The oil industry takes its profits out of the area. And Louisiana has agreements that basically do not start the severance tax on drilling until after 2 years, by which time most of the content and profit from the fracked wells already will have been taken. So, even the State of Louisiana profits little from the resource depletion of the fracking wells.

Today, we have knowledge and experience not available in the 1950's, when Louisiana began welcoming the oil industry unquestioningly. It is this experience that documents that frack wells in St. Tammany will

be harmful to the health, economy, and ecology of its 250,000 residents. The common good of St. Tammany and Louisiana must outweigh the profits of one man and one company.

I respectfully urge you to deny the Helis Oil application.

Most sincerely,



Judith C. Jones

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:55 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID '9856742977'.  
**Attachments:** AB05F64F.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID '9856742977'.

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11/17/2014 12:52:35 PM Transmission Record  
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Page record: 1 - 3  
Elapsed time: 01:22 on channel 0

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**Fax Cover**

To: MR. JEFF WELLS Fax #: 225-242-3428

Date: 11/17/14 # of Pages (including cover sheet): 3

From: JUDITH G. JONES Phone #: LIVE MANDEVILLE  
601-259-3797 -all

Subject: Docket 14-626, Eads Portement et al #1 well

*If you are not the intended recipient, do not disclose, copy, distribute or use this information. If you received this transmission in error, please call immediately to arrange return of the documents at no cost to you.*

3433 Hwy. 190, #375  
Mandeville, La. 70471  
November 17, 2014

Docket # 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 well

Dear Mr. Welch:

I am a Mandeville homeowner and a native of Louisiana.

The data on solely water pollution from fracking should make it clear you must deny the Helis Oil application. Although I focus on water pollution, there are many other reasons to deny the permit.

I recommend the documentary film Split Estate (1 hour, 15 minutes) on the results of fracking in Colorado as a resource for your decision in this case.

The experts for both pro and con fracking argue on the time required for pollution of water to occur. The pro fracking have argued that leeching of chemicals into the rivers and water table would take from one hundred to millions of years, or essentially for us, never. The con fracking were claiming leakage would occur from ten to one hundred years. In fact, leakage has occurred near fracked wells between four months and two years after drilling, according to people living near the wells. The leakage has resulted in severe health problems, abandoned homes, and financially ruined communities.

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St Tammany has such unstable soil that homes are built on packed fill. Much of our Parish is true marsh land or in flood plains. We have 4 rivers, 3 bayous, sit on an aquifer, and about 2 lakes, one of which enters the Gulf. When you have explosive forces underground strong enough to crack rock, common sense tells you it will wreck havoc on our land and buildings. Once the land and rock are disturbed, then the fracking chemical fluids will mix with our multiple water resources.

My neighbor has combed state records to learn that Mr. POITEVENT OWNS 49% OF HELIS OIL IN ADDITION TO THE 60,000 ACRES in question in St. Tammany Parish. As a public official you are charged with considering the public good. How can the profit of one man be more important than known health risks and damages to 250,000 residents?

When bad health problems reach an epidemic level in a community, the health industry will profit. But sick people don't have the interest or money to spend on elective expenses with local retailers. Thanks to all the medical bills, they don't even have enough to make their previously normal purchases in the economy. Employers large and small lose money on absences due to illness.

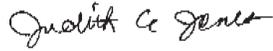
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Today, we have knowledge and experience not available in the 1950's, when Louisiana began welcoming the oil industry unquestioningly. It is this experience that documents that frack wells in St. Tammany will

be harmful to the health, economy, and ecology of its 250,000 residents. The common good of St. Tammany and Louisiana must outweigh the profits of one man and one company.

I respectfully urge you to deny the Helis Oil application.

Most sincerely,



Judith C. Jones

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:34 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID '9858091624'.  
**Attachments:** AB05F64B.TIF

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11/17/2014 12:32:29 PM Transmission Record  
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Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 2  
Elapsed time: 00:52 on channel 0

Charley Marcussen Jr.  
24187 Sunny Meadow Dr.  
P.O. Box 126  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

**15 November 2014**

Via Fax: 225-242-3428

Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well**

Dear Gentleman:

Thank you for allowing us, the property owner's affected, the opportunity to respond to the Helis Oil and Gas proposal to drill a hydraulic fracturing well through our Southern Hill's Aquifer.

We are **opposed** to the drilling permit for the following reasons.

This is St. Tammany Parish's only water source serving over three hundred thousand (300,000) residents. There have been hundreds of documented cases of water contamination next to fracking wells. This contamination has resulted in cases of sensory, respiratory and neurological damage due to ingested contamination. The toxic fracturing fluids containing ethylene glycol, hydraulic acid, lubricants, poisons just to name a few, are pumped into the well under pressure in the process of hydraulic fracking. There will be many well casing joints; a small casing leak could spell disaster for our residents of St. Tammany. The toxic fluids are not biodegradable, if the aquifer is contaminated it is not possible to clean it, as brought out in the open meeting. I am now retired from sailing as Chief Engineer on offshore and coastwise tanker vessels. I want to bring to your attention it is illegal to discharge overboard these hazardous substances anywhere into the Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes and most, if not all oceans. If the waste fluid is left in an air pit to evaporate it will release harmful Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) into the atmosphere creating contaminated air - Acid Rain - and contaminated Ground Level Ozone along with Methane Gas emissions only 1-1/2 miles from Lakeshore high school.

Before permits can be issued to drill hydraulic fracturing wells through communities' only source of water, Congress needs to implement strict guidelines. Congress must pass the FRAC Act ( Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemical's Act requiring energy industries to disclose all chemicals used in fracking fluids.

Congress must repeal Fracking's exemption from the "Safe Drinking Water Act"

This is a very tough non-forgiving industry where we have seen Murphy's Law proven on many occasions with horrifying consequences.

We observed two multi-million dollar superfund projects in Slidell a few years back. Southern Shipbuilding and the Old Creosote Plant. These clean up sites took months and months to complete and did not involve citizen's drinking water. A major mishap involving Hydraulic Fracturing drilling would be catastrophic to the three hundred thousand citizens of St Tammany Parish.

Kind regards,



Charley Marcussen Jr

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:15 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**From:** [jandbettymiceli@charter.net](mailto:jandbettymiceli@charter.net) [<mailto:jandbettymiceli@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:12 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comment on DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

### **D ocket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.**

I am a 20+ year resident of St. Tammany parish, settling in Quail Creek subdivision and raising my kids. They attend Lakeshore High School and my house is probably a little over a mile from the drilling site. We chose to live here because it is a family community and pay very high property taxes which fund the best school district in the state. THAT IS WHY WE LIVE HERE.

Our home rule charter states that the citizens have the right to determine zoning requirements. The parish master plan & re-zoning does NOT ALLOW FRACKING. This site is zoned residential.

Relaters are already stating that our property values will plummet 30%. I paid off my \$220k house & will lose \$66,000.00 dollars.

The chemicals heavy metal pollutants are odorless, colorless, & tasteless. Some can not be detected at all. Helis has not disclosed what they will pump into the well. It will penetrate our sole source of drinking water!!!

What about the unexpected? Namely, an explosion, fire, toxic gas release. You have 1000 kids at the high school barely a mile away and 20,000 residents living in a 5 mile radius. Does this sound rational?

All we have from Helis is promises, not backed by the power of law. They haven't even put their proposal into a legally binding document. Fracking brings to my beautiful neighborhood heavy equipment traffic on an already overburdened highway, the prospect of car accidents with high school teenage driver's and water/tanker trucks, noise-air-light-water pollution, severe loss of property values, higher incidents of cancer, Parkinson, & death rates, increased taxes to improve fire department training & equipment, earthquakes as reported today in a Kansas oil field that was fracked. It goes on and on.....

I saw an economic evaluation that estimates the value of St. Tammany parish at \$20 billion dollars. Let require Helis put up a bond for that amount in the event of real threat of poisoning our sole source aquifer and rendering the parish unusable. But, not all the money in the world will bring back our dead spouses and children. Sounds incredible? Remember that this is the industry that brought us the Deep Water Horizon disaster.... which was in the Gulf, not literally in our back yards!

Really, this is a no-brainer!!! When you consider this permit, think about if you lived in my house, and **VOTE NO TO HELIS Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.**

Sincerely,

John S. Miceli III  
Betty E. Miceli  
Katie L. Miceli  
Nicholas J. Miceli

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:12 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

FYI/Record.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Greg Lemons [mailto:greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 9:30 AM  
**To:** John Dale "Zach" Lea; LDNR Public Information; Patrick Courreges; johnnyadams@la.gov; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** RE: Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Jim

Great job, thanks for copping me in!

Greg Lemons  
Mayor Town of Abita Springs  
22161 Level Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420  
Office: 985-892-0711  
Cell: 985-789-1537

**NOTE - Please be aware that receipt and/or response to this email may be considered a PUBLIC RECORD.**

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**From:** John Dale "Zach" Lea [<mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:50 PM  
**To:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov); [Patrick.courreges@la.gov](mailto:Patrick.courreges@la.gov); [johnnyadams@la.gov](mailto:johnnyadams@la.gov); [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)  
**Subject:** Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh,

The attached document is my comment for the public record relating to the Helis permit application for drilling/fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

John Dale "Zach" Lea, Ph.D.  
Agricultural Economist  
826 Old Landing Rd  
Covington, LA 70433  
Phone 985-871-9407  
Email [jdzlea@hotmail.com](mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com)

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** Comments on Helis St Tammany Permit Application JDZ Lea.docx

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

---

**From:** John Dale "Zach" Lea [mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Patrick Courreges; johnnyadams@la.gov; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh,  
The attached document is my comment for the public record relating to the Helis permit application for drilling/fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

John Dale "Zach" Lea, Ph.D.  
Agricultural Economist  
826 Old Landing Rd  
Covington, LA 70433  
Phone 985-871-9407  
Email [jdzlea@hotmail.com](mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com)

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Dear Mr. Jim Welsh, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,  
Please confirm that this email and attachments will be entered into the public record as a comment on the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, drilling permit application for drilling in St. Tammany Parish, (Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.)

I am requesting that the Department of Natural Resources not issue this permit because the drilling is a test to determine the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” to extract oil and/or gas from St. Tammany Parish and I am opposed to the use of fracking in St. Tammany Parish because:

- Fracking in St. Tammany Parish would violate my property rights as expressed in the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article 1, Section 4.b. where the Constitution states: “Property shall not be taken or damaged by the state or its political subdivisions except for public purposes and with just compensation paid to the owner or into court for his benefit.”
- Fracking would violate my rights to a healthy natural environment as guaranteed by Article IX, Section 1 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, to wit: “The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.”

Please consider:

1. That the operational definition of fracking should include all activities associated with the process and not simply the hydraulic fracturing process taking place thousands of feet underground. Fracking should include the vertical well and well casing, any drilling activity at ground level, any transfer, holding, and disposal of fracking chemicals and waste fracking water, any emission of gases, truck traffic, noise, increased policing costs, etc.
2. That issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of fracking in areas of St. Tammany Parish not zoned for fracking violates Article VI, Section 6 of the Louisiana State Constitution which states: “The legislature shall enact no law the effect of which changes or affects the structure and organization or the particular distribution and redistribution of the powers and functions of any local governmental subdivision which operates under a home rule charter.”
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  - Stress on surface water and ground water supplies from the withdrawal of large volumes of water used in drilling and hydraulic fracturing;
  - Contamination of underground sources of drinking water and surface waters resulting from spills, faulty well construction, or by other means;
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  - Air pollution resulting from the release of volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

Because natural gas development is increasing rapidly in many regions, prudent steps to reduce these impacts are essential now even as further research to understand potential risks continues.” See: <http://www2.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing#improving>.

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  - Massachusetts and Vermont have banned or are attempting to ban fracking and wastewater disposal. In 2012, Vermont became the first state to ban hydraulic fracturing and the collection, storage, or treatment of the wastewater it generates (Vt. Stat. tit. 29, § 571). The Massachusetts legislature is currently considering a bill approved by the Environment Committee that would place a 10-year ban on fracking and the collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of waste from operations in the state (Bill H.3796). See: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/rpt/2013-R-0469.htm>
  - “Although the state [of New York] permits road spreading of production brine, many local county and municipal governments have banned fracking and the disposal of fracking waste, including road spreading. These bans, however, have been challenged in court, according to the New York Times. Lower courts have sided with local governments, but the Court of Appeals heard arguments in August 2013 to overturn the bans with a decision expected in 2014.” See: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/rpt/2013-R-0469.htm>
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  - This exploratory study was designed to assess air quality in a rural western Colorado area where residences and gas wells co-exist. Sampling was conducted before, during, and after drilling and hydraulic fracturing of a new natural gas well pad. Weekly air sampling for 1 year revealed that the number of non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) and their concentrations were highest during the initial drilling phase and did not increase during hydraulic fracturing in this closed-loop system. Methylene chloride, a toxic solvent not reported in products used in drilling or hydraulic fracturing, was detected 73% of the time; several times in high concentrations. A literature search of the health effects of the NMHCs revealed that many had multiple health effects, including 30 that affect the endocrine system, which is susceptible to chemical impacts at very low concentrations, far less than government safety standards. Selected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were at concentrations greater than those at which prenatally exposed children in urban studies had lower developmental and IQ scores. The human and environmental health impacts of the NMHCs, which are ozone precursors, should be examined further given that the natural gas industry is now operating in close proximity to human residences and public lands. See: <http://endocrinedisruption.org/chemicals-in-natural-gas-operations/air-pollution>.
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  - “Air pollution occurs during every stage of UGE [unconventional natural gas extraction]. In an analysis of all chemicals used in UGE processes, 37% were found to be volatile and

therefore able to aerosolize. Of these volatile chemicals, 81% were found to have adverse effects on the brain and central nervous system.”

17. That water pollutions associated with fracking can pose health is evidenced by the statements made by Dr. Jerome A. Paulson in his letter to Mr. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. <http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/>.

Among other comments, Dr. Paulson wrote:

- “Water pollution has been documented in association with UGE. While this research focuses on contamination with methane, it is reasonable to think that components of hydraulic fracturing fluids and normally occurring underground toxic substances travel with the methane. Data collected by the Minority Staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the US House of Representatives in 2011, based on data submitted by the 14 leading oil and gas service companies, revealed the use of more than 2,500 hydraulic fracturing products containing 750 chemicals and other components.<sup>11</sup> From the limited information available, it is evident that many of the substances used in hydraulic fracturing fluid are toxic, including some which are known carcinogens. Wastewater, such as the flowback and produced water, can contain a large number of naturally occurring toxic chemicals in addition to the chemicals added to make the hydraulic fracturing fluid. Naturally occurring toxic chemicals may include radioactive material, salts, salts of manganese, chlorides, sodium bromides and heavy metals such as lead and arsenic. Radionuclides shown to be present in natural gas wastes include: radon, 226radium and 228radium and radionuclides of potassium, strontium, lead, thallium, bismuth and thorium. Radium in flow-back and produced water often incorporates into solids formed during wastewater treatment, thereby producing low level radioactive waste.”

18. That the DNR’s responsibility to uphold the Louisiana State Constitution guarantees relating to public health should be guided by the sentiment expressed in the following statement from the article entitled IMPACTS OF GAS DRILLING ON HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH mentioned above, namely:

- “The large-scale use of chemicals with significant toxicity has given rise to a great deal of public concern, and an important aspect of the debate concerns the level of proof required to associate an environmental change with activities associated with gas drilling. Environmental groups typically invoke the pre-cautionary principle [6]. That is, if an action is suspected of causing harm to the environment, then in the absence of a scientific consensus, the burden of proof falls on the individual or organization taking the action. The oil and gas industry has typically rejected this analysis and has approached the issue in a manner similar to the tobacco industry that for many years rejected the link between smoking and cancer. That is, if one cannot prove beyond a shadow of doubt that an environmental impact is due to drilling, then a link is rejected. This approach by the tobacco companies had a devastating and long-lasting effect on public health from which we have still not recovered [7], and we believe that a similar approach to the impacts of gas drilling may have equally negative consequences.”

19. These documents:

- Fracking Wars: Federal, State and Local Conflicts over the Regulation of Natural Gas Activities, Zoning and Planning Law Report, February 2012, Vol. 35, No. 2. <http://www.ourenergypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Fracking-Wars.pdf>
- Save Ourselves: The Environmental Case That Changed Louisiana, by Oliver A. Houck. 2012 Louisiana Law Review. “Save Ourselves” is the story of the ten-year fight to stop permitting a polluting waste disposal site in Burnside, La. by a few people, aided by an idealistic lawyer and a couple of courageous state employees working “under cover” to supply critical information that voided the permit. See:

[http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty\\_and\\_Admin/Publications/Houck\\_Save\\_Ourselves.pdf](http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty_and_Admin/Publications/Houck_Save_Ourselves.pdf)

- Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor, by Steve Lerner. See: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/diamond>  
“For years, the residents of Diamond, Louisiana, lived with an inescapable acrid, metallic smell—the "toxic bouquet" of pollution—and a mysterious chemical fog that seeped into their houses. They looked out on the massive Norco Industrial Complex: a maze of pipelines, stacks topped by flares burning off excess gas, and huge oil tankers moving up the Mississippi. They experienced headaches, stinging eyes, allergies, asthma, and other respiratory problems, skin disorders, and cancers that they were convinced were caused by their proximity to heavy industry. Periodic industrial explosions damaged their houses and killed some of their neighbors. Their small, African-American, mixed-income neighborhood was sandwiched between two giant Shell Oil plants in Louisiana's notorious Chemical Corridor. When the residents of Diamond demanded that Shell relocate them, their chances of success seemed slim: a community with little political clout was taking on the second-largest oil company in the world. And yet, after effective grassroots organizing, unremitting fenceline protests, seemingly endless negotiations with Shell officials, and intense media coverage, the people of Diamond finally got what they wanted: money from Shell to help them relocate out of harm's way. In this book, Steve Lerner tells their story.

Around the United States, struggles for environmental justice such as the one in Diamond are the new front lines of both the civil rights and the environmental movements, and *Diamond* is in many ways a classic environmental-justice story: a minority neighborhood, faced with a polluting industry in its midst, fights back. But *Diamond* is also the history of a black community that goes back to the days of slavery. In 1811, Diamond (then the Trepagnier Plantation) was the center of the largest slave rebellion in United States history. Descendants of these slaves were among the participants in the modern-day Diamond relocation campaign.”

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,\\_Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,_Louisiana) Morrisonville, Louisiana was a small town in Iberville Parish, Louisiana that was contaminated with industrial pollution from a nearby Dow Chemical Company vinyl chloride factory. The community had been founded during the 1870s by former slaves freed from a plantation near Plaquemine. In the 1980s and 1990s, chemical pollution was discovered in the town's wells. To avoid lawsuits, Dow decided to buy up the town and move its residents away to create a buffer zone around the factory. In 1989, just before the release of a federal report into toxic emissions from the factory, Dow announced that it was going to buy up all the homes and land in Morrisonville, and that if the residents refused their property would be worthless. Although about twenty families refused to move at first, by 1993 the town was eventually abandoned. All that now remains is the graveyard of the former Nazarene Baptist Church and an open-sided prayer site, built of wood, provided by Dow for family members who return to visit the graves. The

residents were transferred to newly built homes at Morrison Acres, but many died before they could settle in. The large number of petrochemical plants producing PVC in the surrounding area, an 80-mile (130 km) stretch between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, first led to it being known as the 'Chemical Corridor' and later as Cancer Alley, and many other communities in the area have been similarly affected by groundwater pollution and other toxic emissions. The town's residents - predominantly African American - were relocated in 1990 to Morrisonville Estates in Iberville Parish and Morrisonville Acres in West Baton Rouge Parish by Dow.

- Mossville, Louisiana: A Community's Fight for the Human Right to a Healthy Environment. <http://www.prrac.org/pdf/MayJune2011PRRACRoberts.pdf> . CNN YouTube on Mossville situation. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmklvyMi6hU&feature=youtu.be>
- Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, by J. Timmons Roberts, Melissa M. Toffolon-Weiss. "Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, first published in 1991, provides a rare glimpse of the environmental justice movement as it plays out in four landmark struggles at the end of the twentieth century. The book describes the stories of everyday people who have decided to take to the streets to battle what they perceive as injustice: the unequal exposure of minorities and the poor to the 'bads' produced by our industrial society. In these struggles residents and local, state, and national environmental and social justice groups are on one side pitted against local and state government representatives and industry on the other. By employing historical and theoretical lenses in viewing these struggles, the book reveals how situations of environmental injustice are created and how they are resolved. These cases bear great similarity to battles occurring across the nation, and are setting precedents for national and state agencies as they handle these cases." Discusses fates of Morrison, Sunrise, and Revilletown, Louisiana. See: [http://books.google.com/books?id=QuP56ucee-EC&dq=sunrise+louisiana+environmental+justice&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.com/books?id=QuP56ucee-EC&dq=sunrise+louisiana+environmental+justice&source=gbs_navlinks_s)
- Hydrocarbon Hucksters: Lessons from Louisiana on Oil, Politics, and Environmental Justice, by Ernest Zebrowski and Mariah Zabrowski Leach, The University Press of Mississippi, 2014. "This is the saga of the oil industry's takeover of the state of Louisiana---its leaders, its laws, its environment, and the critical thinking skills of so many of its voters."

Once again, please deny the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, application for a permit to drill a well to test the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and/or gas from land in St. Tammany Parish.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** Comments on Helis St Tammany Permit Application JDZ Lea.docx

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** John Dale "Zach" Lea [mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Patrick Courreges; johnnyadams@la.gov; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh,  
The attached document is my comment for the public record relating to the Helis permit application for drilling/fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

John Dale "Zach" Lea, Ph.D.  
Agricultural Economist  
826 Old Landing Rd  
Covington, LA 70433  
Phone 985-871-9407  
Email [jdzlea@hotmail.com](mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com)

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Dear Mr. Jim Welsh, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,  
Please confirm that this email and attachments will be entered into the public record as a comment on the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, drilling permit application for drilling in St. Tammany Parish, (Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.)

I am requesting that the Department of Natural Resources not issue this permit because the drilling is a test to determine the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" to extract oil and/or gas from St. Tammany Parish and I am opposed to the use of fracking in St. Tammany Parish because:

- Fracking in St. Tammany Parish would violate my property rights as expressed in the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article 1, Section 4.b. where the Constitution states: "Property shall not be taken or damaged by the state or its political subdivisions except for public purposes and with just compensation paid to the owner or into court for his benefit."
- Fracking would violate my rights to a healthy natural environment as guaranteed by Article IX, Section 1 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, to wit: "The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy."

Please consider:

1. That the operational definition of fracking should include all activities associated with the process and not simply the hydraulic fracturing process taking place thousands of feet underground. Fracking should include the vertical well and well casing, any drilling activity at ground level, any transfer, holding, and disposal of fracking chemicals and waste fracking water, any emission of gases, truck traffic, noise, increased policing costs, etc.
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17. That water pollutions associated with fracking can pose health is evidenced by the statements made by Dr. Jerome A. Paulson in his letter to Mr. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. <http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/>.

Among other comments, Dr. Paulson wrote:

- “Water pollution has been documented in association with UGE. While this research focuses on contamination with methane, it is reasonable to think that components of hydraulic fracturing fluids and normally occurring underground toxic substances travel with the methane. Data collected by the Minority Staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the US House of Representatives in 2011, based on data submitted by the 14 leading oil and gas service companies, revealed the use of more than 2,500 hydraulic fracturing products containing 750 chemicals and other components.<sup>11</sup> From the limited information available, it is evident that many of the substances used in hydraulic fracturing fluid are toxic, including some which are known carcinogens. Wastewater, such as the flowback and produced water, can contain a large number of naturally occurring toxic chemicals in addition to the chemicals added to make the hydraulic fracturing fluid. Naturally occurring toxic chemicals may include radioactive material, salts, salts of manganese, chlorides, sodium bromides and heavy metals such as lead and arsenic. Radionuclides shown to be present in natural gas wastes include: radon, 226radium and 228radium and radionuclides of potassium, strontium, lead, thallium, bismuth and thorium. Radium in flow-back and produced water often incorporates into solids formed during wastewater treatment, thereby producing low level radioactive waste.”

18. That the DNR’s responsibility to uphold the Louisiana State Constitution guarantees relating to public health should be guided by the sentiment expressed in the following statement from the article entitled IMPACTS OF GAS DRILLING ON HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH mentioned above, namely:

- “The large-scale use of chemicals with significant toxicity has given rise to a great deal of public concern, and an important aspect of the debate concerns the level of proof required to associate an environmental change with activities associated with gas drilling. Environmental groups typically invoke the pre-cautionary principle [6]. That is, if an action is suspected of causing harm to the environment, then in the absence of a scientific consensus, the burden of proof falls on the individual or organization taking the action. The oil and gas industry has typically rejected this analysis and has approached the issue in a manner similar to the tobacco industry that for many years rejected the link between smoking and cancer. That is, if one cannot prove beyond a shadow of doubt that an environmental impact is due to drilling, then a link is rejected. This approach by the tobacco companies had a devastating and long-lasting effect on public health from which we have still not recovered [7], and we believe that a similar approach to the impacts of gas drilling may have equally negative consequences.”

19. These documents:

- Fracking Wars: Federal, State and Local Conflicts over the Regulation of Natural Gas Activities, Zoning and Planning Law Report, February 2012, Vol. 35, No. 2. <http://www.ourenergypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Fracking-Wars.pdf>
- Save Ourselves: The Environmental Case That Changed Louisiana, by Oliver A. Houck. 2012 Louisiana Law Review. “Save Ourselves” is the story of the ten-year fight to stop permitting a polluting waste disposal site in Burnside, La. by a few people, aided by an idealistic lawyer and a couple of courageous state employees working “under cover” to supply critical information that voided the permit. See:

[http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty\\_and\\_Admin/Publications/Houck\\_Save\\_Ourselves.pdf](http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty_and_Admin/Publications/Houck_Save_Ourselves.pdf)

- Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor, by Steve Lerner. See: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/diamond>  
“For years, the residents of Diamond, Louisiana, lived with an inescapable acrid, metallic smell—the “toxic bouquet” of pollution—and a mysterious chemical fog that seeped into their houses. They looked out on the massive Norco Industrial Complex: a maze of pipelines, stacks topped by flares burning off excess gas, and huge oil tankers moving up the Mississippi. They experienced headaches, stinging eyes, allergies, asthma, and other respiratory problems, skin disorders, and cancers that they were convinced were caused by their proximity to heavy industry. Periodic industrial explosions damaged their houses and killed some of their neighbors. Their small, African-American, mixed-income neighborhood was sandwiched between two giant Shell Oil plants in Louisiana's notorious Chemical Corridor. When the residents of Diamond demanded that Shell relocate them, their chances of success seemed slim: a community with little political clout was taking on the second-largest oil company in the world. And yet, after effective grassroots organizing, unremitting fence-line protests, seemingly endless negotiations with Shell officials, and intense media coverage, the people of Diamond finally got what they wanted: money from Shell to help them relocate out of harm's way. In this book, Steve Lerner tells their story.

Around the United States, struggles for environmental justice such as the one in Diamond are the new front lines of both the civil rights and the environmental movements, and *Diamond* is in many ways a classic environmental-justice story: a minority neighborhood, faced with a polluting industry in its midst, fights back. But *Diamond* is also the history of a black community that goes back to the days of slavery. In 1811, Diamond (then the Trepagnier Plantation) was the center of the largest slave rebellion in United States history. Descendants of these slaves were among the participants in the modern-day Diamond relocation campaign.”

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,\\_Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,_Louisiana) Morrisonville, Louisiana was a small town in Iberville Parish, Louisiana that was contaminated with industrial pollution from a nearby Dow Chemical Company vinyl chloride factory. The community had been founded during the 1870s by former slaves freed from a plantation near Plaquemine. In the 1980s and 1990s, chemical pollution was discovered in the town's wells. To avoid lawsuits, Dow decided to buy up the town and move its residents away to create a buffer zone around the factory. In 1989, just before the release of a federal report into toxic emissions from the factory, Dow announced that it was going to buy up all the homes and land in Morrisonville, and that if the residents refused their property would be worthless. Although about twenty families refused to move at first, by 1993 the town was eventually abandoned. All that now remains is the graveyard of the former Nazarene Baptist Church and an open-sided prayer site, built of wood, provided by Dow for family members who return to visit the graves. The

residents were transferred to newly built homes at Morrison Acres, but many died before they could settle in. The large number of petrochemical plants producing PVC in the surrounding area, an 80-mile (130 km) stretch between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, first led to it being known as the 'Chemical Corridor' and later as Cancer Alley, and many other communities in the area have been similarly affected by groundwater pollution and other toxic emissions. The town's residents - predominantly African American - were relocated in 1990 to Morrisonville Estates in Iberville Parish and Morrisonville Acres in West Baton Rouge Parish by Dow.

- Mossville, Louisiana: A Community's Fight for the Human Right to a Healthy Environment. <http://www.prrac.org/pdf/MayJune2011PRRACRoberts.pdf> . CNN YouTube on Mossville situation. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmklvyMi6hU&feature=youtu.be>
- Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, by J. Timmons Roberts, Melissa M. Toffolon-Weiss. "Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, first published in 1991, provides a rare glimpse of the environmental justice movement as it plays out in four landmark struggles at the end of the twentieth century. The book describes the stories of everyday people who have decided to take to the streets to battle what they perceive as injustice: the unequal exposure of minorities and the poor to the 'bads' produced by our industrial society. In these struggles residents and local, state, and national environmental and social justice groups are on one side pitted against local and state government representatives and industry on the other. By employing historical and theoretical lenses in viewing these struggles, the book reveals how situations of environmental injustice are created and how they are resolved. These cases bear great similarity to battles occurring across the nation, and are setting precedents for national and state agencies as they handle these cases." Discusses fates of Morrison, Sunrise, and Revilletown, Louisiana. See: [http://books.google.com/books?id=QuP56ucee-EC&dq=sunrise+louisiana+environmental+justice&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.com/books?id=QuP56ucee-EC&dq=sunrise+louisiana+environmental+justice&source=gbs_navlinks_s)
- Hydrocarbon Hucksters: Lessons from Louisiana on Oil, Politics, and Environmental Justice, by Ernest Zebrowski and Mariah Zabrowski Leach, The University Press of Mississippi, 2014. "This is the saga of the oil industry's takeover of the state of Louisiana---its leaders, its laws, its environment, and the critical thinking skills of so many of its voters."

Once again, please deny the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, application for a permit to drill a well to test the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and/or gas from land in St. Tammany Parish.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 8:22 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Comments in re: Engineering Docket 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 08:21  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Comments in re: Engineering Docket 14-626

**From:** Diane Casteel [mailto:999diane@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 09, 2014 4:02 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comments in re: Engineering Docket 14-626

Please include my input in the Public Comments regarding the drilling permit requested by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626.

First, I wish to commend your agency for holding the Public Hearing on November 12, 2014. The people who must live and work in the area affected deserve to have their opinions considered before a decision such as this one is made.

St. Tammany Parish is mostly rural and suburban. Our official Parish zoning reflects this - there is no zoning for industrial use. It's a good place to raise a family. Residences and businesses have chosen to live and work here because of its beauty, and its clean air and water. Introducing the fracking industry would create a rapid and irreversible change for the worse.

The situation is grim. Our laws are written in favor of the powerful oil and gas industry. Governmental oversight is hampered by lack of funding and personnel. It is well known that the oil and gas industry has caused immense damage in our state, and indeed, across the world. This was allowed to happen through industry irresponsibility and severe lack of governmental oversight by the agencies tasked with upholding regulations. Even when companies are cited for failing to operate within guidelines, forcing those companies into compliance is not routinely accomplished. "Self-regulation" (the fox guarding the hen house) is rampant. In the multitudes of cases of accidents, clean-up and remediation has been agonizingly slow or non-existent. More often than not, it is impossible to reinstate the land and waterways to health, in the unlikely event the company had the will to do so.

Even in a best-case scenario, where there are no infractions of the law and no accidents releasing toxic gases and elements in mass quantities, the operation of fracking wells introduces ongoing

low levels of toxins into the air. If this permit is granted, the industrial noise, traffic of mammoth trucks in and out of the area carrying the chemicals, the location of holding ponds containing a toxic mix of fracking chemicals and radioactive material in our midst are a given. Millions of gallons of fresh water are used for each drilling and it can never be released safely into the environment again (where can it be released safely? Nowhere!)

And that is the result of a best-case scenario. Any variation from best-case produces a nightmare for those of us who planned to live the rest of our lives here (and all the multitudes of non-human inhabitants).

The proposed well-pad site is located in sensitive wetlands, and quite near to a large highschool. These two reasons alone are enough to deny this permit. I urge you to deny this drilling permit.

Sincerely,

Diane Casteel  
1111 Carroll Street  
Mandeville, LA 70448

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 9:14 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Comments In SUPPORT of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** Helis Drilling Permit Support Bullets 10 1 2014.docx

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

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**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 5, 2014 09:10  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Comments In SUPPORT of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626

FYI

**From:** Mark E. Inman, CCIM [mailto:marki@cbtec.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 2:40 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comments In SUPPORT of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I am writing in support of the attached document and allowing Helis to drill on its property. Prohibiting this type of activity a taking of their property and their rights in the property.

Mark Inman

Mark E. Inman, JD, CCIM  
Vice President  
1010 Common Street, Suite 2750  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504) 566-1777 (Office)  
(504) 293-1329 (Fax)



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Comments submission deadline: **5 p.m. on November 19, 2014**

**MAILING ADDRESS OF COMMENTS**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**RE: Comments in Support of Issuance  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA**

- In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increased energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world,
- In the event of successful development of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale throughout St. Tammany Parish, the positive economic impact would be extremely significant to the Parish, the region and the State accelerating economic growth, thus leading directly and indirectly to increased government revenues that can be used for the public's general welfare including the building of infrastructure and providing important services such as education and health care,
- No studies or historical data substantiate that hydraulic fracturing well completion methods, much less simply drilling a vertical well, creates unprecedented or unreasonable risk to the environment,
- The vertical subsurface separation between the fresh water aquifers and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval (+/- 13,000' subsea) is a substantially greater linear distance, approximately 9,500 linear feet, then found in most other shale exploration and development areas throughout the country,
- Compared to Marcellus Shale (+/- 5,500' – 8,500' subsea) in Pennsylvania; Barnett Shale (+/- 6,500' to 8,500' subsea) in suburban Texas; Eagle Ford Shale (+/- 6,000' – 9,000' subsea) in Texas, the areas of development for shale resources in Louisiana are preferable due to the deeper depth of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (+/- 13,000' subsea) and Haynesville Shale intervals,
- The absence of natural faulting in St. Tammany Parish further reduces the already low possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids migrating beyond the designed tolerance of a few hundred feet above the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval found at +/- 13,000' subsea,
- Based on the facts, circumstances and the specifics of the reference drilling permit application failure to issue the permit would unreasonably and unnecessarily usurp landowner rights and directly result in a taking of minerals under private property,
- The authority to grant this routine permit rest solely with the Office of Conservation and should not be unduly influenced by parochial issues or special interest groups expressing concerns that are not based on facts or science,
- Due to the fact that the current permit application seeks only the authorization to drill a vertical well, there is no basis for delay in issuance. As the permit was submitted, drilling a horizontal lateral in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale will require an amendment to the current permit. Permits to drill vertical wells are issued routinely and in a timely manner by the Office of Conservation.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Comments in Support of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Comments in Support of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

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**From:** Tom Himes [mailto:pbft1957@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 11:20 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comments in Support of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

**MAILING ADDRESS OF COMMENTS**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**RE:       Comments in Support of Issuance  
          Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
          Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
          Bayou Lacombe Field  
          Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
          St. Tammany Parish, LA**

My name is Brian Thomas Himes. I support of the issuance of the Helis St Tammany Ph drilling permit. I have been a resident of St Tammany Ph for 32 years and own property and mineral rights (like most of the citizens in St Tammany). I have worked for over 30 years in Louisiana as a professional petroleum geologist and I am very familiar with the

subsurface geology in St Tammany Ph. My knowledge of the geology in St Tammany Ph compels me to make the following statements.

First, there have been a number peer reviewed scientific studies that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. In some areas outside of Louisiana there are rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented . In the areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to Oil and Gas operations, naturally occurring shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers. There are no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Ph as evidenced by electric logs run in wells previously drilled in St Tammany and by the fact that no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water.

The potential for the casing to leak has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills aquifer. Here it can be argued that oil will be separated from the aquifer by three layers of pipe and three layers of cement and extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. The problem with the opposition to the subject well is they on focus on extremely unlikely scenarios. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen years after the well was placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the aquifer, therefore if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the aquifer.

Earthquakes caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel, but there is some evidence that quakes have been generated near the location of a few waste water disposal wells. Here again it's location, location, location. Helis has stated that waste water from the operation of the subject well will not be disposed of in St Tammany and even if it were, the geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Ph is different from the geology in the areas where some quakes have occurred. It appears that the quakes have taken place in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana because the unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.

There has been much said about the Southern Hills aquifer being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Ph. and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm the aquifer. The problem with this argument is two fold. First the Southern Hill aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for hundreds of thousands of people while at the same time over 1000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination that I am aware of. Second, an argument can be made that the Southern Hills aquifer is not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub surface fresh water zone made up of 10-15 separate fresh water sands. These sands are separated by impermeable

shales and are therefore isolated from each other. This fact makes it all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole. The DNR & DEQ have the expertise, knowledge and experience to know what regulations are necessary for the Oil and Gas industry to safely conduct drilling and extraction activities. The fact that the Southern Hills aquifer has not been damaged after over 50 years of oil and gas activity is testament to that. Keep up the good work and issue the Helis permit.

The subject well will be located within a commercial pine tree farm. This property covers over 40,000 acres and has only been used as agricultural timber land for over 100 years. The current operator of the pulp wood enterprise is Weyerhaeuser, and their lease to operate an agricultural business on the surface of the 40,000 acres is in effect for another 30 years. The St Tammany Ph Government zoned most of this 40,000 acres as possible future residential use years ago, but as of today no such residential development exists on this property and any future development other than agricultural and oil & gas would be many years away. The dual use of the subject land (agriculture and mineral development) would seem to me to be the most appropriate use at this time.

Finally, some people opposed to the drilling permit put forth the narrative that St Tammany Ph is an oasis separated from the oil and gas industry and they want to keep it that way. The reality is St Tammany Ph is a vital link in the daily oil and gas operations for the Nation. There are numerous oil and natural gas interstate pipelines that cross St Tammany. These pipelines are located directly over the Southern Hills aquifer and have caused no issues with water quality or the quality of life in the Parish after being in service for decades. The Helis operations would make for beneficial synergies between the existing oil and gas transportation infrastructure and oil field development.

Brian Thomas Himes  
Slidell La.

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 9:11 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Construction of Well Pad for a Single Exploratory Well in St. Tammany Parish. Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Eng Doc. # 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 8:25 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Construction of Well Pad for a Single Exploratory Well in St. Tammany Parish. Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Eng Doc. # 14-626

FYI

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**From:** louis henschen [[mailto:lou\\_henschen@yahoo.com](mailto:lou_henschen@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 01, 2014 12:52 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** [lou\\_henschen@yahoo.com](mailto:lou_henschen@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Construction of Well Pad for a Single Exploratory Well in St. Tammany Parish. Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Eng Doc. # 14-626

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, La 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr Welsh,

The wetlands, water, and air would be endangered by this first well, and possibly hundreds of wells, to be drilled in the wetlands, forest, and aquifer in southeast Louisiana. The BP oil spill is fresh in every ones mind. That blowout dumped millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf for weeks. They eventually fixed it after several failed attempts. If a well casing broke in the Southern Hills Aquifer which supplies Baton Rouge and many other towns and cities in Louisiana they would be unable to stop the flow of oil. The oil would contaminate the aquifer and any natural springs fed by the aquifer. Please don't allow them to start. Stop them now.

Thank You, Louis Henschen  
22168 6th st  
Abita Springs, La. 70420

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:21 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Deny fracking in St. Tammany

Fyi

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Jessi James [mailto:oljessij2@att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Deny fracking in St. Tammany

Having grown up in a small town that was once on the top of the Superfund list for clean up please deny the Fracking in St. Tammany. They have just ok'd for that to go on here and now my water is no longer safe to drink once again even though it has supposedly been cleaned up.

There are a million reasons I would say to stop this but I won't. I will only say we only have one world with so much natural beauty. As a photographer I would say it is our job to protect it. As a mother I would say it is my job to protect my children and the future world for them and their children etc.

Jessi

Be that change you want to see in the world.  
Mahatma Gandhi

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:21 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Deny fracking in St. Tammany

Fyi

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

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**From:** Jessi James [mailto:oljessij2@att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Deny fracking in St. Tammany

Having grown up in a small town that was once on the top of the Superfund list for clean up please deny the Fracking in St. Tammany. They have just ok'd for that to go on here and now my water is no longer safe to drink once again even though it has supposedly been cleaned up.

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Jessi

Be that change you want to see in the world.  
Mahatma Gandhi

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:12 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: deny Helis Oil Permit

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:30 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: deny Helis Oil Permit

**From:** CATCH PATTON [mailto:catchpatton@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:59 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** deny Helis Oil Permit

Dear Mr. Courreges:

I am a property owner living in St. Tammany Parish just outside Abita Springs.

As you know, the VAST MAJORITY of citizens living in our parish are opposed to any fracking here. The site of Helis Oil's proposed well is one of the worst locations imaginable.

The price of oil is so low, the probability of oil being attained through fracking so low, and the risks to the aquifer so great that this permit does not meet the criteria for acceptance that DNR must use in approving a permit request.

Please deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Patton  
24254 Lowe Davis Rd.  
Covington, LA 70435

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:55 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Department of Natural Resources - Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626 - St. Tammany Parish  
**Attachments:** Letter - Helis Permit Application.doc

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:55 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Department of Natural Resources - Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626 - St. Tammany Parish

Pro permit

**From:** Collins Vallee [<mailto:rcvallee@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:52 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Department of Natural Resources - Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626 - St. Tammany Parish

**R. COLLINS VALLÉE**  
**ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW**  
**2020 N. CAUSEWAY BLVD., SUITE H**  
**MANDEVILLE, LA 70471**

**(985) 727-2889 Fax (985) 727-2880**

**November 10, 2014**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al  
No. 1 Well

Bayou Lacombe Field

Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East

St. Tammany Parish, LA

To Whom It May Concern:

Please add my letter to the group of citizens who live and work in St. Tammany Parish in favor of the Helis Drilling permit. While this permit application is just to drill a vertical well, I believe fracking to be a safe method of recovering our natural resources. What is actually dangerous is becoming dependent on foreign oil producers, while we have natural resources available under our own land. Recovering our natural resources provides gasoline for all of the citizens who drive to the various meetings in St. Tammany to express whatever position they have about the Helis permit. St. Tammany has welcomed Chevron as a new employer. The Helis company is welcomed to St. Tammany as well. The project will provide employment and economic benefits to our community. The engineers understand the safety of this proposal. Furthermore, there is no potential deep-water disaster from drilling in the

Gulf of Mexico. And there is no basis for the denial of the permit to drill the vertical well.

Sincerely,

*R. Collins Vallée*

R. Collins Vallée

RCV/mw

--

R. Collins Vallée  
Attorney and Counsellor at Law  
2020 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite H  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
Cell (985) 727-2889

**"Wise counsel for wise clients."**

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R. COLLINS VALLÉE  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
2020 N. CAUSEWAY BLVD., SUITE H  
MANDEVILLE, LA 70471

(985) 727-2889

Fax (985) 727-2880

November 18, 2014

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA

To Whom It May Concern:

Please add my letter to the group of citizens who live and work in St. Tammany Parish in favor of the Helis Drilling permit. While this permit application is just to drill a vertical well, I believe fracking to be a safe method of recovering our natural resources. What is actually dangerous is becoming dependent on foreign oil producers, while we have natural resources available under our own land. Recovering our natural resources provides gasoline for all of the citizens who drive to the various meetings in St. Tammany to express whatever position they have about the Helis permit. St. Tammany has welcomed Chevron as a new employer. The Helis company is welcomed to St. Tammany as well. The project will provide employment and economic benefits to our community. The engineers understand the safety of this proposal. Furthermore, there is no potential deep-water disaster from drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. And there is no basis for the denial of the permit to drill the vertical well.

Sincerely,

*R. Collins Vallée*

R. Collins Vallée

RCV/mw

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 9:38 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Docket 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 09:16  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626

FYI

**From:** LeAnn Magee [mailto:lepermag@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 1:40 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626

Thank you for taking the time to hear my request. I ask that you please review any consideration you may have to allow Helis Oil to drill an exploratory well in St. Tammany Parish. The drill pad is too close to a school, is zoned residential, and sits atop Wetland Habitat. Therefore, it breaks several constitutional protective ordinances. It would be considered illegal but for the loopholes provided to oil companies, instigated by Dick Cheney.

As an archaeologist and an educator employed by St Tammany Parish School Board, I can assure you that both the scientific and education communities oppose this project based on it's environmentally unsound principles

Please review the history of ground water, soil, and air contamination which are evident in the majority of Fracking operations conducted in our country, as well as overseas. There is a vast library of recorded cases of destruction, both physically and economically, associated with Fracking.

St Tammany is not an appropriate place to hydraulically fracture a well. Please consider my opinion in this matter.

Thank you,  
LeAnn Pinniger-Magee

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**From:** Gary Ross [Gary.Ross@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 10:54 AM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Fw: Docket 14-626

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**From:** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 09:16 AM Central Standard Time  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626

FYI

**From:** LeAnn Magee [mailto:lepermag@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 1:40 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626

Thank you for taking the time to hear my request. I ask that you please review any consideration you may have to allow Helis Oil to drill an exploratory well in St. Tammany Parish. The drill pad is too close to a school, is zoned residential, and sits atop Wetland Habitat. Therefore, it breaks several constitutional protective ordinances. It would be considered illegal but for the loopholes provided to oil companies, instigated by Dick Cheney.

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St Tammany is not an appropriate place to hydraulically fracture a well. Please consider my opinion in this matter.

Thank you,  
LeAnn Pinniger-Magee

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error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:20 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** Fritts\_Docket 14-626.pdf; ATT00001.htm

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:55 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626

---

**From:** Shannon Fritts [<mailto:shanfritts@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:21 AM  
**To:** [jimwelsh@la.gov](mailto:jimwelsh@la.gov); LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626

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**Shannon and Daniel Fritts**  
**144 Colin P. Kelly Drive**  
**Minden, LA 71055**

November 12, 2014

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am not a citizen or resident of St. Tammany Parish; however, as an interested citizen in the energy development opportunities within Louisiana I am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.

**I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

**THE US SHALE REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICA**

A short five years ago, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional gas production declined in the United States, it seemed that this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta.

The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States, where producers have taken advantage of two newly viable technologies to unlock resources once deemed

commercially infeasible: horizontal drilling, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations.

The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between 2007 and 2012, U.S. shale gas production rose by over 50 percent each year, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from five percent to 39 percent. Terminals once intended to bring foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG) to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to export U.S. LNG abroad. Between 2007 and 2012, fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which grew by 50 percent between 2008 and 2013. Thanks to these developments, the U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.

The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has wide-reaching geopolitical consequences. Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers have wielded for decades. Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain.

The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since 1971, when U.S. oil production peaked, energy has been construed as a strategic liability for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad. But that logic has been upended, and the newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled "Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution", which I ask be filed into the record of these proceedings. I

strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

### THE TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE IN LOUISIANA

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) is a sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin (Volume 7) of the LSU-Basin Research Institute (BRI), Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Florida Parishes in southeastern Louisiana—which includes St. Tammany Parish-- within an approximate depth range of 11,000 feet to the north to more than 15,000 feet to the south. It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit from your office.

The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons (oil and gas) originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock (TMS) which is now being explored for oil and /or liquid hydrocarbons with advanced (horizontal) drilling and completion (hydraulic fracturing, called fracking).<sup>3</sup>

### THE US SHALE REVOLUTION'S IMPLICATIONS FOR ST. TAMMANY

The highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott just completed a very significant economic report on the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

It is the engine that makes the difference." For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The

---

<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/Tuscaloosa%20Marine%20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana.

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following very significant economic benefits flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

- Louisiana is the nation's number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas among the 50 states.
- Louisiana ranks number two among the states in petroleum refining capacity.
- Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry supported \$73.8 billion in sales in Louisiana firms, generated over \$20.5 billion in household earnings for Louisianans, and supported 287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.
- The \$20.5 billion in earnings represented 11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level.
- On average the job multiplier for the petroleum industry in Louisiana was 4.4; that is, for every job created in these sectors 3.4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state.
- Louisiana's energy industry directly paid nearly \$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees in FY13, or about 14.6 % of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected.
- Through the \$20.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an additional \$1,438,000,000 in taxes, for a total boost to the state treasury of \$2.9 billion.
- A very conservative estimate is that Louisiana's energy industry directly paid \$410 million in ad valorem taxes to local governments in the state in 2013---a 37.5% increase over 2009. In 43 of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 22 parishes the number exceeded \$5 million.

It is important to note that that the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

It is also important to note that all of the following regional business groups representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>5</sup>

I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

#### **HELIS HAS AN OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORD**

Helis' has drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past, and these types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. Helis has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters.

Helis also has years of experience drilling in sensitive environments, such as wildlife and always has the highest regard for its surroundings. Well in advance of being required to do so for its offshore operations, Helis voluntarily implemented the now mandatory Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for all of its operations—offshore and onshore. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

Helis has received the following commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells:

1. Federal offshore regulators have nominated Helis for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record.
2. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality commended Helis' work for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, recognizing that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts.
3. The US Coast Guard has commended Helis for its environmental protection efforts.
4. Helis also has received numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.<sup>6</sup>

#### **OBJECTIONS TO HELIS' PERMIT ARE UNFOUNDED**

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of, as follows:

- Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)

- Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.
- Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

- Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

- Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).
- The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as Helis' lessors and

hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

### HELIS WILL DRILL AND PRODUCE ITS WELL IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE WAY

Objections to Helis' application based on water pollution are also utterly unfounded for the following reasons:

1. Helis will also employ an extra string of casing so that the aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the required two strings of casing—along with three layers of cement.
2. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)
3. Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer.
4. Thousands of wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, fracking projects through this same aquifer are already taking place in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish.
5. There are literally thousands of fracked wells in Louisiana—about two thousand seven hundred (2,700) in the Haynesville Shale area in North Louisiana and some thirty-five (35) in Tangipahoa Parish and other areas near to St. Tammany. See <http://videos.loga.la/home>. According to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials in those areas, there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana.
6. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the report in the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html> In some areas outside of Louisiana there are rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented. In areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to oil and gas operations, naturally occurring shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity

to the fresh water aquifers. There are, however, no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Parish, as evidenced by electric logs run in wells previously drilled in St Tammany and by the fact that no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water.

7. A study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found in fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas contains chemicals found in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. Though the fluid is mostly water and sand, many critics of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, say chemicals added to the fluid contaminate groundwater. The new study suggests that additives found in one component, surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted, are no more toxic than common household items. University researchers collected samples from fracking fluid surfactants in five states — Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Texas. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners.<sup>7</sup>
8. The potential for the casing to leak has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills Aquifer. Here, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.
9. Earthquakes caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel. While this may have occurred near a few waste water disposal wells, Helis has stated that wastewater from the operation of its well will not be disposed of in St Tammany. And, even if it were, the geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Parish is different from the geology in the areas where the few earthquakes have occurred, as those that have taken place have occurred in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana underlying the wellsite

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and also see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

because the unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.

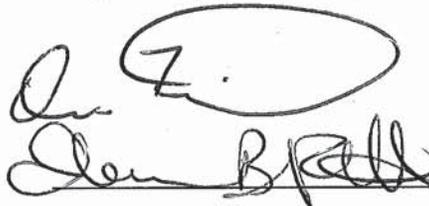
10. Much has been made by opponents of Helis' well about the Southern Hills Aquifer being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Parish and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm it. This argument has two major problems: first, the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for hundreds of thousands of people while at the same time over 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years, with no resulting contamination; second, the Southern Hills Aquifer may not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub-surface fresh water zone made up of 10-15 separate fresh water sands. These sands are separated by impermeable shales and are therefore isolated from each other. This fact makes it all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole.

11. Fracking is also not new to this area of Louisiana. Major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away through the same aquifer in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations will begin soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany Parish.

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

For all of the reasons set forth in this letter, I strongly urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application as Helis' well is in the public interest and will benefit the State of Louisiana and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish and will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "B".

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:47 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

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**From:** lenny schmidt [<mailto:lenny@rscno.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:31 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

I attended the meeting in the Lakeshore Gym on Wednesday night Nov 12.  
My comments are as follows.

If there is any concern over the safety of the construction process of the well, it is not up to Hellis to decide if it should be allowed. The neighbors are generally the ones who have to agree to allow the construction to proceed. If the location was zoned for the construction of a well that would not be the case, but I understand it is not.

Has a variance been applied for and approved by the parish to construct a well on this property? If not that process should be completed before the DNR gives Hellis a permit.

Leonard Schmidt  
CEO



5736 Citrus Blvd Suite 101  
New Orleans, La. 70123  
[www.rscno.com](http://www.rscno.com)

504-734-3773



Please print only as needed

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:52 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Donald Lee's DNR comments

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

**From:** Donald Lee [mailto:donaldplee77@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 9:58 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; michael.v.farabee@urace.mil; Patrick Courreges; Rick Franzo; Terri Lewis Stevens; Marianne Cufone; Melissa Pearson; Ian Somerhalder; Gail Blazek  
**Subject:** Donald Lee's DNR comments

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

My name is Donald Lee. I am a resident of St. Tammany Parish (STP). I am also an attorney and volunteer member of Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany's Legal Committee (CCST). I am writing to urge the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reject the Helis Oil & Gas Company's (Helis) September 10, 2014 application for a drilling permit for the EDS Poitevent et al. No. 1 Well. For the reasons set forth below, Helis' application for a drilling permit fails to satisfy the DNR's permit requirements.

Horizontal hydraulic shale fracturing (Fracking) is a heavy, brutal industrial process, fraught with demonstrable environmental and human health risks, and therefore Helis should not be permitted to unleash this dangerous technology into the very heart of our community. Collectively, the State of Louisiana's Constitution, STP's zoning requirements, the increasingly well-documented record of soil, air, and water contamination Fracking is causing throughout the United States of America (including in Bossier Parish), and the DNR's officially documented failure to adequately regulate oil and gas exploration prohibits the DNR from granting Helis' permit application.

Perhaps the best way to proceed is through an evaluation of each of the individual the arguments Helis' advances in support of its drilling application.

The law firm representing Helis in the application process, Liskow & Lewis, submitted a memorandum (the Memorandum) to the DNR on October 23, 2014, which asserts Helis has complied with all DNR's regulatory requirements for issuance of a drilling permit. I reject this assertion. The memorandum observes Helis has submitted its Office of Conservation Form MD-10-R-1, in duplicate, along with the requisite application fee, an Affidavit of Compliance Related to Pre-Entry Notice, and a permit plat of the drill site location prepared by a Louisiana registered surveyor. The surveyor has confirmed there are no residential or commercial structures not

owned by Helis, its lessors, or predecessors-in-interest within a 500' radius of the proposed drilling location as required by 30: 28 (D). Beyond meeting these perfunctory requirements, which hardly seem more rigorous than those required to obtain an individual driver's license, and at least with respect to the 500 foot rule are quite literally preposterous, the Memorandum instructs the DNR that Helis will drill and complete the subject well in a way which equals or exceeds all regulatory requirements and employs best practices in the industry. The Memorandum relies on La. R.S. 30:28 (F) to summarily limit the DNR's decision-making jurisdiction from including any land use and zoning rights STP may wish to assert under the Louisiana State Constitution and STP Home Rule Charter (HRC). From Helis' perspective, the referenced statutory provision preempts STP zoning requirements from interfering with the drilling of its test well. In support for this proposition, the Memorandum offers the case of Energy Management Corp. V. City of Shreveport.

Now let's review each of the arguments advanced in the Memorandum.

In its consideration of Helis' drilling permit application, a threshold question the DNR must answer is whether, based upon all the available evidence where fracking has occurred in this country (and not merely Louisiana) over the past decade, does there exist a preponderance of reliable data showing that fracking has caused, or is likely to cause over the course of time, an unacceptable risk of harm to the environment (i.e., air, soil, water) and human health. This question must be answered on the basis of scientific evidence, and particularly through a review of the known environmental and human health consequences of fracking in all the places in the country where it has occurred or is occurring. Based upon its review of the objectively determined scientific record, CCST believes the technology of fracking, notwithstanding current energy industry best practices, including the drilling practices proposed in the current matter by Helis, poses a clear and certain threat to the environment and human health. Many communities throughout the country have banned or are attempting, against bitter industry opposition, to ban fracking, not because their residents necessarily want to continue to live in an area free of heavy industrialization (although that is sometimes also the case), or don't believe in America's goal of energy independence, or are somehow un-American, but rather because fracking, based upon objectively verifiable data, is poisoning their land, air and water, and threatening their human health. In fact, even the United States Environmental Protection Agency now has grave reservations about the potential threats to water sources from fracking and the states' ability to manage those threats, and the agency's Office of Inspector General has determined to launch a wide-scale investigation into the matter.

Helis' paid experts offer testimony and exquisitely colorful, sanitized, and professional exhibits to demonstrate the fracking process does not pose an unacceptable risk to the Southern Hills Aquifer (the Aquifer). The Memorandum notes that over 50 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the aquifer, that thousands of water wells in the parish are in communication with the aquifer, and that hundreds of additional oil and gas wells have been drilled through the aquifer from outside the parish. Apropos of nothing, the Memorandum observes, "Helis is not aware of any incident involving groundwater contamination in relation to any of these oil and gas wells, nor have the opponents made any specific allegations of any such incident."

First, assuming all the wells Helis references are relevant to the matter at hand, which I question, it is neither STP residents or nor CCST's responsibility to provide evidence the referenced wells have caused groundwater contamination; STP residents and CCST should be able to rely on the DNR to inspect the wells for groundwater contamination. Have the wells been inspected? If so, what are the findings? If the DNR has not inspected the wells, then neither Helis nor anyone else can know whether the wells, or some percentage of the wells have groundwater contamination. Indeed, given the magnitude of what is permanently at stake in environmental and human costs, it would be grossly irresponsible and a violation of the agency's drill permit requirements and Constitutional duty for the DNR not to assure itself through testing that the wells are free of groundwater contamination. Second, to the extent Helis is proposing to employ fracking drilling processes commonly used in the industry, there is no rationale basis for the DNR to limit its well survey size to that offered in the memorandum. Hundreds of thousands of wells have been fracked all over the country. The DNR must make a determination about the percentage of these wells which show clear evidence of contamination, and there are many contaminated wells based upon CCST's review of public reports. Moreover, it is indisputably the case that cement is not a perfectly reliable seal. Over time, with the heat and pressure underground, a percentage of wells casing will fail, and their failure will result in groundwater contamination. In light of the lethal chemicals Helis proposes to inject into the ground, which are not susceptible to any water treatment process, the parish's Aquifer will eventually suffer contamination. The DNR's legal duty to protect the environment and human health from known unacceptable contamination is absolute, whether this contamination occurs in 3 or 5 of 12 or 25 years.

The Memorandum acknowledges that Helis is proposing to drill at a location STP has zoned residential, but the DNR does not have the jurisdictional authority to consider STP zoning requirements in the agency's evaluation of Helis' drilling permit. Specifically, the memorandum offers La. R.S. 30:28 (F), and the case of Energy management V. City of Shreveport as evidence STP is preempted from interfering with Helis' drilling of its test well.

Despite Helis' argument to the contrary, the DNR's duty to protect Louisiana citizens' health, safety, and welfare is clearly recognized in the **The Louisiana State Constitution, Article IX, Section 1**. Additionally, **La. R.S. 33.109.1** stipulates that whenever a parish or municipal planning commission adopts a master plan, state agencies and departments shall consider such adopted master plan before undertaking any activity which would affect the adopted elements of the master plan.

Helis' drilling proposal violates the clear language and intent of STP's Master Plan as well as its Home Rule Charter's residential zoning requirements. Moreover, the referenced Shreveport case does not support Helis' contention that La. R.S. 30:28 (F) preempts the zoning authority granted to STP government under the Louisiana State Constitution, Louisiana Revised Statutes, and the parish's Home Rule Charter. The ordinance the court invalidated in the Shreveport case was authorized under the power of a police jury. The court never decided whether La. R.S. 30:28 (F) would preempt a parish zoning requirement passed under the authority of a Home Rule Charter, and a Home Rule Charter is generally accepted as a legally more powerful fountain of authority than a police jury.

Finally, I'd like to thank the DNR for giving citizens a platform to express their concerns in regard to Helis' application for a drilling permit. As a practical matter, it has been exceedingly difficult for citizens to raise their voice in a meaningful way against the Helis' drilling project.

First, the very nature of legal and environmental controversies are highly technical, and often require the services of lawyers and technical experts most citizens cannot afford. Second, citizens opposed to the Helis drilling project are routinely ridiculed and even subjected to ad hominem attack in the corporate news media, particularly by lazy journalists like James Varney, whose coverage of the drilling controversy is cartoonish in its simplicity, nasty in tone, and arguably rises to the level of propaganda on behalf of the energy industry (See, for example, Varney's November 14, 21014 coverage of the DNR hearing which appeared on NOLA.com). Third, as a matter of public policy, STP government has had a difficult time coming to grips with the vastly complex legal, environmental, social, and cultural issues relative to allowing fracking in the STP. Elected officials are on the horns of a dilemma: under the clear auspices of the Louisiana State Constitution and STP Home Rule Charter, officials are authorized to ban fracking and protect the health and welfare of parish residents; however, if they do pass a ban on fracking, officials fear the parish will be exposed to the expense of a potential Helis' lawsuit; officials would also risk their personal political fortunes to the immense financial and political power the energy industry and its business lobby would wield against them. On the other hand, officials can fall on their political sword and pursue a path of accommodation and capitulation where they effectively eviscerate resident's legal rights and offer earnest but ultimately worthless assurances the parish will work with Helis to implement safety measures adequate to protect the environment and citizens health.

In the end, the energy industry has come to amass immense financial and political power in this country, and especially in Louisiana. This explains why Helis, even as a bit player in the energy industry's exploitation of the country's mineral resources, is in a position to wield Louisiana oil and gas law like a medieval cudgel to manipulate Louisiana energy industry regulators, strong arm St. Tammany Parish elected officials, and trample on the basic human rights of ordinary citizens. I have no confidence the DNR will have the courage to deny Helis' drilling permit; nor do I have confidence STP officials will have the good sense and courage to pass a ban on fracking in the parish. Ultimately it will left to ordinary citizens to act through the courts and the ballot box to protect their environment and well-being. This is what happens when such enormous concentrations of financial and political power are placed in the hands of a single industry.

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Drilling permit request by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

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**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 09:55  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Drilling permit request by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626

**From:** Margie Vicknair [mailto:nolamargie@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** Scott Eustis; Matt Rota  
**Subject:** RE: Drilling permit request by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626

Please add my input to the Public Comments regarding the drilling permit requested by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626.

St Tammany is basically a suburban community in a semi-rural setting. Allowing fracking here is tantamount to setting us up for another "worst disaster" scenario. One toxic spill or explosion could easily affect thousands. We do not want an oil and gas-based industry in St. Tammany Parish.

Statewide, the oil and gas industry has meant a windfall for a handful of non-citizens, jobs for a few thousand, and poverty and pollution for the rest of the state. Oh, I forgot, a nice boon for a handful of politicians, as well.

It is about time that DNR did what it is constitutionally bound to do, and that is PROTECT the resources of Louisiana, not sell them to outsiders who don't care about the long-term destructive impact on our once beautiful and resource-rich state.

As a retired oil and gas safety officer, I know for a FACT that there are natural gas wells capped off all across this country due to lack of a strong market (i.e. high prices). To say that this particular oil and gas must be retrieved right now is a joke, and both you and the industry know it. The ONLY reason to rush this development through is because once the "Halliburton Loophole" (Part of the Bush Administration's Energy Policy Act of 2005), is closed, fracking will be illegal and treasonous (poisoning of ground water and aquifers qualifies as a terrorist activity).

There is NO OTHER VALID REASON to push this toxic and dangerous technique as it is currently being promoted. There WILL be spills, as there is no oil and gas Operator on Earth who can say that there will not be any spills. And there will be accidents, because there is no Operator who can say that they will never have an accident.

Helis, in particular, has a checkered history of accidents and disregard for safety and the environment. Saying that, they are probably about average for the oilfield, which gives me a cold chill when I think of the toxins such as Acrylonitrile (HazMat#1093 - a tanker of which I saw in a Nabors fracking convoy in Tangipahoa earlier this year), and other similarly hazardous chemicals being pumped through our aquifer and dumped into open-air waste pits by Helis' contractors.

The citizens of southeast Louisiana deserve better than the disastrous lack of foresight in planning by our governmental agencies that we have received to date. Your directive as an agency is to protect our resources, not to act as protectorate for oil and gas interests.

Please stop all drilling and fracking permits in St. Tammany Parish. If you will do the job that you are legally bound to do, you will do the same for the rest of the Florida Parishes.

Sincerely,  
Margie Vicknair-Pray  
27400 John Lane  
Lacombe, LA 70445  
985-373-7097

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 9:11 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No 14-626  
**Attachments:** draft.welsh.docx

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 8:24 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No 14-626

FYI

**From:** Susan Tyler [<mailto:susanjune09@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 02, 2014 2:43 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Susan Tyler

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Susan J. Tyler  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

dnrinfo@la.gov

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the above-named application by Helis Oil & Gas, to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a resident and property owner, I am very concerned about the potential short and long-term negative effects to the health and safety of St. Tammany's residents. We cannot allow the dangerous and largely unregulated practice of hydraulic fracturing to take place in our parish. By Helis's own admission, the project has only a 50/50 chance of success. With those odds, why would we risk the safety of our air quality and drinking water for the short-term gains of a few parties? The following are just a few of my concerns:

Although the industry repeatedly tells us that fracking is "safe," a quick online search will turn up scores of documented instances of ground water contamination in the states presently allowing the practice. Studies have shown that new wells leak approximately 6% of the time, and 50% of wells fail at some point. The Southern Hills Aquifer is the sole source of St. Tammany's drinking water. Once an aquifer is poisoned, there is no remedy.

Because of the dire risks to our only source of drinking water, we request that you prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the potential wide-spread effects on St. Tammany's air, water, wildlife, ecosystems, endangered species and fragile wetlands from hydraulic fracturing activity. Please bear in mind that if one well is permitted and is "successful," our parish will be inundated with applications for hundreds of wells. The impacts to our fragile ecosystems would be devastating.

St. Tammany is prone to flooding during mere rain events, not to mention during hurricanes. A "waste water pond," outgassing toxic chemicals and vulnerable to flooding during storm events, would be an accident waiting to happen. Additionally, to my knowledge, Helis has not indicated where they will obtain the millions of gallons of fresh water needed for fracking operations, nor have they stated where they will be disposing of the resulting toxic waste water. While many states are currently suffering historic droughts, these millions of gallons of water will be unusable, permanently poisoned, and unavailable to the water cycle. Fracking waste water is permanently contaminated with radioactive elements (that should remain underground) and with cancer-causing chemicals.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Another concern is the location of the proposed site: 1,000 feet from Lakeshore High School in a densely populated area. This area, along with much of the parish, already suffers from major traffic congestion problems. The idea of adding countless trucks hauling hazardous materials at all hours of the day and night to our already traffic-burdened roads is appalling. The number of traffic fatalities in the area will rise exponentially.

The proposed site is zoned A-3—residential use only. Heavily industrial activities, with their contingent flammability and chemical spill hazards, are strictly prohibited in residentially-zoned areas. We do not want these types of hazards in St. Tammany Parish at all, as our zoning reflects.

The industry touts jobs and potential revenues accruing to the area, but instead, with these types of operations, outside labor is imported (as we have seen in Mississippi,) and any revenues gained will be to a few non-resident landowners and to Helis. The parish and state are unlikely to profit due to Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling.

Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

Another major concern is the lack of contingency planning. Has Helis Oil submitted any type of plan to handle a catastrophic accident in St. Tammany Parish? Recent events in Louisiana, such as the disastrous BP Oil Spill and the Bayou Corne Sinkhole, as well as in many other parts of the country, have proven that the oil and gas industry is very short on contingency planning for bad or worst-case scenarios. In June of 2014, a fire on a drill pad in Ohio burned for five days, exposing the volunteer fire department responders to toxic chemical exposures as well as exposure to radioactive elements. Additionally, during the Ohio incident, waterways were also fouled and 70,000 fish were killed. How would St. Tammany handle such an event? (Please see <http://www.theoec.org/sites/default/files/Eisenbarth%20well%20pad%20fire.pdf>).

Industries cannot be counted on to self-regulate, and hydraulic fracturing is no exception. State agencies do not have the resources to adequately monitor their activities. Instead we, the residents, are told to involuntarily assume all the risks of permanent damage, for no gain.

As a property owner whose water is supplied by a well, I have a simple question: why should my drinking water, along with that of all of my fellow St. Tammany residents, be put at risk for permanent damage without my/our consent? If our water is damaged, our health is at risk and our property values go to nil.

We are fundamentally entitled to clean air, clean water and a safe environment. A clean, safe and poison-free environment is necessary for our constitutionally-protected rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No industry has the right to enter our parish and trample on those rights. The risks to the safety and health of the residents, communities and ecosystems of St. Tammany Parish should far outweigh any potential gains to a few individuals and one company, none of whom reside in our parish. We, the residents, have everything to lose. We would be risking our health, property and peace of mind to gain nothing, again, without our consent. Please respect the wishes of St.

Tammany's residents, and deny any and all permits requests by Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Tyler

Links to Articles:

Compendium compiled by Concerned Health Professionals of New York:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

Two links on a very recent study on well contamination:

<http://www.neomatica.com/2014/09/24/trace-isotope-analysis-reveals-fracking-contaminating-well-water-3-ways/>

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/39/14076.abstract> (with link to supporting info.)

Interesting article on how local governments suffer after effects of fracking:

<http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-frackings-financial-losers.html>

Hydraulic Fracturing Fluid kills 18 cows in Louisiana:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2009/04/30/726340/-Hydraulic-Fracture-Fluid-Kills-18-Cattle-Near-Chesapeake-Well-in-LA>

US Fish & Wildlife Service Report on (produced water) sludge pit contamination/death of migratory birds and wildlife:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/contaminants/documents/reservepits.pdf>

Conclusive link between fracking and aquifer contamination found in Texas:

<http://www.southernstudies.org/2014/06/conclusive-link-between-fracking-aquifer-contamina.html>

And just released from U.S. News & World Report:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/30/toxic-chemicals-and-carcinogens-skyrocket-near-fracking-sites-study-says>

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 9:11 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** draft.cws.welsh.docx

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 8:25 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

FYI

**From:** Charles Sapp [<mailto:cwssjt08@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 02, 2014 2:31 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Charles Sapp

---

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Charles W. Sapp  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

[dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the above-named application by Helis Oil & Gas, to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a resident and property owner, I am very concerned about the potential short and long-term negative effects to the health and safety of St. Tammany's residents. We cannot allow the dangerous and largely unregulated practice of hydraulic fracturing to take place in our parish. By Helis's own admission, the project has only a 50/50 chance of success. With those odds, why would we risk the safety of our air quality and drinking water for the short-term gains of a few parties? The following are just a few of my concerns:

Although the industry repeatedly tells us that fracking is "safe," a quick online search will turn up scores of documented instances of ground water contamination in the states presently allowing the practice. Studies have shown that new wells leak approximately 6% of the time, and 50% of wells fail at some point. The Southern Hills Aquifer is the sole source of St. Tammany's drinking water. Once an aquifer is poisoned, there is no remedy.

Because of the dire risks to our only source of drinking water, we request that you prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the potential wide-spread effects on St. Tammany's air, water, wildlife, ecosystems, endangered species and fragile wetlands from hydraulic fracturing activity. Please bear in mind that if one well is permitted and is "successful," our parish will be inundated with applications for hundreds of wells. The impacts to our fragile ecosystems would be devastating.

St. Tammany is prone to flooding during mere rain events, not to mention during hurricanes. A "waste water pond," outgassing toxic chemicals and vulnerable to flooding during storm events, would be an accident waiting to happen. Additionally, to my knowledge, Helis has not indicated where they will obtain the millions of gallons of fresh water needed for fracking operations, nor have they stated where they will be disposing of the resulting toxic waste water. While many states are currently suffering historic droughts, these millions of gallons of water will be unusable, permanently poisoned, and unavailable to the water cycle. Fracking waste water is permanently contaminated with radioactive elements (that should remain underground) and with cancer-causing chemicals.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Another concern is the location of the proposed site: 1,000 feet from Lakeshore High School in a densely populated area. This area, along with much of the parish, already suffers from major traffic congestion problems. The idea of adding countless trucks hauling hazardous materials at all hours of the day and night to our already traffic-burdened roads is appalling. The number of traffic fatalities in the area will rise exponentially.

The proposed site is zoned A-3—residential use only. Heavily industrial activities, with their contingent flammability and chemical spill hazards, are strictly prohibited in residentially-zoned areas. We do not want these types of hazards in St. Tammany Parish at all, as our zoning reflects.

The industry touts jobs and potential revenues accruing to the area, but instead, with these types of operations, outside labor is imported (as we have seen in Mississippi,) and any revenues gained will be to a few non-resident landowners and to Helis. The parish and state are unlikely to profit due to Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling.

Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

Another major concern is the lack of contingency planning. Has Helis Oil submitted any type of plan to handle a catastrophic accident in St. Tammany Parish? Recent events in Louisiana, such as the disastrous BP Oil Spill and the Bayou Corne Sinkhole, as well as in many other parts of the country, have proven that the oil and gas industry is very short on contingency planning for bad or worst-case scenarios. In June of 2014, a fire on a drill pad in Ohio burned for five days, exposing the volunteer fire department responders to toxic chemical exposures as well as exposure to radioactive elements. Additionally, during the Ohio incident, waterways were also fouled and 70,000 fish were killed. How would St. Tammany handle such an event? (Please see <http://www.theoec.org/sites/default/files/Eisenbarth%20well%20pad%20fire.pdf>).

Industries cannot be counted on to self-regulate, and hydraulic fracturing is no exception. State agencies do not have the resources to adequately monitor their activities. Instead we, the residents, are told to involuntarily assume all the risks of permanent damage, for no gain.

As a property owner whose water is supplied by a well, I have a simple question: why should my drinking water, along with that of all of my fellow St. Tammany residents, be put at risk for permanent damage without my/our consent? If our water is damaged, our health is at risk and our property values go to nil.

We are fundamentally entitled to clean air, clean water and a safe environment. A clean, safe and poison-free environment is necessary for our constitutionally-protected rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No industry has the right to enter our parish and trample on those rights. The risks to the safety and health of the residents, communities and ecosystems of St. Tammany Parish should far outweigh any potential gains to a few individuals and one company, none of whom reside in our parish. We, the residents, have everything to lose. We would be risking our health, property and peace of mind to gain nothing, again, without our consent. Please respect the wishes of St.

Tammany's residents, and deny any and all permits requests by Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Sapp

Links to Articles:

Compendium compiled by Concerned Health Professionals of New York:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

Two links on a very recent study on well contamination:

<http://www.neomatica.com/2014/09/24/trace-isotope-analysis-reveals-fracking-contaminating-well-water-3-ways/>

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/39/14076.abstract> (with link to supporting info.)

Interesting article on how local governments suffer after effects of fracking:

<http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-frackings-financial-losers.html>

Hydraulic Fracturing Fluid kills 18 cows in Louisiana:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2009/04/30/726340/-Hydraulic-Fracture-Fluid-Kills-18-Cattle-Near-Chesapeake-Well-in-LA>

US Fish & Wildlife Service Report on (produced water) sludge pit contamination/death of migratory birds and wildlife:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/contaminants/documents/reservepits.pdf>

Conclusive link between fracking and aquifer contamination found in Texas:

<http://www.southernstudies.org/2014/06/conclusive-link-between-fracking-aquifer-contamina.html>

And just released from U.S. News & World Report:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/30/toxic-chemicals-and-carcinogens-skyrocket-near-fracking-sites-study-says>

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:25 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** 53 in opposed to Eads #1, Engineering Docket 14-626.pdf

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:24 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**From:** Barbara Jackson [mailto:barbinabita@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 11:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

To: Department of Natural Resources

Attn.: James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Attached please find 53 signatures in opposition to the above permit application.

Thank you.

Barbara Jackson  
22052 8th Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

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## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

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**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Allen R Little</i> ALLEN L. LITTLE	106 W. Hall Ave Sulley La	11-8-14
2	<i>Mary C. Reams</i> Mary C. Reams	306 Goldenwood St Madenville	11/8/14
3	<i>Elizabeth Van Sant</i> Wanda A	603 w 24th Covington	11/8/14
4	<i>Nick Blady</i> NICK BEADY	306 Goldenwood Mobile	11/8/14
5	<i>Doreen Picone</i> Doreen Picone	71476 Parc Wood Dr E.	11/8/14
6	<i>Sharon Edward</i>	1532 Boyd Amos St Elidell	11-8-14
7	<i>FRBD MARSHALL</i> James Marshall	307 Humblewood Sulley LA 70460	
8	<i>Kara Jordan @ fulbright.org</i>	1933 Willow St NOLA	
9	<i>James Harrison</i> Doreen M. Harrison	} 8209 Cabin Lane Pearl River La 70452	
10	<i>Shirley J W</i> Shirley J W		4020 Cleveland NOLA
11	<i>Jan P. Jomonville</i> Jan P. Jomonville	24 Magnolia Gardens Dr. Covington La 70435	1-8-14
12			

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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 Department of Natural Resources  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Maura Lee</i>	<i>826 Old Landing Rd Covington, LA</i>	
2	<i>Sandra Slifer</i> <i>Sandra Slifer</i>	<i>116 Tulip Dr. Covington, LA 70433</i>	
3	<i>LeAnn Pinniga Magee</i>	<i>22195 Green St Orbita Springs, LA 70120</i>	<i>11/5/14</i>
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Janet B. Cascio</i> Janet B. Cascio	407 West 15th Ave. Covington, LA 70433	11/1/14
2	<i>Alison Cook</i> Alison Cook	70482 Tenth St Covington LA 70433	11/1/14
3	<i>Elaine Pale</i>	68775 Merion 70471	11-1-14
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	ADRIANA TORRES Joaquin Torres	20219 Helenbieg RD Covington LA 70433	
2	Sharon Revere Sharon Revere	414 E. JESSIE JONES COVINGTON, LA 70433	
3	Amanda Hosbach am a	103 Beau Soleil Place, Mandeville LA 70471	11/1/14
4	Pat Carroll	20204 River Parc Dr Cov. LA. 70433	11/1/14
5	Merion Lea	526 Old Landing Rd Covington, LA 70423	11/1/14
6	Jaret Wing Jaret Wing	58408 Holly Dr Slidell, LA 70460	11/1/14
7	Carol Olsen CAROL OLSEN	16309 E. Beauvoir Rd., Apt F242 Covington, LA 70433	11/1/14
8	F W COOPER F W COOPER	27144 HWY 40 BUSH, LA 70431	11.1.14
9	Heather Wright	314 Lisbon R one Covington LA 70433	
10	David F. Easley David F. Easley	310 E. 35th Ave Covington LA 70433	11/4/14
11	RICHARD ROBERTSON	73223 ABITA SPRINGS DR ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	11/4/14
12	Esther O'Hare	82121 Hwy 1082 Bush, La	11/5/14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Sandra Doney</i> Sandra Doney	3807 Brookwood Dr., Slidell, LA 70458	10/29/14
2	<i>Barbara Jackson</i> Barbara Jackson	22052 8th Street Abita Springs LA 70420	10-31-14
3	<i>J. Lewis Steven</i> TERRI LEWIS STEVEN	725 DOVE PK RD COVINGTON, LA 70433	10-31-14
4	<i>Cynthia A. Brookings</i> Cynthia A. Brookings	23015 Hwy 1084 Covington LA 70435	10/31/ 14
5	<i>Thomas R Cash</i> Thomas R Cash	131 Hickory St Covington LA 70433	10/31/ 2014
6	<i>Laura Metevia</i> Laura Metevia	19684 Jarral Rd Covington, LA 70435	10-31-14
7	<i>V. Elizabeth</i> V. Elizabeth	19684 Jarral Rd Covington, LA 70435	10/31/14
8	<i>Keith Reynolds</i> Keith Reynolds	27 Ellen Dr Covington LA 70433	10/31/14
9	<i>Belinda FitzSimons</i> Belinda FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington LA 70433	10/31/14
10	<i>Sherman FitzSimons</i> Sherman FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10-31-14
11	<i>Xavier C.D. FitzSimons</i> Xavier C.D. FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10/31/14
12	<i>Martha D. Cooper</i> Martha D. Cooper	27144 Hwy 40 Bushy, LA 70431	10-31-14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

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 Department of Natural Resources  
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	MAURICE J. DUPRE <i>Maurice Dupre</i>	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS, LA 70420	28 OCT 2014
2	Louis C. Henschel LOUIS C. HENSCHEN	22168 6TH ST ABITA SPRINGS, LA 70420	OCT 28 2014
3	Catherine O'Haire Catherine O'HAIRE	82181 OLD MILITARY BUSH LA	10/28/14
4	Susan Tyler <i>Susan Tyler</i>	786 Brewster Rd. Madisonville, LA 70447	10/28/14
5	Charles Sapp <i>Charles Sapp</i>	786 Brewster Rd, Madisonville	10/28/14
6	Cynthia Rester Cynthia Rester	64328 Fish Hatchery Rd Lacombe La, 70445	10/28/14
7	Dyane Mitchell Dyane Mitchell	1427 clover self Mandeville, La 70448	10/28/14
8	Cassata Krebs <i>Cassata Krebs</i>	50 Pine St. Corinth LA 70433	10/28/14
9	Martha Badon William Badon	59591 Badm Rd Stidell La 5959 BADON Rd 1170460	10/28/14
10	Margie Dicknair-Pray Margie Dicknair-Pray	27400 JOHN LANE LACOMBE, LA 70445	10/28/14
11	Barbara Jackson Barbara Jackson	22052 8th St. Abita Springs LA 70420	10-28-14
12	Drane Casteel Drane Casteel	1111 Carroll St. Mandeville LA 70448	10/29/14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jeff Wells [Jeff.Wells@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 8:54 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**CC:** Todd Keating; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** 53 in opposed to Eads #1, Engineering Docket 14-626.pdf

I am forwarding another protest to the proposed well in St. Tammany Parish.

Jeff Wells  
Office of Conservation

**From:** Barbara Jackson [mailto:barbinabita@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 11:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jeff Wells  
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To: Department of Natural Resources

Attn.: James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

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Thank you.

Barbara Jackson  
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Abita Springs, LA 70420

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**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Allen L. Little</i> ALLEN L. LITTLE	106 W. Hall Ave Sulley La	11-8-14
2	<i>Mary C. Reams</i> Mary C. Reams	306 Goldenwood St Madenville	11/8/14
3	<i>Elizabeth Van Sant</i> Wanda A	603 W 24th Covington	11/8/14
4	<i>Nick Blady</i> NICK BEADY	306 Goldenwood Mobile	11/8/14
5	<i>Doreen Picone</i> Doreen Picone	71476 Parc Wood Dr E.	11/8/14
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8	<i>Kara Jordan @ fulbright.org</i>	1933 Willow St NOLA	
9	<i>James Harrison</i> James M. Harrison	} 8 Log Cabin Lane Pearl River La 70452	
10	<i>Shirley J. W...</i> Shirley J. W...		4020 Cleveland NOLA
11	<i>Jan P. Jomonville</i> Jan P. Jomonville	24 Magnolia Gardens Dr. Covington La 70435	1-8-14
12			

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

TO: Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
 Engineering Docket No. 14-626

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Maura Lee</i>	<i>826 Old Landing Rd</i>	
2	<i>Sandra Slifer</i> <i>Sandra Slifer</i>	<i>116 Tulip Dr.</i> <i>Covington, LA 70433</i>	
3	<i>LeAnn Pinniga Magee</i>	<i>20195 Green St</i> <i>Orbita Springs, LA 70120</i>	<i>11/5/14</i>
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

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 Commissioner of Conservation  
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 P.O. Box 94275  
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Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Janet B. Cascio</i> Janet B. Cascio	407 West 15th Ave. Covington, LA 70433	11/1/14
2	<i>Alison Cook</i> Alison Cook	70482 Tenth St Covington LA 70433	11/1/14
3	<i>Elaine Pale</i>	68775 Merion 70471	11-1-14
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
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**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
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**P.O. Box 94275**  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	ADRIANA TORRES Joaquin Torres	20219 Helenbieg RD Covington LA 70433	
2	Sharon Revere Sharon Revere	414 E. JESSIE JONES COVINGTON, LA 70433	
3	Amanda Hosbach am a	103 Beau Soleil Place, Mandeville LA 70471	11/1/14
4	Pat Carroll	20204 River Parc Dr Cov. LA. 70433	11/1/14
5	Merion Lea	526 Old Landing Rd Covington, LA 70423	11/1/14
6	Jaret Wing Jaret Wing	58408 Holly Dr Slidell, LA 70460	11/1/14
7	Carol Olsen CAROL OLSEN	16309 E. Beauvoir Rd., Apt F242 Covington, LA 70433	11/1/14
8	F W COOPER F W COOPER	27144 HWY 40 BUSH, LA 70431	11.1.14
9	Heather Wright	314 LISBON ONE COVINGTON LA 70433	
10	David F. Easley David F. Easley	310 E. 35th Ave Covington LA 70433	11/4/14
11	RICHARD ROBERTSON	73223 ABITA SPRINGS DR ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	11/4/14
12	Esther O'Hare	82121 Hwy 1082 Bush, La	11/5/14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

TO: Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
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 P.O. Box 94275  
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Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
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 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
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RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Sandra Doney</i> Sandra Doney	3807 Brookwood Dr., Slidell, LA 70458	10/29/14
2	<i>Barbara Jackson</i> Barbara Jackson	22052 8th Street Abita Springs LA 70420	10-31-14
3	<i>J. Lewis Steven</i> TERRI LEWIS STEVEN	725 DOVE PK RD COVINGTON, LA 70433	10-31-14
4	<i>Cynthia A. Brookings</i> Cynthia A. Brookings	23015 Hwy 1084 Covington LA 70435	10/31/ 14
5	<i>Thomas R Cash</i> Thomas R Cash	131 Hickory St Covington LA 70433	10/31/ 2014
6	<i>Laura Metevia</i> Laura Metevia	19684 Jerald Rd Covington, LA 70435	10-31-14
7	<i>V. Elizabeth</i> V. Elizabeth	19684 Jerald Rd Covington, LA 70435	10/31/14
8	<i>Keith Reynolds</i> Keith Reynolds	27 Ellen Dr Covington LA 70433	10/31/14
9	<i>Belinda FitzSimons</i> Belinda FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10/31/14
10	<i>Sherman FitzSimons</i> Sherman FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10-31-14
11	<i>Xavier C.D. FitzSimons</i> Xavier C.D. FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10/31/14
12	<i>Martha D. Cooper</i> Martha D. Cooper	27144 Hwy 40 Bushy, LA 70431	10-31-14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

TO: Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
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We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	MAURICE J. DUPRE <i>Maurice Dupre</i>	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS, LA 70420	28 OCT 2014
2	Louis C. Henschel LOUIS C. HENSCHEN	22168 6TH ST ABITA SPRINGS, LA 70420	OCT 28 2014
3	Catherine O'Haire Catherine O'HAIRE	82181 OLD MILITARY BUSH LA	10/28/14
4	Susan Tyler <i>Susan Tyler</i>	786 Brewster Rd. Madisonville, LA 70447	10/28/14
5	Charles Sapp <i>Charles Sapp</i>	786 Brewster Rd, Madisonville	10/28/14
6	Cynthia Rester Cynthia Rester	64328 Fish Hatchery Rd Lacombe La, 70445	10/28/14
7	Dyane Mitchell Dyane Mitchell	1427 clover st Mandeville, La 70448	10/28/14
8	Cassata Krebs <i>Cassata Krebs</i>	50 Pine St. Corinth LA 70433	10/28/14
9	Martha Badon William Badon	59591 Badm Rd Stidell La 5959 BADON Rd 1170460	10/28/14
10	Margie Dicknair-Pray Margie Dicknair-Pray	27400 JOHN LANE LACOMBE, LA 70445	10/28/14
11	Barbara Jackson Barbara Jackson	22052 8th St. Abita Springs LA 70420	10-28-14
12	Drane Casteel Drane Casteel	1111 Carroll St. Mandeville LA 70448	10/29/14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Gary Ross [Gary.Ross@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 10:55 AM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Fw: Emailing: 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Helis' Application for Permits. Jan Jumonville  
**Attachments:** 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

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**From:** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 09:21 AM Central Standard Time  
**To:** Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Helis' Application for Permits. Jan Jumonville

In Jim's absence I am sending you PIO email for your records/handling.

---

**From:** Jan Jumonville [mailto:jjjumonville@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 12:05 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells; Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV  
**Subject:** Emailing: 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Helis' Application for Permits. Jan Jumonville

*Jan P. Jumonville*

*24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, Louisiana 70435  
Email: [jjjumonville@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjjumonville@bellsouth.net)  
Office/Fax (985) 892-8191*

**PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS EMAIL AND WERE ABLE TO OPEN THE ATTACHED FILE.**

October 25, 2014

Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Email: [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welch and Mr. Wells,

Attached is my letter addressed to you which I would appreciate your reviewing and your consideration regarding the above applications for permits by Helis Oil.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville

CC: Mr. Patrick Courreges, [Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV)

---

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email communication may contain confidential information which also may be legally privileged and is intended only for the use of the intended recipients identified above. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized review, use, dissemination, distribution, downloading, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

*Jan P. Jumonville*

24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, LA 70435

Telephone (985) 892-8191  
Email: [jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)

October 25, 2014

**Email:** [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Hellis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In [Science Daily](#) the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells."

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 2 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 3 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).
2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2).

**Email: dnrinfo.la.gov**  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 4 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

3. Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(I).
4. Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).
5. Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11 (G).
6. Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).
7. Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11G).
8. Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).
9. Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.1 I(O).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 5 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

10. Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated its lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poiteviant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj

cc: Mr. Patrick Courreges, [Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV)

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering Docket # 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 09:55  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket # 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

**From:** Mark Sagerholm [mailto:marksagerholm@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 10:58 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket # 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

attn: La DNR Office of Conservation  
Re: Engineering Docket 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

Dear La DNR - I am a six-year resident of Mandeville, living at 2615 N Causeway Blvd, C-59, Mandeville. I am IN FAVOR of approval of the Helis drilling permit.

Unlike the Lava Lamp Luddites that think the world will end with nearby fracking, I did my research and am well aware that hydraulic fracturing activity leaves a very small footprint and has no negative impact on the environment.

The Helis project will bring needed high-paying industrial jobs into our area and benefit our economy. It also helps reduce our need to import hydrocarbon fuels from overseas countries run by anti-American dictators.

Please approve Helis's drilling permit immediately.

Sincerely,  
Mark Sagerholm  
Mandeville, LA

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strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 9:38 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering Docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** bcharlesgoodwin.vcf

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 09:16  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626

FYI

---

**From:** Charles Goodwin [mailto:bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 6:10 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626

This particular permit request is unusually problematic. It's not "typical."

There is growing evidence of obvious safety and environmental concerns, plus Home Rule issues, zoning issues, violations of our State Constitution and Parish Charter mandates to protect and enhance the citizens quality of life, etc.

There is the potential for 6,000 wells in St Tammany Parish. These wells will forever turn a pristine 'bedroom community' into an industrial hodge-podge and devastation of the Parish as we know it.

One industry should not impose itself with destruction of an entire community.

The concrete footprint alone of 6,000 wells, that approximate 6,000 medium-size shopping centers, will create horrendous drainage and flood problems. The public should not have to deal with that, nor pay the tab to fix it (if it can even be fixed), but we all know the oil industry does not fix what it breaks - witness BP Horizon - witness our coastal protection decimated.

I anticipate that your view is that your job is to simply say 'yea or nay' to permits based on engineering criteria. I understand that. But, to make an exaggerated hypothetical, if you knew there was more likelihood than not that issuing such a permit would bring the world to an end, wouldn't you find a way to at least postpone this permit until human and environmental safety concerns are put to rest?

Yes, again, I know that's an exaggeration. But it's also a fair point - that the bigger issues should also be considered.

An exploratory well is just a first step. No exploratory well would even be sought if there was no intention to continue. If the first one starts, "build it and they will come."

And come they will.

6,000 of them.

Thank you for reading this.

B.C. Goodwin  
2075 Lakeshore Drive  
Mandeville, La 70448

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begin:vcard  
fn:Charles Goodwin  
tel;cell:985-635-1900  
note;quoted-printable:=0D=0A=  
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QUOTES & THOUGHTS=0D=0A=  
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"You are entitled to your own opinions, but not your own  
facts."=0D=0A=  
Dr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, US Senator=0D=0A=  
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American students rank 24th in science, 31st in math, 21st in  
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still rank number 1 in self esteem.=0D=0A=  
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I'll believe that corporations are people as soon as Texas executes  
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Reagan had it right, meaning to tax all sources of income the same,  
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As a retired business owner, I've hired many people, but never  
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If the goal is minimal taxes, minimal government, minimal  
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imal collective responsibility and maximum personal responsibility,  
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that what third world countries already have?=0D=0A=  
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People will not always remember exactly what you say or do, but  
they will=  
always remember how you made them feel.=0D=0A=  
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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

=0D=0A=

x-mozilla-html:TRUE  
version:2.1  
end:vcard

**From:** Gary Ross [Gary.Ross@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 10:53 AM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering Docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** bcharlesgoodwin.vcf

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**From:** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 09:16 AM Central Standard Time  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626

FYI

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**From:** Charles Goodwin [mailto:bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 6:10 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626

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6,000 of them.

Thank you for reading this.

B.C. Goodwin  
2075 Lakeshore Drive  
Mandeville, La 70448

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Dr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, US Senator=0D=0A=  
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American students rank 24th in science, 31st in math, 21st in  
reading,but=  
still rank number 1 in self esteem.=0D=0A=  
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I'll believe that corporations are people as soon as Texas executes  
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Reagan had it right, meaning to tax all sources of income the same,  
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As a retired business owner, I've hired many people, but never  
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job. Businesses hire to service customers, not because of what a  
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s or is not. Only customers create jobs.=0D=0A=  
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It used to be that the rich worried about their wealth being  
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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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x-mozilla-html:TRUE  
version:2.1  
end:vcard

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 10:24 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** 07b341\_5c03f3084b50430685b32b5f8d93a3ea.pdf

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

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**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 09:50  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering docket 14-626

FYI

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**From:** Victoria Benitez [mailto:vbenitez@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 9:50 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering docket 14-626

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/07b341\\_5c03f3084b50430685b32b5f8d93a3ea.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/07b341_5c03f3084b50430685b32b5f8d93a3ea.pdf)

I agree with the following statement.  
No fracking in St. Tammany Parish!!!!

Sent from my iPad

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*Jan P. Jumonville*

24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, LA 70435

Telephone (985) 892-8191  
Email: [jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)

October 25, 2014

**Email:** [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Hellis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In [Science Daily](#) the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells."

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 2 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 3 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).
2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2).

**Email: dnrinfo.la.gov**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 4 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

3. Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(I).
4. Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).
5. Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11 (G).
6. Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).
7. Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11G).
8. Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).
9. Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.1 I(O).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 5 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

10. Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated its lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poiteviant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj  
cc: Mr. Patrick Courreges, [Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV)

**From:** Jeff Wells [Jeff.Wells@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 8:43 AM

**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges; Todd Keating

**Subject:** FW: ENGINEERING DOCKET 14-626: RECENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR REVIEW

**Attachments:** helis EPA violation 2013.pdf; Newsroom \_ DEP PA dept of environmental health concludes the migration of frack fluids into water supply.pdf; Helis 2012 violation AQ SA 4971-12.pdf

FYI...

Jeff Wells

Office of Conservation

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**From:** Joan Simon [mailto:joan154.simon@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 8:40 AM

**To:** Jeff Wells; jim.welch@la.gov

**Subject:** ENGINEERING DOCKET 14-626: RECENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR REVIEW

Dear Mr. Wells and Mr. Welch,

Please see links and pdfs regarding fracking pollution and casing failures that I hope you will consider in your decision regarding the issuance of a permit to Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish. I read them with a great deal of concern and thank you for reviewing them.

Sincerely,

Joan Simon

154 Belle Terre Boulevard

Covington, LA 70433

[http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/IG\\_response\\_10-20-2014.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/IG_response_10-20-2014.pdf)

EPA Inspector General Reopens the investigation into Fracking pollution

Casing failure example: (Very Graphic) <http://this-small-planet.com/2013/major-failure-a-graphic-example-of-the-risks-of-modern-well-completion-technologies/>

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FILED  
2013 JUL 10 PM 2:53  
REGIONAL CLERK  
EPA REGION VI

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6

IN THE MATTER OF

**Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
Willow Cove Facility  
St. Martin Parish, LA**

Respondent

**CWA SECTION 311 CLASS I  
CONSENT AGREEMENT  
AND FINAL ORDER**

**UNDER 40 CFR § 22.13(b)**

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

**LEGAL AUTHORITY**

1. This Consent Agreement is proposed and entered into under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Section 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Clean Water Act ("Act"), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(B)(i), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and under the authority provided by 40 CFR §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2). The Administrator has delegated these authorities to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 6, who has in turn delegated them to the Director of the Superfund Division of EPA, Region 6, who has, by his concurrence, re-delegated the authority to act as Complainant to the Associate Director Prevention and Response Branch in Region 6, Delegation No. R6-2-51, dated February 13, 2008 ("Complainant").

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

**Stipulations**

The parties, in their own capacity or by their attorneys or other authorized representatives, hereby stipulate:

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

2. Section 311(j)(1)(C) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(j)(1)(C), provides that the President shall issue regulations "establishing procedures, methods, and equipment and other requirements for equipment to prevent discharges of oil from onshore or offshore vessels and from onshore or offshore facilities, and to contain such discharges."

3. Initially by Executive Order 11548 (July 20, 1970), 35 Fed. Reg. 11677 (July 22, 1970), and most recently by Section 2(b)(1) of Executive Order 12777 (October 18, 1991), 56 Fed. Reg. 54757 (October 22, 1991), the President delegated to EPA his Section 311(j)(1)(C) authority to issue the regulations referenced in the preceding Paragraph for non-transportation-related onshore and offshore facilities.

4. Through Executive Order 12777 (October 18, 1991), 56 Fed. Reg. 54757 (October 22, 1991), the President delegated to DOI, responsibility for spill prevention and control, contingency planning, and equipment inspection activities associated with offshore facilities. Subsequently, pursuant to section 2(i) of E.O. 12777, the Secretary of the Interior re-delegated, and the Administrator of EPA agreed to assume (MOU published as Appendix B to 40 CFR Part 112), responsibility for non-transportation-related offshore facilities located landward of the coast line.

5. EPA promulgated the Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations pursuant to delegated statutory authorities, and pursuant to its authorities under the Clean Water Act, 33 USC § 1251 *et seq.*, which established certain procedures, methods and other requirements upon each owner and operator of a non-transportation-related onshore or off-shore facility, if such facility, due to its location, could reasonably be expected to discharge oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States and their adjoining shorelines in such quantity as

EPA has determined in 40 CFR § 110.3 may be harmful to the public health or welfare or the environment of the United States ("harmful quantity").

6. In promulgating 40 CFR § 110.3, which implements Section 311(b)(4) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(4), EPA has determined that discharges of harmful quantities include oil discharges that cause either (1) a violation of applicable water quality standards or (2) a film, sheen upon, or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines, or (3) a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

7. Respondent is a firm conducting business in the State of Louisiana, with a place of business located at 228 St. Charles Ave. Suite 912 and is a person within the meaning of Sections 311(a)(7) and 502(5) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1321(a)(7) and 1362(5), and 40 CFR § 112.2.

8. Respondent is the owner within the meaning of Section 311(a)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(a)(6), and 40 CFR § 112.2 of an oil production facility, Willow Cove, located in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana ("the facility"). The approximate coordinates of the facility are 29.8830° N and -91.3011° W. Drainage from the facility travels to an unnamed canal; thence, the Atchafalaya River; thence the Gulf of Mexico.

9. The facility has an aggregate above-ground storage capacity greater than 1320 gallons of oil in containers each with a shell capacity of at least 55 gallons. Facility capacity is approximately 823,643 gallons.

10. The Atchafalaya River and the Gulf of Mexico are navigable waters of the United States within the meaning of 40 CFR § 112.2.

11. Respondent is engaged in drilling, producing, gathering, storing, processing, refining,

transferring, distributing, using or consuming oil or oil products located at the facility.

12. The facility is a non-transportation-related facility within the meaning of 40 CFR § 112.2 Appendix A, as incorporated by reference within 40 CFR § 112.2.

13. The facility is an offshore facility within the meaning of Section 311(a)(10) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(a)(11), 40 CFR § 112.2, and 40 CFR § 112 Appendix B.

14. The facility is therefore a non-transportation-related offshore facility which, due to its location, could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to a navigable water of the United States or its adjoining shorelines in a harmful quantity ("an SPCC-regulated facility").

15. Pursuant to Section 311(j)(1)(C) of the Act, E.O. 12777, and 40 CFR § 112.1 Respondent, as the owner of an SPCC-regulated facility, is subject to the SPCC regulations.

16. The facility began operating on or prior to November 10, 2011.

#### Allegations

17. 40 CFR § 112.3 requires that the owner or operator of an SPCC-regulated facility must prepare a SPCC plan in writing, and implement that plan in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7 and any other applicable section of 40 CFR Part 112.

18. On February 27, 2013 EPA inspected the facility and found that Respondent had failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility. Respondent failed to fully implement such an SPCC plan for the facility as follows:

- a. Facility failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).

- b. Facility failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2).
- c. Facility failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(i).
- d. Facility failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(d)
- e. Facility failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(g).
- f. Facility failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(i).
- g. Facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(j).
- h. Facility failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during workover operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(k).
- i. Facility failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

with 40 CFR § 112.11(o).

- j. Facility failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(p).

19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill.

**Waiver of Rights**

20. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the other specific violations alleged above. Respondent waives the right to a hearing under Section 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(B)(i), and to appeal any Final Order in this matter under Section 311(b)(6)(G)(i) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(G)(i), and consents to the issuance of a Final Order without further adjudication.

**Penalty**

21. The Complainant proposes, and Respondent consents to, the assessment of a civil penalty of **\$12,100.00**.

**Payment Terms**

Based on the forgoing, the parties, in their own capacity or by their attorneys or authorized representatives, hereby agree that:

21. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order, the Respondent shall pay the amount of **\$12,100.00** by means of a cashier's or certified check, or by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Respondent shall submit this Consent Agreement and Final Order, with original signature, along with documentation of the penalty payment to:

OPA Enforcement Coordinator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6 (6SF-PC)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

- If you are paying by check, pay the check to "Environmental Protection Agency," noting on the check "OSTLF-311" and docket number CWA-06-2013-4815. If you use the U.S. Postal Service, address the payment to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fines & Penalties  
P.O. Box 979077, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

- If you use a private delivery service, address the payment to:

U.S. Bank  
1005 Convention Plaza, Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

- The Respondent shall submit copies of the check (or, in the case of an EFT transfer, copies of the EFT confirmation) to the following person:

Lorena Vaughn  
Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

22. Failure by the Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by the Final Order in full by its due date may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty, plus interest, attorney's fees, costs and an additional quarterly nonpayment penalty pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(H) of the Act, 33 USC §1321(b)(6)(H). In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty agreed to herein shall not be subject to review.

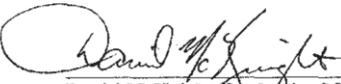
Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

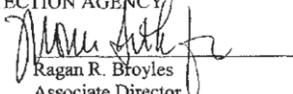
**General Provisions**

23. The Final Order shall be binding upon Respondent and Respondent's officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and successors or assigns.

24. The Final Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension or modification of the requirements of Section 311 of the Act, 33 USC §1321, or any regulations promulgated thereunder, and does not affect the right of the Administrator or the United States to pursue any applicable injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violation of law. Payment of the penalty pursuant to this Consent Agreement resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts stipulated to and alleged herein.

**Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC**

Date: 6/26/13   
Daniel McKnight, Production Manager

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Date: 7/10/2013   
Ragan R. Broyles  
Associate Director  
Prevention & Response Branch  
Superfund Division

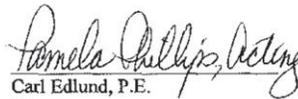
Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC §1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order.

The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement.

Date: 2/10/13

  
Carl Edlund, P.E.  
Director  
Superfund Division

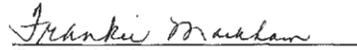
Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original and one copy of the foregoing "Consent Agreement and Final Order," issued pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 22.13(b), was filed on 7-10, 2013, with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2733; and that on the same date a copy of the same was sent to the following, in the manner specified below:

NAME: Daniel McKnight  
ADDRESS: 228 St Charle Ave, Suite 912  
New Orleans, LA 70130

  
Frankie Markham  
OPA Enforcement Administrative Assistant

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Dept. of Environmental Protection**  
Commonwealth News Bureau  
Room 308, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg PA., 17120

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
04/15/2010

**CONTACT:**  
Tom Rathbun, Department of Environmental Protection  
717-787-1323

**DEP Takes Aggressive Action Against Cabot Oil & Gas Corp to Enforce Environmental Laws Protect Public in Susquehanna County**  
Suspends Review of Cabot's New Drilling Permit Applications Orders Company to Plug Wells Install Residential Water Systems Pay \$240,000 in Fines

HARRISBURG -- The Department of Environmental Protection today issued a sweeping order requiring Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. to take extensive actions and help the residents of Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, who have been affected by the company's drilling activities.

Under the consent order and agreement, Cabot must plug three wells within 40 days that are believed to be the source of migrating gas that has contaminated groundwater and the drinking water supplies of 14 homes in the region. It must also install permanent treatment systems in those homes within 30 days.

Additionally, DEP Secretary John Hanger said his agency is immediately suspending its review of Cabot's pending permit applications for new drilling activities statewide until it fulfills its obligations under the order issued today. Cabot also is barred from drilling any new wells for at least one year in the Dimock Township area.

Today's action follows Cabot's failure to abide by the terms of a November 2009 consent order and agreement with DEP.

"Cabot had every opportunity to correct these violations, but failed to do so. Instead, it chose to ignore its responsibility to safeguard the citizens of this community and to protect the natural resources there," said Hanger. "I have ordered that all of Cabot's permit applications for further drilling in any region of the state be put on-hold, indefinitely, until the region's homeowners receive their new water treatment systems, the fines are paid, and the wells are plugged.

"Gas migration is a serious issue that can have dire consequences to affected communities and we will not allow Pennsylvania's citizens to be put in harms way by companies that chose not to follow the law."

During recent inspections, DEP identified five additional defective Cabot gas wells and another home water supply that has been affected by gas migration, bringing to 14 the number of impacted water supplies in the Dimock area.

Hanger said DEP also will continue to investigate another 10 Cabot gas wells in the Dimock area over the next 85 days that could be sources of migrating gas and determine whether Cabot should be ordered to plug some or all of those wells.

The original November 2009 consent order and agreement directed Cabot to meet a March 31 deadline to fix defective cement and well casings on certain wells and to prevent the unpermitted natural gas discharge into groundwater that violated the state's Clean Streams Law and the Oil and Gas Act. The company did not meet this deadline, while the migrating gas continues to impact water supplies at homes in a nine-square-mile area near Carter Road.

As part of today's order, Cabot has also paid a \$240,000 fine to the commonwealth, which has been deposited into the state's well-plugging account. It also must pay \$30,000 per month beginning in May until DEP has determined that the company has met its obligations under the 2009 order.

"Companies drilling in the Marcellus Shale have the legal responsibility to design and construct their wells to keep all gas contained within the wells and to prevent gas from moving into fresh groundwater. These standards are not mere suggestions or recommendations," Hanger said. "Oil and gas companies doing business in Pennsylvania will follow the environmental rules and regulations put in place to protect citizens and our natural resources or face aggressive action by this department."

Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. is headquartered in Houston, Texas with a mailing address in Pittsburgh.

For more information on oil and gas wells, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Oil and gas.

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### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division (DEQ/AQD), Herschler Building, 122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002, and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC (Helis), 100 N. 27th Street, Suite 255, Billings, MT 59101, enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) to fully and finally resolve without litigation the alleged violations cited in DEQ Notice of Violation Docket No. 4971-12 (NOV) and an additional alleged violation discussed during settlement negotiations. As more fully set forth below, the NOV alleged that Helis installed and operated a 190-hp Waukesha F817G pumping unit engine without controls or a permit and failed to obtain DEQ/AQD construction permit prior to constructing the Hornbuckle 1-11H production facility (Facility) located in Converse County, Wyoming, thereby violating the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act (Act) and applicable Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR).

Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-901(a)(ii) (West 2011) authorizes stipulated settlement, including payment of a penalty, implementation of compliance schedules or other settlement conditions in lieu of litigation. To that end, Helis and the DEQ/AQD hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Helis is a Louisiana Limited Liability Company that owns and/or operates the Facility.
2. The DEQ/AQD is responsible for enforcing the Act and the WAQSR.
3. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-801(c) provides: “A permit to construct is required before construction or modification of any industrial facility capable of causing or increasing air or water pollution in excess of standards established by the department is commenced.”
4. Chapter 6, Section 2 of the WAQSR prescribes the applicability and procedures for issuing permits to sources under Wyoming’s construction and modification permitting program.
5. Chapter 6, Section 2(a)(i) of the WAQSR provides: “Any person who plans to construct any new facility or source, modify any existing facility or source, or to engage in the use of which may cause the issuance of or an increase in the issuance of air contaminants into the air of this state shall obtain a construction permit from the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality before any actual work is begun on the facility.”
6. The DEQ/AQD issued WAQSR Ch. 6 § 2 permitting guidance for Oil and Gas Production Facilities (“Guidance”) in June 1997, with subsequent revisions in

Settlement Agreement between DEQ/AQD and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
DEQ NOV #4971-12  
June 2012 - 1 of 4

November 1998, January 2000, August 2001, July 2004, August 2007, and March 2010. The Guidance indicates what DEQ/AQD accepts as meeting the intent of Wyoming's regulatory requirement to obtain a construction permit prior to the construction or operation of new air emission sources. The Guidance requires new facilities: "Within 60-days of the First Date of Production (FDOP), flashing emissions containing greater than or equal to 10 TPY VOC shall be controlled by at least 98%."

7. Helis completed construction of the Facility on May 17, 2011 and installed controls on January 3, 2012. Subsequently, DEQ/AQD received a permit application from Helis for the Facility.

8. On March 12, 2012, the DEQ/AQD issued the NOV to Helis alleging that Helis installed and operated a 190-hp Waukesha F817G pumping unit engine without controls or a permit and failed to obtain DEQ/AQD construction permit prior to constructing the Facility violated the Act and the WAQSR.

9. During settlement negotiations, Helis informed the DEQ/AQD that it had installed a 190-hp Waukesha F817GU pumping unit engine and had constructed and operated the Henry Federal 41-15H production facility (Additional Facility) prior to installing controls or obtaining an air quality permit. Helis informed the DEQ/AQD that it had completed construction of the Additional Facility on June 10, 2011 and installed controls on January 10, 2012. The DEQ/AQD alleges that Helis' failure to obtain a DEQ/AQD construction permit prior to constructing and/or operating the 190-hp Waukesha F817GU pumping unit engine and the Additional Facility violated the Act and the WAQSR (Additional Allegation).

10. Without admitting liability, and in lieu of litigation pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-901(a)(ii), Helis agrees to pay to the DEQ/AQD the amount of thirty seven thousand nine hundred fifty eight dollars and no cents (\$37,958.00) as a stipulated penalty amount to resolve the violations alleged in the NOV and the Additional Allegation alleged above. Helis shall make full payment by check made payable to the Wyoming DEQ/AQD, within thirty (30) days after Helis has been notified by DEQ/AQD that the final signature has been affixed to this Agreement. Helis shall mail the payment to Nancy Vehr, Sr. Asst. Attorney General, 123 Capitol Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

11. Helis, by entering into this Agreement, does not concede or admit to any liability or fault, and this Agreement constitutes no admission of liability, fault or noncompliance with any allegations, findings, determinations or conclusions contained in this Agreement or in the NOV.

12. Full compliance with this signed Agreement shall constitute full satisfaction for all claims by the DEQ/AQD against Helis based on the NOV and the Additional Allegation and, solely in reliance on this Agreement, the DEQ/AQD will refrain from

Settlement Agreement between DEQ/AQD and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
DEQ NOV #4971-12  
June 2012 - 2 of 4

taking further enforcement action against Helis for these particular violations. By this Settlement Agreement, the Parties intend to resolve all allegations that were asserted in the NOV and the Additional Allegation.

13. In the event that Helis fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement, Helis waives any statute of limitation claims that may apply in an enforcement action by the DEQ/AQD involving the specific matters described in the NOV.

14. This Agreement shall be admissible by either Helis or the DEQ/AQD (hereinafter Helis and the DEQ/AQD may be referred to individually as "Party" and collectively as "Parties") without objection by the other Party only in an action between these Parties relating to the violations alleged herein.

15. Neither Party hereto shall have any claim against the other for attorneys' fees or other costs incurred with the allegations resolved hereby, including costs incurred in the preparation of this Agreement. Each Party shall bear its own attorney fees and costs, if any, incurred through the date this Agreement is signed by both Parties. Each Party assumes the risk of any liability arising from its own conduct. Neither Party agrees to insure, defend or indemnify the other.

16. Any changes, modifications, revisions or amendments to this Agreement that are mutually agreed upon by the Parties shall be incorporated by written instrument, executed and signed by all Parties to this Agreement.

17. The construction, interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wyoming. The Courts of the State of Wyoming shall have jurisdiction over this Agreement and the Parties, and the venue shall be the First Judicial District, Laramie County, Wyoming.

18. This Agreement, consisting of four (4) pages represents the entire and integrated agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and agreements, whether written or oral.

19. The State of Wyoming and the DEQ/AQD do not waive sovereign immunity by entering into this Agreement and specifically retain immunity and all defenses available to them as sovereigns pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-39-104(a) and all other state law.

20. The Parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of third party beneficiary, and this Agreement shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties and obligations contained in this Agreement shall operate only between the Parties to this Agreement and shall inure solely to the benefit of the Parties to this Agreement. The Parties to this Agreement intend and expressly agree that

Settlement Agreement between DEQ/AQD and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
DEQ NOV #4971-12  
June 2012 - 3 of 4

only Parties signatory to this Agreement shall have any legal or equitable right to seek to enforce this Agreement, to seek any remedy arising out of a Party's performance or failure to perform any term or condition of this Agreement, or to bring an action for the breach of this Agreement.

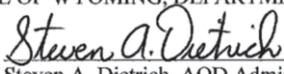
21. Each Party represents that they are authorized to enter into this Agreement and agree to be bound hereby. This Agreement shall become binding upon the Parties once executed by all Parties.

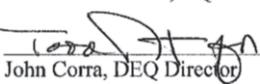
IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties, by their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement on the days and dates set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this Agreement:

HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, LLC, by HELIS ENERGY, LLC, its Manager:

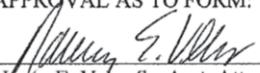
By:  July 5, 2012  
Name: Michael F. Schott Date  
Title: Vice President

STATE OF WYOMING, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

By:  7-13-12  
Steven A. Dietrich, AQD Administrator Date

By:  7-13-12  
John Corra, DEQ Director Date

APPROVAL AS TO FORM:

 6/19/2012  
Nancy E. Vehr, Sr. Asst. Attorney General Date  
Attorney for DEQ/AQD

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:23 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg On Behalf Of LDNR Public Information  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:24 PM  
To: Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
Subject: FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Zapata [<mailto:amy.zapata@charter.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:55 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Please do not approve the fracking proposal in our north shore community.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:21 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:27 PM  
To: Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
Subject: FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

-----Original Message-----

From: kim coblentz [<mailto:kpc39466@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:39 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

RE: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

I live just across the state line in Mississippi now, but am native to St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. My family still resides in St. Tammany and I am against fracking in this parish. Please No Fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

Kim Coblentz  
146 Dick Kennedy Road  
Picayune, MS. 39466

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** DNR letter from Barras.wps

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**From:** cajdance@aol.com [mailto:cajdance@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 10:56 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

We have attached our letter regarding our plea to deny Helis' permission to explore for oil in St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Paulette Barras  
3235 Rama Street  
Slidell, LA  
70458

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:10 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:59 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

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**From:** Scott Tammy [<mailto:tscott@san.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:35 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Just say "NO" to the Fracking Permit.

The US does not need any further permits to for Fracking. This is Not about energy this is about the almighty "\$".

Renewable energy is here in many different forms and it is here to stay. We do not need Hydraulic Fracturing. It has been shown to be detrimental to the environment.

1. Pollutes the air
2. Pollutes the water with toxic elements
3. Wastes fresh drinking water. The water they use to Frack is fresh and most people are aware several states are in severe draught. Don't make yours one of them on purpose.
4. Causes Seismic activity.

This is just the beginning of what fracking can and will do to your home.

Did you know that over 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel was used to frack for oil without mandatory federal permits.

Or How about in California 3 billion gallons of fracking sludge was illegally dumped into California's drinking water, and farm irrigation aquifers. This sludge contained toxins include high levels of lethal arsenic (carcinogenic and immunodisruptive), thallium (an ingredient in rat poison) and nitrates (highly toxic to cattle and other ruminants).

This dumping of toxic sludge from fracking went uncovered by large media. Why is that? One of the largest water using states in the US has been poisoned and it was not covered.

What will happen when the fracking begins in your area. Your Aquifers, ground water, environment. If it was covered up in California what do you think will happen in your area. You don't want to live in one of those city/towns that had to pick up and move/disappear because your homeland has become to poison to live in.

More import than the dollars these companies will make is our world. Our environment. Everything we do has a cause and effect. When our world suffers so does every tree, animal and person.

If not for yourself think of the future.

For those of you who live near and in St. Tammany Parish stand up and say "NO" permits. "NO to Fracking" save your beautiful spot in our world. To all others keep watch and if it comes to your part of the world "JUST SAY NO"

For St. Tammany this is the email and docket number I found to email. If an email or letter can help lets help.

[dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**For those who make the decisions on these permits this is NOT the right things to do. Say no and veto the permit and approvals.**

Thank you for your time and Consideration

Tammara Scott

"Individually we are unique, as a team we are unstoppable"

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:11 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** Comments to DNR.docx

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**From:** philcynth@aol.com [mailto:philcynth@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 3:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** re: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

November 17, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

To Whom It May Concern:

The following are my comments regarding the permit request referenced above.

As a long-standing member of the St. Tammany Parish community, I have been concerned about this request for fracking and/or any drilling permits in this parish, for a variety of reasons, primarily because we are a community where a single-source aquifer is the basis for our water. When I attended the hearing regarding this, I heard that there is still a chance, no matter how small, that the aquifer could be contaminated. (The anti-fracking witness, Mr. Quarles, said that the aquifer is stratified into various layers of rock and sand, and there were no guarantees as to safety in the drilling at all, as any piece along the pipe and casing could fail.) While many believe that we are desperate for oil and gas, we truly will die as a community without water. Even the phrase "Water is the new oil" was the basis for a news article this week on "60 Minutes".

Another reason for the concern is that the oil company mentioned that 5.8 million gallons of water are used on each individual well (and we still have no idea about how many wells that they might be interested in drilling). There also was a puzzle (no definitive answers given from Helis) as to from where this water would be obtained. A vague answer of "ponds on the land" was given, yet no one seemed to have an answer as to where these were located, how many there "might" be, how much water "might" be in them, or if indeed they might be fed from any of our beautiful waterways - streams, bayous and rivers - or even if any ponds existed at all! This in and of itself was alarming and cause for pausing for further answers and/or investigation by the DNR.

If indeed the DNR protects our natural resources, let us not forget about the soil, forests, wetlands, abundant wildlife and other plants on these 20,000 acres that would be polluted and contaminated for generations to come. As the St. Tammany League of Women Voters expressed, St. Tammany is NOT "an industrialized parish", and this community does not want to become one either. (see Google Earth tour of well pads clustered in other areas for what this would look like to this Parish if allowed to go forward ....<https://www.youtube.com/watch?noredirect=1&v=7jN6TSSPZwU&app=desktop>)

Furthermore, while no mention was made regarding earthquakes, how ironic that, the day after the DNR hearing, there was a magnitude 4.8 earthquake in the region of 3 states where hydraulic fracturing is most active! (see [USA Today - http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/12/kansas-oklahoma-earthquake/18939417/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/12/kansas-oklahoma-earthquake/18939417/)).

With an acknowledged 50-50 chance for success in this operation; with no answers regarding from where water would come to drill the well; with any chance, no matter how remote, that our precious aquifer could be contaminated; and with a community clearly against these operations, there is no way that the State could authorize any such permits for fracking and/or drilling in this area.

Please consider the needs and values of this community and that water IS the most precious resource we have here, in so many ways. And please come take a ride on the Bayou with us, to see first-hand the true beauty, values and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Schmidt  
59275 Pine Bay Lane  
Lacombe, LA 70445

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November 17, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

To Whom It May Concern:

The following are my comments regarding the permit request referenced above.

As a long-standing member of the St. Tammany Parish community, I have been concerned about this request for fracking and/or any drilling permits in this parish, for a variety of reasons, primarily because we are a community where a single-source aquifer is the basis for our water. When I attended the hearing regarding this, I heard that there is still a chance, no matter how small, that the aquifer could be contaminated. (The anti-fracking witness, Mr. Quarles, said that the aquifer is stratified into various layers of rock and sand, and there were no guarantees as to safety in the drilling at all, as any piece along the pipe and casing could fail.) While many believe that we are desperate for oil and gas, we truly will die as a community without water. Even the phrase "Water is the new oil" was the basis for a news article this week on "60 Minutes".

Another reason for the concern is that the oil company mentioned that 5.8 million gallons of water are used on each individual well (and we still have no idea about how many wells that they might be interested in drilling). There also was a puzzle (no definitive answers given from Helis) as to from where this water would be obtained. A vague answer of "ponds on the land" was given, yet no one seemed to have an answer as to where these were located, how many there "might" be, how much water "might" be in them, or if indeed they might be fed from any of our beautiful waterways - streams, bayous and rivers - or even if any ponds existed at all! This in and of itself was alarming and cause for pausing for further answers and/or investigation by the DNR.

If indeed the DNR protects our natural resources, let us not forget about the soil, forests, wetlands, abundant wildlife and other plants on these 20,000 acres that would be polluted and contaminated for generations to come. As the St. Tammany League of Women Voters expressed, St. Tammany is NOT "an industrialized parish", and this community does not want to become one either. (see Google Earth tour of well pads clustered in other areas for what

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

this would look like to this Parish if allowed to go forward

....<https://www.youtube.com/watch?noredirect=1&v=7jN6TSSPZwU&app=desktop>)

Furthermore, while no mention was made regarding earthquakes, how ironic that, the day after the DNR hearing, there was a magnitude 4.8 earthquake in the region of 3 states where hydraulic fracturing is most active! (see USA Today - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/12/kansas-oklahoma-earthquake/18939417/>).

With an acknowledged 50-50 chance for success in this operation; with no answers regarding from where water would come to drill the well; with any chance, no matter how remote, that our precious aquifer could be contaminated; and with a community clearly against these operations, there is no way that the State could authorize any such permits for fracking and/or drilling in this area.

Please consider the needs and values of this community and that water IS the most precious resource we have here, in so many ways. And please come take a ride on the Bayou with us, to see first-hand the true beauty, values and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Schmidt  
59275 Pine Bay Lane  
Lacombe, LA 70445

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2014 11:56 AM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Comments submitted

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2014 11:55 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

FYI

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**From:** Richard [<mailto:rdmurphy1@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2014 10:16 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Comments in Support of Issuance  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA**

**As a resident of St Tammany Parish, I strongly urge the Department to approve the subject permit.**

**This permit is requesting authorization for a vertical well bore in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, and as such, does not differ substantially from numerous other wells permitted and drilled in our state. If completed, it is anticipated the well will be hydraulically fractured. This completion method has been used many times with very little, or no, environmental impact. With the application of proper drilling techniques and regulatory oversight, this well will in no way endanger the fresh water aquifers.**

**While there is a degree of risk in any drilling operation, the benefits associated with this drill site far out weigh the risk. The successful completion of this well will have a positive economic impact on the Parish and the State, in the form of additional jobs and personal**

**revenues. Both will increase Parish and State tax revenues to be used for the general welfare.**

**Your review and final approval of the permit will be greatly appreciated.**

**Richard D. Murphy  
125 Marina Blvd  
Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish, LA**

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 8:22 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

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**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 08:21  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

For the record

---

**From:** Dave Easley [mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 09, 2014 2:39 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Mr. Welch and Mr. Wells (Oh, no, that name mightn't bode well for my request today! Maybe your ancestors were named after water wells and not oil wells!)

We don't want Helis's well in St. Tammany Parish! People on both sides of the issue are touting the recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences as being in support of their side.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/110/28/11250.full.pdf+html><http://www.pnas.org/content/110/28/11250.full.pdf+html>

One author even created a fanciful headline stating that the study proved that fracking doesn't contaminate drinking water which would beg the question, who is going to frack without annuluses (annuli?), production casings and underground wells, the man-made elements of fracking found by the study to have failed in instances of contamination? The study clearly traced the contaminated water they studied to fracking projects in the areas affected. Only by an **impossibly strict** definition of fracking, one which includes the fracturing of rock but not any of the actions of men, chemicals and equipment that cause the fracturing, can it be said that fracking did not contaminate the water.

So, basically, a company that has been perfect in the past and has plans in place to remedy failures in the future might be expected to drill without problems in St. Tammany. Helis is neither such company. I guess you are familiar with the following incident in the Gulf of Mexico involving Helis: (conclusions on pages 15 and 16)

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/)

and this list of Helis EPA violations:

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/RHC/EPAAdmin.nsf/Filings/1F2518C745AC347385257BAD001BCADC/\\$File/helis.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/RHC/EPAAdmin.nsf/Filings/1F2518C745AC347385257BAD001BCADC/$File/helis.pdf)

As Mike Stagg points out in the letters he and Jan Jummonville wrote, the oil industry has been drilling for 100 years and hasn't perfected it yet. We are truly dreaming if we expect them to perfect it just in time for them to drill through our single source aquifer. All that risk for what? So a few people can get rich? Why would any sensible person

even consider allowing it? Are people being paid off or pressured by CIA agents into accepting it as a matter of national security even though we're already out-producing the Arabs? Sorry if those two hypothetical reasons sound paranoid. Can you give me a non-paranoid reason why anyone should be allowed to drill for oil through a single-source aquifer, especially a company with as poor a record as Helis?

What plans do they have in place in case of a problem? (This is definitely not a paranoid question. See just a handful out of a multitude of recent examples below.) Escaping to China before they can be sued?

<http://fracking.einnews.com/article/231979951/dOUYe7lF1Im-vOdu?n=2&code=5CMCg4ac48UddAKT>

<http://wvpublic.org/post/dep-september-drilling-accident-contaminated-water-doddridge-county>

[http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well\\_explosion.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well_explosion.html)

not to mention other things that go wrong around oil and gas drilling.

As you know, hydro-carbons are often found together and oil wells will produce methane which is typically flared if no pipeline is in place.

Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale) , the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out," So industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are expecting a high gas content in this play.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/28/Investigators-checking-cause-of-pipeline-fire.html>

**and things that go very wrong with the air quality.**

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141030/5-state-study-finds-unsafe-levels-airborne-chemicals-near-oil-and-gas-sites>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/dangerously-high-levels-of-airborne-carcinogens-found-at-us-fracking-sites-9826586.html>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/fracking-leaving-radioactive-pollution-in-pa-2013-10>

In signing off I respectfully urge you both to please do the sensible thing and reject this application to drill and I want to say that I agree with every point in the following letter by Jummonville and Stagg.

# Dave Easley Covington LA

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Helis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In Science Daily the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells." **Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 2 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 3 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the

millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).

2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f) (2).

**Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014 Page 4 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

3.

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9.

Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field- constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(I).

Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).

Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11 (G).

Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).

Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11G).

Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).

Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.1 I(O).

**Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014 Page 5 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

10.

Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR §

112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated it's lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poitevant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 10:07 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** DNR 11-10-14.doc; Glo Frac Hedleys text.doc; Glo Frac PP.ppt

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 09:54  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

For the record

---

**From:** Sandra Doney [mailto:swdoney@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 10:28 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

DNR,

Please read and give considerable thought to the attached documents.

Thanks so much!

Sandra Doney

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11/10/14

Department of Natural Resources,

“The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.”

Fracking, with its destructive effects, undermines these goals and protections. Some of the myriad negative impacts from fracking are: Immeasurable contamination of water, air, land, and food; poisoned and severely depleted aquifers; health problems with animals and people suffering and dying - family, friends, and loved ones with health problems and no relief and losing work time and or jobs and money due to health problems; degradation of life; devalued property; increased noise, traffic woes including accidents and fatalities, foul smells, crime, drugs, prostitution, and earthquakes; and having the beauty and tranquility of our neighborhood, surroundings, and natural scenic environment devastated. This is a disaster in the making and a contributor to immorality, desperation, hopelessness, suicide, crime, and psychological and social ills. Are we teaching our children that our utmost goal in life should be to make money at any cost? Then, we are no better than the prostitutes and drug dealers and are actually promoting that lifestyle.

I continue to read about health problems such as cancer and birth defects that affect people and animals and about our waterways that are full of wildlife with fish, frogs, birds and various species and vegetation being decimated with the effects of fracking. The oil and gas industry provides no assurance of safety, and their boast of following regulations is virtually meaningless. Any accidents, leaks, spills, or illegal dumping will directly affect the surrounding communities and wildlife and ultimately our sole source aquifer. These failures can not be adequately regulated, monitored, or compensated. Also, transfer of services to independent disposal contractors, allows the oil and gas industry to be relieved of responsibility for the hazardous wastewater that it produces.

In good faith, you can not isolate a single initial permit for well fracturing without considering that there will be potentially thousands of wells drilled with unlimited oversight. Increased toxic effects over time will ensure misery for future generations.

Please consider my personal concerns and opinions in regard to hydraulic fracturing:

I have been appalled and heart broken from the barrage of effects from fracking and the lies, deception, and corruption associated with it. I hope that you will pursue the truth about this destructive and horrific assault on the blessings, beauty, health, and dignity of our nation.

Here is some of the mounting documented proof:

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/investigates/Scientists-say-state-tests-prove-fracking-to-blame-for-Parker-Co-flaming-wells-262056131.html>

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

<http://www.businessinsider.com/fracking-leaving-radioactive-pollution-in-pa-2013-10>

[http://www.desmogblog.com/2014/10/07/central-california-aquifers-contaminated-billions-gallons-fracking-wastewater?fb\\_action\\_ids=10205297864034659&fb\\_action\\_types=og.likes&fb\\_source=other\\_multiline&action\\_object\\_map=%5B633168780126752%5D&action\\_type\\_map=%5B%22og.likes%22%5D&action\\_ref\\_map=%5B%5D](http://www.desmogblog.com/2014/10/07/central-california-aquifers-contaminated-billions-gallons-fracking-wastewater?fb_action_ids=10205297864034659&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=%5B633168780126752%5D&action_type_map=%5B%22og.likes%22%5D&action_ref_map=%5B%5D)

<http://www.landscapeonline.com/research/article/17753>

[http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well\\_explosion.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well_explosion.html)

Please do diligent research, and visit Voices of St. Tammany Against Fracking:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VoicesOfStTammany/>

*1 Timothy 6:10 King James Version (KJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Fracking clearly demonstrates this evil.

In spite of the millions in powerful industry money stacked against them, Mendocino, CA, Athens, OH, San Benito County, CA and Denton, TX - the birthplace of fracking - have banned it for good reasons!

My hope is that people will care, know the truth, and have the integrity and good judgment to stop fracking before it stops us. We need to invest in a good and sustainable future with healthy practices such as organic farming and renewable energy. Above all else:

*2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)*

*<sup>14</sup> If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

The choice is ours!

It is your duty to protect our natural resources! Once contaminated, there is no turning back - no undoing the unavoidable damage to our environment, health, economy, and infrastructure caused by hydraulic fracturing.

Please consider that many people have taken precious time away from their busy lives and pressing responsibilities and have made many sacrifices to become knowledgeable

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

and compose letters and comments to oppose fracking. These concerted efforts are for our protection, survival, and a good future for our children!

Better safe than sorry! Please make every effort to be informed, vigilant, consider our well-being and future, and do your part to protect our communities and environment!

Thank you!

Sandra Doney

3807 Brookwood Drive,  
Slidell, LA 70458

St. Tammany Parish

(985) 649-0342

# Fracking the American Dream



## Meet the Headleys

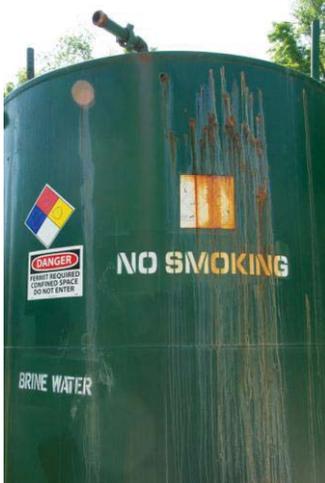
"It's already too late for us." That is what Linda Headley said to me, the last time I saw her. I looked around and saw her beautiful family and once beautiful landscape and realized that she was right. There was little to nothing that could be done to change their situation, other than getting the DEP to do the job it should have but hadn't done. Shining the light of media on the situation should help with that. It is what Linda said after that inspired me to share their struggle, publicly. She said, "But if we can help other people not make the same mistakes that we did, then that is what we want to do. I bet there are a lot of other people out there, like us that are or were afraid to speak out. Now, we just want people to know the truth." Well, that is something that I CAN do and do well: get the truth out. SO, SHARE AND SHARE WIDELY FOR THE HEADLEYS SAKE! Seven years ago the Headleys bought their dream property. They intended to live and work the land, in semi-retirement, to leave a legacy for their sons. Now this is their story. So, where is their Range Resource commercial? Cue corny, folksy music, read and watch.



Our names are David & Linda Headley. We have been residents of Fayette County for 28 years. We have owned our current residence for seven years. Since then, the natural gas industry has stolen our land, polluted our streams, polluted our air, made our family and animals ill, and disrupted our peaceful way of life. Our rural community in Springhill Township before the natural gas boom invaded was quiet, serene, safe, picturesque small town America, situated along the Monongahela and Cheat rivers, nestled in the foothills of the glorious Allegheny Mountains. Life here was quiet. This was a beautiful place to live and raise our family, far from the bustle of the city, rich with country charm and character. That was before the drilling.



We first noticed the gas activity when bulldozers invaded our hayfields to build access roads to well pads. It began only about 6 weeks after we signed on the land, having bought it with the mineral rights, but without the oil and gas rights. Since coal mining was the issue around here and there had been little to no gas activity left in the area, we were made not to worry about the potential for development, and moved ahead with plans to build our dream home. This was before anyone knew the name Marcellus. Yet, in 7 years time the man who owns the rights has put 4 shallow wells, one Marcellus well, and a pipeline across the property. We had no idea they could do this to us or the land. The truck traffic is constant. Land damages were, of course, immediate. Trucks, noise, dust, nomadic workers followed. Then, came the polluting of our air and water, then deforestation and the destruction of fruit trees. They even managed to burn 10 acres of ground with a brush fire set with used motor oil from a bulldozer's oil change! Every hour, once an hour it sounds like a landing jet visits our once quiet farm as wells "self".



Then, come the transmission pipelines—more nomadic workers and thousands of gallons of drilling chemicals in our beautiful, trout-stocked stream! We have even had multiple leaking wells for over a year, ignored by the operators, and now we have a spring 200 ft. from our house which is now so rich with gas it can be set on fire. Sadly, doctor visits have become common place. Our 4 year old son, Adam, has mysterious stomach issues that cripple him with pain; we do not have any answers, yet, but we are worried sick.



And why? All because of an uncaring, dirty industry, driven by greed, selling their souls, leaving our health, environment, and rights behind as waste. When will this nightmare end???



Dozens of neighbors and communities in whole have suffered. One next door neighbor's well was contaminated. They had to get municipal water after the industry denied responsibility. We know of at least 3 families having serious health problems; they have had to seek legal assistance. Increased loads on rural roads have lead to numerous accidents/incidents. Crime in area has increased. Our experience with our local and state officials and the DEP has been mostly not caring, not responding, or denial. Those who do care usually express feelings of helplessness or frustration. Most say the industry lobbying and money is hard to fight back. We have been told by the DEP, "Don't Expect Protection, and there is no truth. Our once peaceful existence has forever changed. It is not sustainable. Please slow the pace." 20 years ago, we can find a better, safer, healthier way to fuel our future and our children's future.

## WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)

Posted on July 18, 2012 <http://the-keags-of-activists.com/> Photo credit: Stephanie Strasberg

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

# Frack Effects



Drilling sites like these concerned Pennsylvania residents, but two employees said there was a silence policy regarding their concerns. (photo: Michael Shabat)  
**Pennsylvania Releases Official File Detailing 250 Water Supplies Directly Polluted by Fracking** By Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 25 September 14

**Study: Fracking fluids could disrupt hormones, raise infertility risk**  
*Practice of hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and gas is spreading, making risk of exposure greater, researchers say*



December 17, 2013 1:17PM ET by [Renée Lewis](#)  
**A Consol Energy Horizontal Gas Drilling Rig explores the Marcellus Shale outside the town of Waynesburg, Pa.** April 13, 2012, Michael Antonov/AFP/Getty Images

How fracking lowers the value of property and real estate



According to a study performed in 2001 in Colorado, properties located near fracking areas were prone to loss of value. They were around 18% cheaper than those found further away from oil wells. In fact, the greater the distance between real estate and an oil well, the higher the price. It shows that folks don't want or need to live in an area full of noise and pollution.

The Colorado School of Public Health claimed that property value decreased during the stages of construction because of natural gas extraction. Other influencing factors are dust, smoke, and traffic. Buyers and sellers are not currently active in areas which are at risk of water and air contamination.

The value of housing in Pennsylvania plummeted 80% in 2011. The only group that benefited from the plunge was Chesapeake Energy, a local drilling company. They were able to acquire more land for fracking purposes.

It's harder to get a mortgage

Signing gas leases on property has become even harder thanks to regulations imposed by lenders. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac require that borrowers have permission before they can put their signature onto a lease form.

Some banks have also become wary of giving out mortgages. Oil companies must agree to pay for damage they cause that lowers the value of the land. They must not cause any harmful environmental damage. Other banks ask people to not sign gas leases at all.

They are concerned that drillers may run their machinery illegally, not knowing it could damage the future potential for selling.

Home equity loans are also affected. One customer of a realtor said, "My loan was turned down because I had a contract to lease it with a gas company. I wasn't capable of finding a mortgage broker who could help me out. I think that a similar scenario to the Flood Zone case is taking place at the moment."

Getting insurance

One way that owners can reduce the risk of damage is by taking out home insurance. Unfortunately, many insurance providers will not offer contracts on risky real estate.

Ben, a citizen of Colorado, said that methane exploded in his house. He was not harmed in the accident, but there was much material damage. His home, originally worth over a quarter million dollars, was devalued to only \$60,000.

Realtors in Huerfano County refused to sell or list the property for him. The average person would not want to have a house located near a dangerous spot. After living there for too long, they could develop breathing problems or burns.

<http://www.statecoloradoadmission.com/real-estate-property-values.html>



Steve Lipsky demonstrates the presence of methane gas in his water supply. Lipsky and his family built their dream home in Weatherford, Texas, only to have an energy company place a well approximately 2000 feet away.

Lee Stone for AJACCERA America

**Pa. Official Admits Errors In Investigation Of Whether Fracking Waste Spoiled Drinking Water**  
BY EMILY ATKIN, POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AT 12:50 PM



*In this July 27, 2011 file photo, the sun shines over a Range Resources well site in Washington, Pa.*

CREDIT: AP PHOTO/KEITH SRAKOCIC

**New study links fracking to birth defects in heavily drilled CO**  
*Risks of some birth defects increased as much as 30 percent in mothers who lived near oil and gas wells*

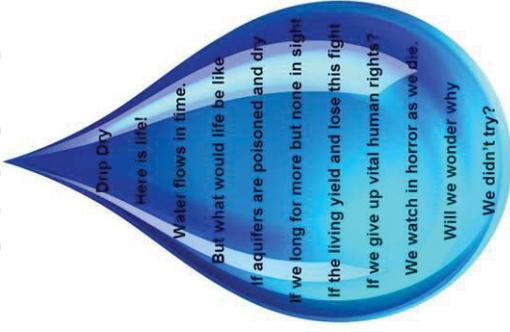
January 30, 2014 9:45PM ET by [Renée Lewis](#)



A natural gas well site near a residential neighborhood, run by Encana Oil & Gas, in Erie, Colo.

September 2013, Brennan Linsley/AP

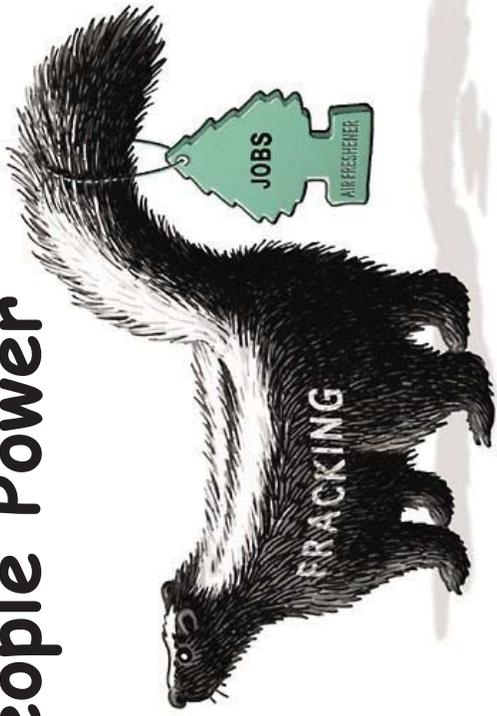
# US Superpower of Gas Production or Mass Destruction?



In ten years, the Colorado River Basin has lost the equivalent of two Lake Meads, the largest reservoir in the U.S., pictured here at dusk with Las Vegas in the background.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER ESSICK, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, Aug. 19, 2014

**If You Think the Water Crisis Can't Get Worse, Wait Until the Aquifers Are Drained**  
*We're pumping irreplaceable groundwater to counter the drought. When it's gone, the real crisis begins.*

# People Power



Bonnet/Chattanooga Times Free Press



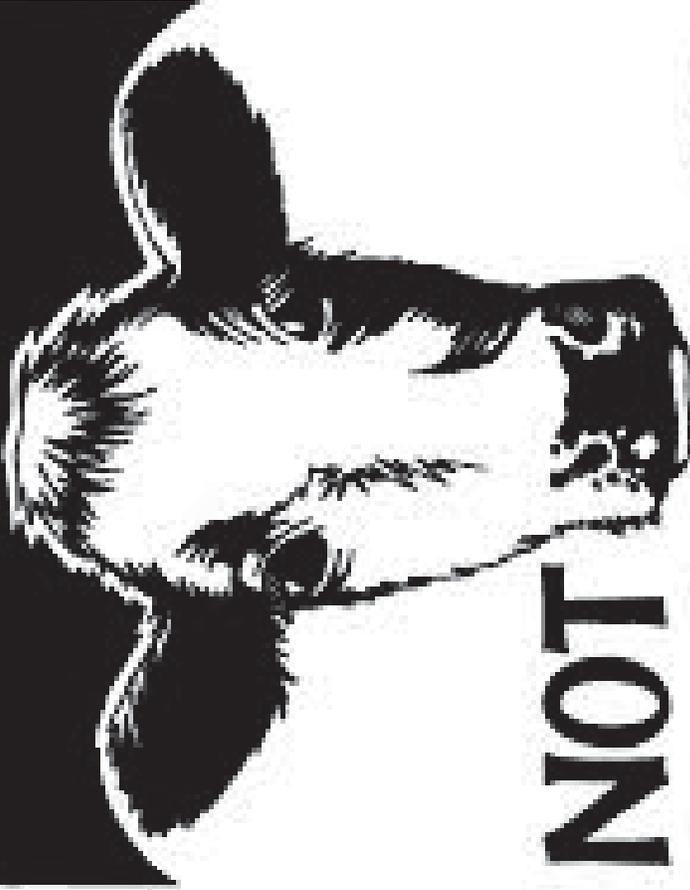
WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)



# Help Don't Harm the Earth!

**ORGANIC**

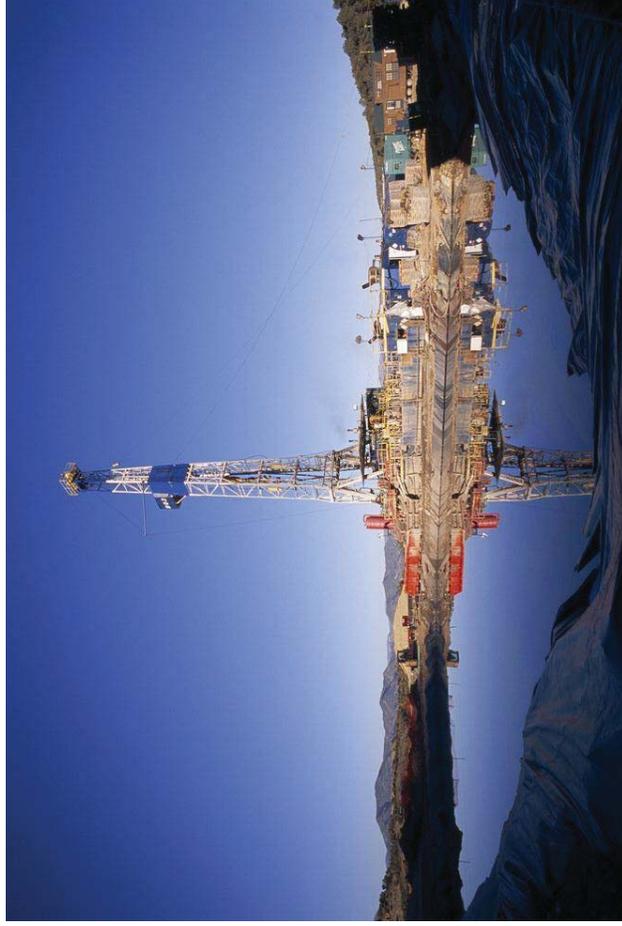
**FARMING**



**NOT IS  
FRACKING**

## Scientists Warn of Quake Risk From Fracking Operations

*Tremors induced by wastewater disposal are larger  
and harder to predict than previously thought.*



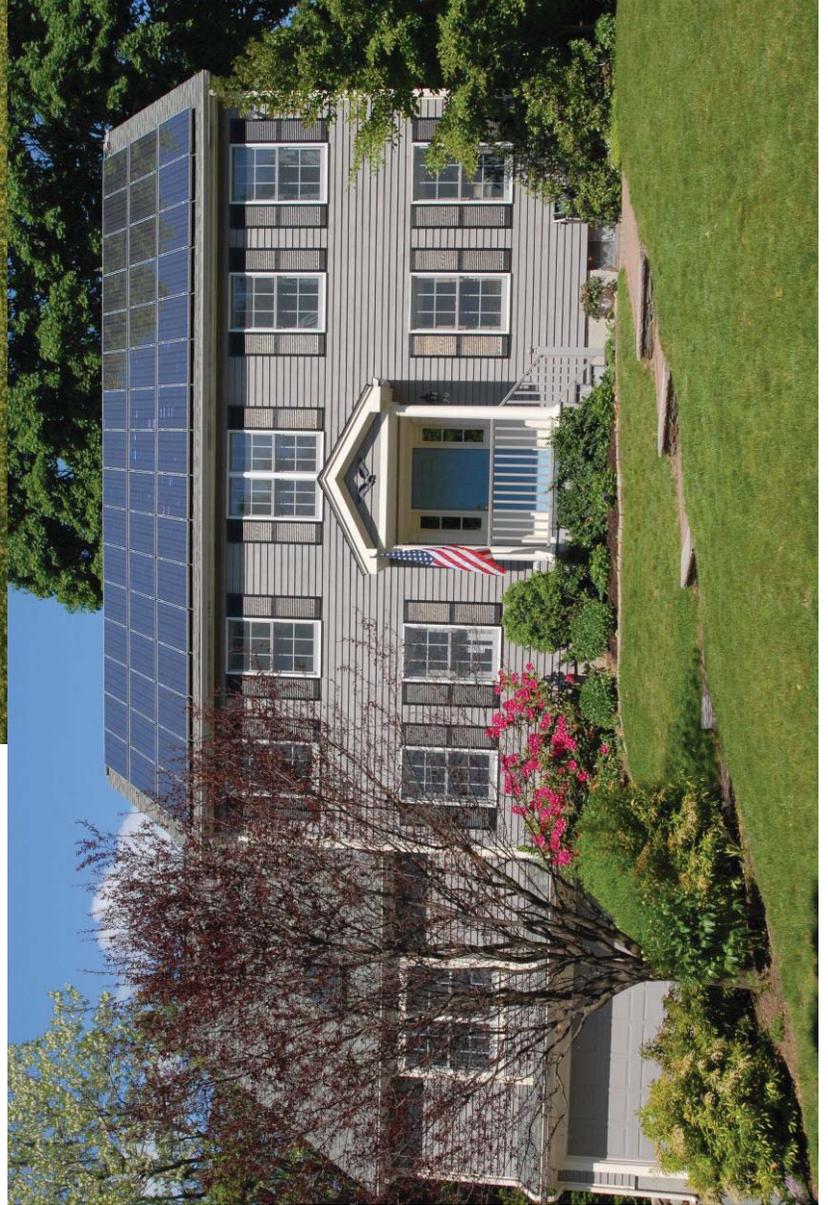
A hydraulic fracturing oil rig stands in Garfield County, CO. Colorado and other states have experienced earthquakes that have been linked to oil and gas activity, and seismologists are warning that such quakes can be difficult to predict.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LYNN JOHNSON, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Underground disposal of wastewater from fracking may pose a much greater risk of causing dangerous earthquakes than previously believed, particularly in areas of the U.S. Southwest and Midwest where earthquake faults have not been mapped extensively. Worse yet, scientists are not yet able to predict which wastewater injection sites are likely to pose risks to buildings or critical structures such as power plants, and do not yet know what operators might do to mitigate the hazard. And new research indicates that the disposal wells are capable of affecting earthquake faults that are miles away from them.

Patrick J. PUBLISHED MAY 2, 2014 Kgor for [National Geographic](#)

# Renewable



# Energy

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 10:09 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** PHM letter in support.pdf

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

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**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 09:55  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

---

**From:** Patrick Martin [mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 3:07 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Attached please find my letter in support of the drilling permit application.

I am also sending the same by U. S. mail.

Pat Martin

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PATRICK H. MARTIN

*Attorney at Law*  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: mart139@bellsouth.net

By email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov).

Mr. James Welch, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Sincerely,

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:51 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Ren Clark [mailto:rylaur@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Cc:** Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Commissioner Jim Welsh  
Louisiana Office of Conservation

Ref: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, drilling permit application for drilling in St. Tammany Parish, (Engineering Docket14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.)

Dear Sir:

I attended the Public Hearing last Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the Lakeshore Sr. High gym. I think most people understood that your office was under no obligation to site an opportunity for public input in St. Tammany Parish. Thanks to you and to your staff for extending that consideration to the people of St. Tammany.

I sat through most, but not all, of the nearly 8 hours of proponent claims of safety and remoteness juxtaposed to opponent concerns for the health, safety and welfare of the people who actually live in St, Tammany Parish.

I won't repeat opposition themes - with which I agree in almost every instance. I'll just say that the proposed site is in no way "remote" and that the proponent claims of safety are not borne out by experience (BP Macondo, Bayou Corme, Lake Peigneur put a name to only a fraction of the safety counterpoints).

However, there was one consideration that was not directly addressed by the proponents or opponents and that is the effect of changing 10 acres of a landscape from wetland agro-forest to compacted industrial site.

Basically, the onset of the drilling activity you permit is going to change the "c" in the famous runoff equation:  $Q = cIA$ . And when that c-coefficient is changed (e.g. from .25 to .75 or higher), cu.ft./sec of runoff, with who knows what substances in suspension, will double or triple. The direction of that runoff in a very flood-prone place is toward more wetlands and the headwaters of scenic and protected bayous. That the paid spokesmen, for the absent permit applicant, demonstrated no concern (or awareness) in this area should be considered a major technical shortcoming.

None of us who live in St. Tammany are under any illusion that this permit is for an isolated "geo-science project" as the proponents were certainly trying to suggest. We all know that this is the first domino in a long, long line that will start falling with continuously compounding consequences for our soil, air and water.

By approving this permit, you will set in motion a process of industrialization from which St. Tammany will not easily (if ever) recover. And I must note that those responsible for environmental damages will likely skate on any 'recovery' obligations.

I respectfully ask you to reject this permit application in order to save one of Louisiana's unique places from irreparable industrial scarring.

Thank you,

Ren Clark  
420 Carroll St.  
Mandeville, Louisiana

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error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 12:50 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Frack pond management-Abandoned frack ponds near Garden City TX (east of Odessa)  
**Attachments:** Google Maps-Denver City, TX.pdf; Google Maps-near Garden City TX frack pond.pdf

FYI - Helis

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens [mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 12:49 PM  
**To:** Elizabeth Johnson (DEQ); Robert M MVN Tewis; 'Farabee, Michael V MVN'; Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Cc:** rick\_ccst@yahoo.com; 'Jordan, Lisa W'; Marianne Cufone; 'm Ren Clark'; Kelly Kreminski; Greg Lemons  
**Subject:** Frack pond management-Abandoned frack ponds near Garden City TX (east of Odessa)

Dear Sirs and Madam,

Google Earth is very revealing in the depiction of what is left behind by drillers after the minerals have been sucked dry. The attached pdf's are indicative of the state of abandonment that fracking ponds (produced water) are left as, per the current guidelines.

The pdfs are of Denver City, TX and Garden City, Texas (east of hwy 33, south of the city)-and if you will simply "Google Map" these cities (or any other city in this region of NW Texas) and scroll around the area you will see numerous examples of abandoned well pads and frack ponds with the fluid left to evaporate into the atmosphere. Please note that I did not retouch the Garden City pdf in any way, but did notice a strange lime green halo along the edge of the adjacent waterway.

If time permits, scroll around the entire geographic area and you will see the devastation to the natural environment left by drillers. Abandoned pads, abandoned wet frack ponds, zero restoration or reforestation requirements...an ablation of the natural habitat.

Please deny the Helis application for any well to be drilled in St Tammany Parish. The ecological future of our area is at stake. The already endangered habitat here is at stake, our precious wetlands are at stake and likely, our clean water supplies as well.

Apparently there are few, if any, regulations in place which are designed to restore the landscape to pre-drill conditions at the conclusion of the mineral extraction, and obviously, the landowners have absolved themselves of any clean-up as well. The SuperFund clean-up sites of the 70's started this way, as I recall...abandoned toxic messes left by industries for the taxpayers and Federal Government to remediate.

Well pad devastation will be our future if these permits are allowed...and we don't deserve this if your charge is to manage and protect our natural resources for generations to come. Taking the spoils without any responsibility for the collateral damage cannot possibly be the design of the regulations. Please protect the residents and the environment by denying Helis' application to drill in STP.

Regards,  
Terri Lewis Stevens, Director  
Concerned Citizens of Covington, Inc.  
409-299-0162

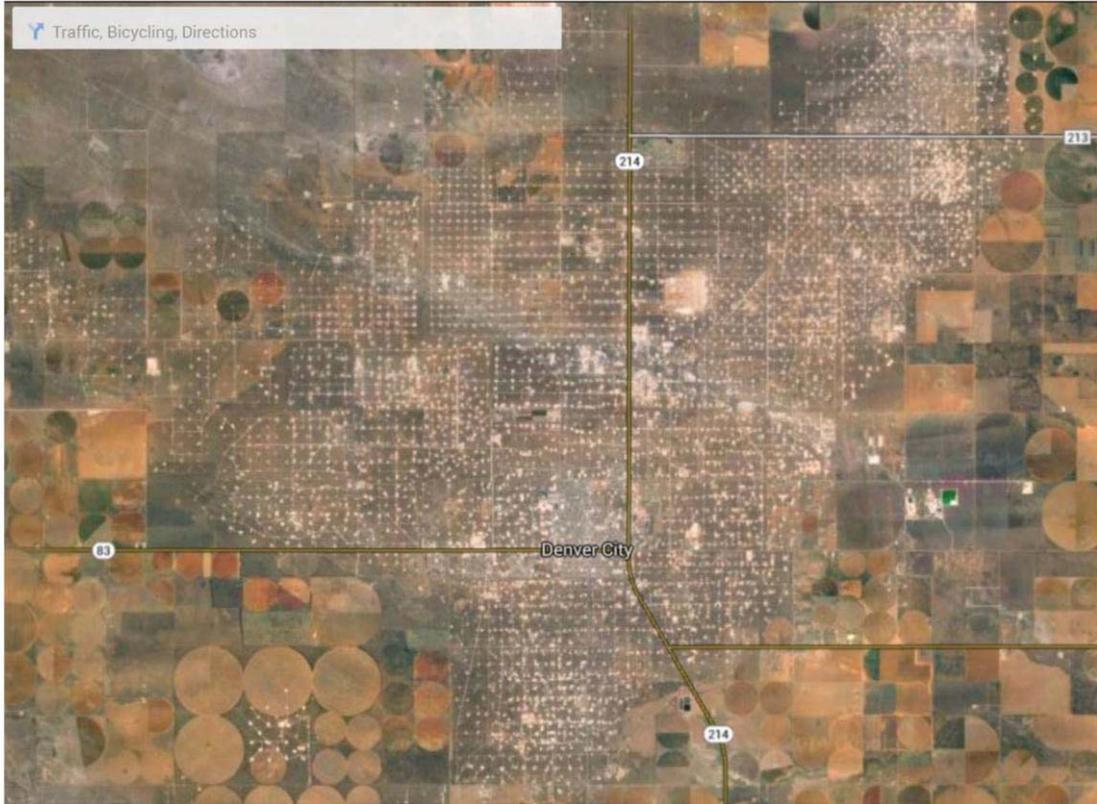
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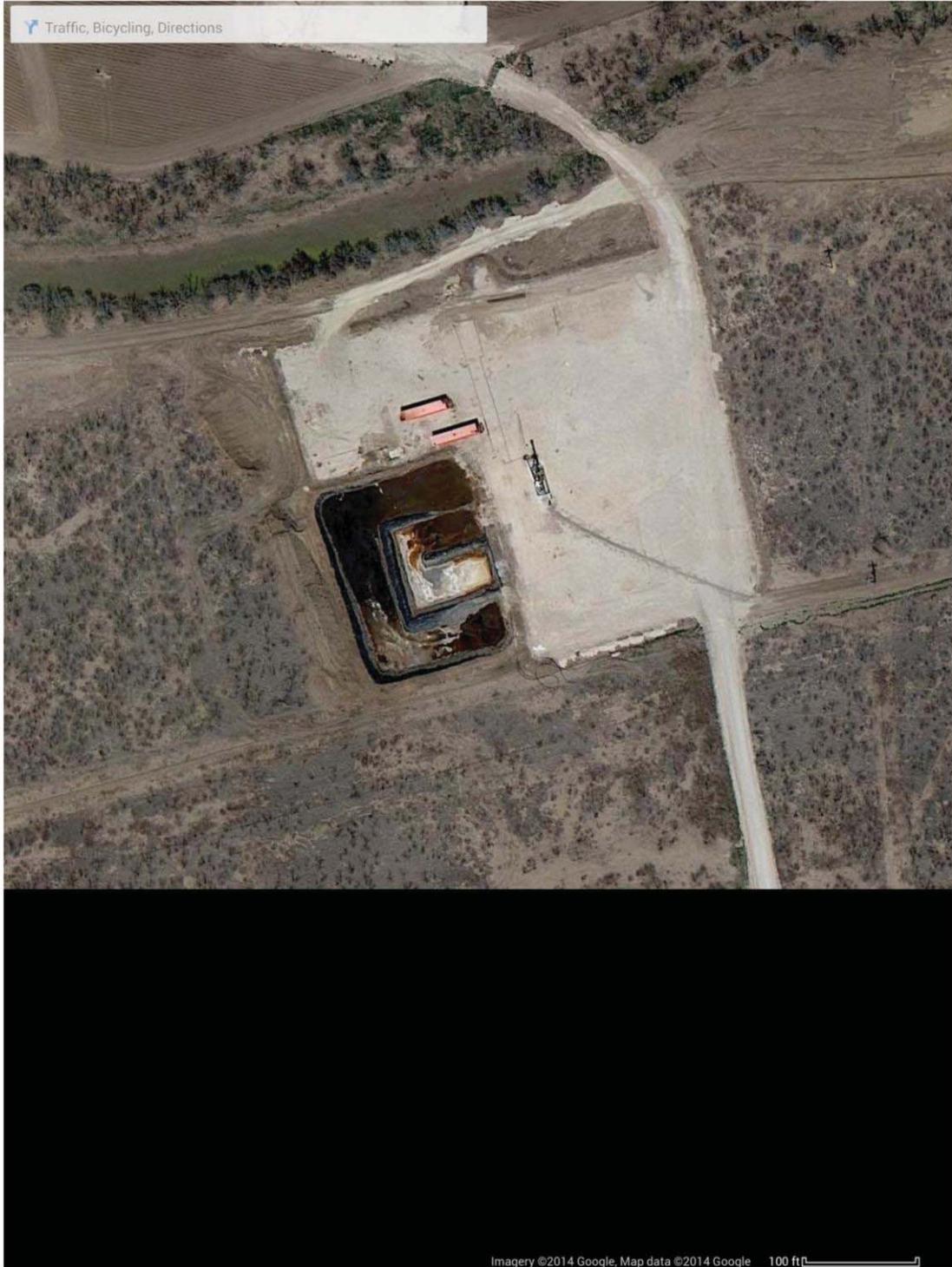
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Google Maps

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Denver+City,+TX/@32.964...>



**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Fracking

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:27 PM  
To: Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
Subject: FW: Fracking

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Wren [<mailto:patwren49@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:06 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Fracking

I am a resident of Abita Springs

I am sorry I could not attend the fracking hearing in Mandeville last night due to a previous commitment. I am definitely opposed to fracking! Please hear and abide by our concerns and do NOT allow this to happen. In reading the article on NOLA this morning I was upset to see how long Helios captured the floor before allowing the public to speak. Please protect this parishes water.

Thank you

Patricia Wren

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:12 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Fracking

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Fracking

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**From:** Patricia Edmiston [<mailto:patedmiston@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Fracking

I am writing in opposition to fracking in general but in particular drilling through an aquifer that supplies the water for numerous towns in St. Tammany and other parishes. To begin with there is no real need to "dynamite" the earth to extract oil and gas, as there is not a shortage as attested by all the idle oil rigs in the gulf. Secondly, creating fractures in the ground causes open fissures once the oil and gas is removed and the ground will sink to fill in the opening left behind. Unstable soil creates sinking road beds, sink holes, and could possibly cause harm to the aquifer.

Finally, if there is any chance even a minimal one that our aquifer will be contaminated by the chemicals used to frack the earth then we should not take that chance. Abita Springs, along with other communities, would have to find clean water elsewhere, which would not be an easy task. Clean water is a commodity much like oil but much more precious! We can continue to live without oil but not without clean water.

I implore you to please not approve this or any other fracking project. It is unnecessary, unwanted, and to move forward would only benefit the land owner and an oil company. To stop this now would benefit thousands of citizens in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

**Patricia Flad Edmiston**

***Sing like no one's listening, dance like no one's watching, love like you've never been hurt.*** 😊

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: fracking in St. Tammany

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: fracking in St. Tammany

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**From:** ROBERT QUINTANA [mailto:quinrob@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 10:52 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** fracking in St. Tammany

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been closely following the fracking proposal by Helis Oil Company in St. Tammany. I strongly urge you to disapprove this proposal. The large majority of our citizens do not want this in our parish. Please respect our rights to keep our parish free from such developments. We love our environment. That is the reason we came here and stay here.

Thank you.  
Robert Quintana  
201 Chaucer Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:59 AM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Helis drilling permit on Helis well on Eads Poitevent, et al St. Tammany Parish

Helis permit comment

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg On Behalf Of LDNR Public Information  
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 9:05 AM  
To: Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh  
Cc: Kaylin Parker  
Subject: FW: Helis drilling permit on Helis well on Eads Poitevent, et al St. Tammany Parish

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: John Schneider [<mailto:crowhunter@mac.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 6:07 PM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Helis drilling permit on Helis well on Eads Poitevent, et al St. Tammany Parish

Dear Gentlefolk:

I write to you today to voice my strong recommendation that your agency grant the drilling permit for the Helis well in St. Tammany Parish. My family is also a rather large forest landowner in St. Tammany and if this well is successful, it will benefit not just us, but the entire parish. South East Louisiana badly needs some sort of economic stimulus to provide much needed jobs and increase in tax base. The nay sayers are trying to influence your decision by using myths about oil well drilling and especially fracking. As I understand the request for a permit, Helis intends to drill straight down to their test depth without fracking. As you must know, there has never been a single case of fracking contaminating a water well within the United States. The anti-oil crowd is trying to use scare tactics and not facts to stop much needed oil and gas production and all the economic stimulus it could bring to our state. Louisiana is a leader in petroleum production and refining. Your agency knows the oil drilling business better than anybody on earth. I have the utmost confidence that your granting this well permit will be done under well established regulations that will protect the public welfare and provide an opportunity for economic development.

Sincerely,

John F. Schneider  
23473 Hwy 22  
Ponchatoula, La. 70454

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:59 AM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Drilling Permit St. Tammany Parish

Another Helis permit comment

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:57 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Drilling Permit St. Tammany Parish

FYI

**From:** Will Reimers [<mailto:willreimers9771@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 05, 2014 1:07 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Drilling Permit St. Tammany Parish

October 4, 2014

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Re: Comments in Support of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field, Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East,  
St. Tammany Parish, LA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to support the permit for the above listed drilling permit.

As you are aware Louisiana is one of the foremost leaders in petroleum production. The region has benefited greatly by the increased economic impact

brought on by the oil and gas industry. I would like to see that benefit realized by St. Tammany Parish.

My family is a landowner in St. Tammany Parish. As such I have an interest in seeing an increase in the value of land in St. Tammany. I have an interest in seeing jobs created and seeing a flourishing economy.

However, I also understand the need for good environmental practice. We all love the wonderful ecosystems of south Louisiana. I am confident that the current methods for oil and gas exploration are safe. I believe that that tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico, surrounding the British Petroleum spill, has placed pressure on the oil and gas industry to improve methods and preserve important resources like ground water.

It is my understanding that the permit being sought is for a vertical well with no lateral fracturing. As such this is a routine drilling project that has been occurring for decades without issues on inshore projects.

I ask the Office of Conservation to issue the permit for drilling, as soon as possible.

Thank You,

William Reimers  
23017 Zemurray Gardens Drive  
Loranger, LA 70446

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:11 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil ..proposed St. Tammany well

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

**From:** Allen Bealle [mailto:allen.bealle@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Helis Oil ..proposed St. Tammany well

Dear Patrick, There are 4500 residential wells within a 10 mile radius of the proposed well. My well is one of these. There is no over site , no liability and the possibility of huge damage to our water supply. The only upside is to Helis Oil. I am aware that this is no longer a democracy. What the people want is not important. But this is very important to me. The thought is that you guys are all wrapped up with the oil industry....which is cool until you really hurt someone. Please do the right thing...many oil wells will follow this one. Sincerely, Allen Bealle...retiree who hunts and fishes...

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 10:07 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Helis Oil Drilling - Docket 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

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**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 09:54  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Drilling - Docket 14-626

**From:** Ann Burke [mailto:annpb2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 10:30 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Drilling - Docket 14-626

Department of Natural Resources  
Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626  
St. Tammany Parish, LA

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Helis Oil drilling in St. Tammany Parish off of Interstate Hwy 12 in Mandeville. I am concerned that many paid opponents to the drilling have come to our parish and caused an uproar that would not have happened without their influence. The proponents of the drilling have not been as vocal but I believe that the majority of citizens would agree with our business leaders that this would greatly benefit St. Tammany Parish in many ways. As a citizen of St. Tammany Parish of course I am concerned about the aquifer but believe that Helis Oil will take every measure necessary to protect our water supply. It is ridiculous to assume that they would not. Fracking is being done elsewhere in our state with few if any problems. Why should it not be done in St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you,  
Ann P. Burke  
909 Bonfouca Place  
Mandeville, LA

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:12 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

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**From:** Kaysey Hasslock [mailto:kmliason@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:46 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application in St Tammany Parish

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**From:** Kaysey Hasslock  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014  
**To:** [Jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.welsh@la.gov)

Louisiana Dept. of Conservation  
Commissioner James Welsh

Dear Sir,

Thank you for holding the recent Helis Oil well permitting hearing here in Mandeville. It was a very long night for all, we too stayed until almost midnight, and were impressed by the strong, clear and well researched statements presented by many of our neighbors to your committee. We stand with them in requesting that the Louisiana Department of Conservation denies the Helis Oil & Gas Lacombe Bayou permit application on the basis of the unavoidable compromise to our community resources. The health, safety and welfare of an entire community and the natural resources upon which we depend should not be put at risk. This project WOULD create severe and irreparable environmental degradation right in the middle of a flourishing residential community, endangering health and lowering our property values.

Our vibrant community is based upon attracting residential development. The new Lakeshore High School (1000 students) is adjacent to the proposed drilling field an area completely incompatible with any drilling development. It is also worthy of note that within 1-3 miles are Mandeville Middle School (800+ Students), two rapidly growing subdivisions with many young families and the Louisiana Heart Hospital (500+ Patients, First Responders and staff). The tract in question is presently zoned A-3, and if this project is permitted it would kill the development of this as residential community. In other words this area is flourishing as a residential one, NOT as one of a risky drilling industrialized one.

This proposed well is not being requested to serve the public good. The vast number of residents of St.Tammany will reap no benefit from approval of this unit permit---nor from the numerous ones which would then surely follow---instead would be forced to bear the vast array of immediate and long term risks to our health, our natural resources, our property values (hence diminishment of vital Parish tax revenue) and our future Parish development. I ask that you step up to the opportunity to protect the people and the land of St Tammany Parish, say NO to this project!

Sincerely,  
Kaysey Hasslock  
Dr. Michael Finn

1317 Livingston St  
Mandeville, LA 70448

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:52 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Permit

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Paula Boardman [mailto:pbboardman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:12 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Patrick Courreges; jimwelch@la.gov  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Permit

I am writing in opposition to the above-noted application for a drilling/fracking permit in St. Tammany Parish. The evidence is incontrovertible that such activity would be dangerous in the extreme. As you heard the testimony of the expert witness at the recent meeting, (at least I hope you were there), since the drilling would occur through the major aquifer for the region the slightest mishap -- a leaky seam at the junction of any of the hundreds of sections of pipe, the failure of 2 inches of concrete, ever-present human error -- could cause a disaster of unthinkable proportions for hundreds of thousands of residents of the Parish. And since we rely on the purity of the water as it rises from the earth, there is no infrastructure in place to do anything about it. Think about it today: how often do you turn on a tap or drink from a water bottle, or wash your hands, or bathe or brush your teeth. Think about this precious resource being destroyed for the greed of a few oil and gas executives. It is well known in Louisiana that the Oil and Gas industry gets a pass to do whatever it wants to do with little or no oversight. Permits have been rubber stamped for so long that you will understand why we are PLEADING with you to simply do your job and recognize that this is too risky an endeavor to receive your approval. At the very least, there needs to be much more investigation of the possibility of destructive consequences of such drilling and assurances of legally-binding liability for Helis oil. The very fact that a governor (who is clearly trying to run for president), gives these executives a "free" ride should tell us all a great deal. Please consult your own good hearts and consciences when you make this decision.

Sincerely,

Paula B. Boardman  
76337 Robinson Rd.  
Folsom, LA 70437

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 12:31 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil permit engineering docket #14-626, St. Tammany Parish

FYI

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 12:30 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh  
**Cc:** Kaylin Parker  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil permit engineering docket #14-626, St. Tammany Parish

FYI

**From:** [chrisi@cbtec.com](mailto:chrisi@cbtec.com) [<mailto:chrisi@cbtec.com>] **On Behalf Of** Chris Inman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 11:52 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Oil permit engineering docket #14-626, St. Tammany Parish

On behalf of my self and many friends and family I want you all to know that there is a huge number of individuals in St. Tammany Parish that are horrified as to the position taken by our elected officials in St. Tammany Parish to prevent the Helis drilling.

Specifically, the arguments against "fracking" are environmental in nature and fueled by the fear that somehow, in some unproven way, fracking will damage our water supply and environment. I do not believe that these fears are warranted and have confidence that Helis Oil will be a good partner in preventing any possible accidents.

In the meantime, the benefits of fracking are evident for all to see. These benefits extend even to those who are currently opposed. Notwithstanding the national energy policies that fracking benefits, the local area will have an upsurge in Parish sponsored projects, such as a performing arts center, that would be possible from the increased tax revenue. Landowners would benefit from the lease payments paid them (it's not just about the wealthy--it's about every landowner). These lease payments would benefit the local economy as the payments would be spent locally. And, jobs would be created from the increase in economic activity.

Our opinion is that the entire Parish will benefit from approving this application. I urge you to do so--do not be swayed by a vocal minority. And if approved, I just hope that the drilling is successful in finding commercially feasible oil!

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Christopher C. Inman, President  
The Earnest Corporation d/b/a Beau Chene Country Club  
105 Beau Chene Blvd.  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
Office: 985-845-3565  
FAX: 985-605-6804



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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:23 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Permit in St. Tammany

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:24 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Permit in St. Tammany

---

**From:** Don Saucier [mailto:drs@acadiacom.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 11:57 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Permit in St. Tammany

As a resident of St. Tammany Parish I oppose granting a permit to Helis Oil Co. to drill a Hydraulic Fracking well near hwy. 1088 for the following reasons :

- 1.They claim that the 5 million gallons of fresh water needed to drill the well will not come from our rivers or aquifers but from "private ponds " I ask where are these ponds located and what is the water source for these ponds ?
- 2.They claim that this is the best site for drilling in St. Tammany when all factors are considered . Yet they have leased almost 60,00 acres in St. Tammany parish for future drilling . How inferior are these acres ?
- 3.They claim that trucks will carry the salt water from the well to other sites . Where ? Are they using salt water injection wells ? Do they have permits for such ? Salt water/oil ratio can be 20/1 for the life of the well.
- 4.Although the company claims to have an excellent safety record ,this is the first Hydraulic fractured well in St. Tammany. Will they use newer techniques such as Schlumberger's HIWAY flow channel fracking technology ? Or Baker Hughes' FracPoint openhole fracture completion system ? Or FlowTec's Citrus Method avoiding the carcinogenic compounds ?

Frac jobs are inherently dangerous and environmentally catastrophic when done badly .

Sincerely ,  
D.R. Saucier  
400 Live Oak St.  
Mandeville,LA. 70448  
985-502-9881

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Permit

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg On Behalf Of LDNR Public Information  
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 10:43 AM  
To: Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
Subject: FW: Helis Permit

-----Original Message-----

From: LeAnn Magee [<mailto:lepermag@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:20 PM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Helis Permit

To whom it May Concern,

After attending the public hearing at Lakeshore High School, I am assured of my opinion that Hydraulic fracturing should NOT take place here, or anywhere else in Louisiana.

Since Helis representatives did NOT attend the meeting, and NO guarantees could be made on their behalf, the hearing did little to portray Helis as a trustworthy business. Anybody who supports this project does so with an uneducated, Unresearched opinion, one which undoubtedly is based on greed. Because money is the only motivator to ruin other peoples communities. The workers are from out of state, the parish reaps no monetary reward, and an ecological disaster is imminent. No one, but Helis Employees, of which we have not seen, would benefit.

You MUST consider the welfare of the citizens of Abita and Mandeville. You MUST listen to our requests. It would be against THE LAW to proceed with this project.

I am an 18 year employee of St Tammany parish school board. I work with children every day. I am a mother, a homeowner, a tax payer, a community volunteer. I ask you to deny Helis, and any other company, a permit to frack in our parish.

Thank you for your time,  
LeAnn Pinniger Magee  
985-205-2261  
22195 Grover st.  
Abita Springs, La 70420

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:50 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Permit

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

**From:** Joan Simon [mailto:joan154.simon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 10:50 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Jim Welch; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Helis Permit

Gentlemen:

I am a 30 year resident of St. Tammany Parish and am writing to urge you to deny the Helis permit. While this company might possibly meet the minimum standards that the DNR has established, how can that be acceptable? I am not assuming you would be basing your decision on these narrow guidelines but sadly feel I must mention it anyway

Despite the past history of your agency to rubber stamp most, if not all, oil permits, you are still constitutionally bound to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents and I hope you will take this responsibility very seriously.

The testimony presented at the hearing at Lakeshore High School on Wednesday night should make it abundantly clear that to frack St. Tammany Parish would be a dangerous undertaking that would jeopardize our sole source aquifer, ground water, air, transportation grid, home values and the quality of life in this Parish.

No single company who stands to make lots of money has the right to trump our zoning laws and our home rule charter. It is truly the duty of our government to respect those laws and make decisions based on the good of the many, not the few.

This morning when I awakened I brushed my teeth, took a shower, boiled water for tea, and did dishes in my kitchen sink. As I did these routine tasks a huge wave of fear came over me - because I realized that I could not safely lead my life - nor could my husband, my daughter and son-in-law and 4 year old granddaughter - if fracking poisoned the water we all rely on as is our right. What would you do if this happened where you live? Wouldn't you feel the same as we do and do everything you could to avoid such a potential disaster?

The well-informed citizens of St. Tammany who spoke at the hearing voiced their concerns and objections with eloquence and I am adding my own concerns to theirs - for my family, friends and all of us who live and work here.

Please do what you are constitutionally bound to do and deny the Helis permit.

Sincerely,

Joan Simon  
154 Belle Terre Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:52 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: HELIS PERMIT

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Joan Simon [mailto:joan154.simon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:00 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Jim Welch; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** HELIS PERMIT

Gentlemen:

I am a 30 year resident of St. Tammany Parish and am writing to urge you to deny the Helis permit. While this company might possibly meet the minimum standards that the DNR has established, how can that be acceptable? I am not assuming you would be basing your decision on these narrow guidelines but in view of the history of your agency, I feel compelled to mention it. I certainly hope that you would have more respect for the citizens of St. Tammany Parish than to blatantly disregard our rights to health and safety, which would be the case if you were to say yes to this small group of people who do not even live in St. Tammany.

Despite the past history of your agency to rubber stamp most, if not all, oil permits, please remember that you are constitutionally bound to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents. Mineral rights are only one part of the resources of Louisiana, though they have been treated as if they are the only resources and oil companies as if they were royalty to which we must bow and scrape.

The testimony presented at the hearing at Lakeshore High School last Wednesday night should make it abundantly clear that to frack St. Tammany Parish would be a dangerous undertaking that would jeopardize our sole source aquifer, ground water, air, transportation grid, home values and the quality of life in this Parish.

No single company who stands to make lots of money has the right to trump our zoning laws and our home rule charter. It is truly the duty of our government to respect those laws and make decisions based on the good of the many, not the few.

This morning when I awakened I brushed my teeth, took a shower, boiled water for tea, and did dishes in my kitchen sink. As I did these routine tasks a huge wave of fear came over me - because I realized that I could not safely lead my life - nor could my husband, my daughter and

son-in-law and 4 year old granddaughter - if fracking poisoned the water we all rely on as is our right. What would you do if this happened where you live? Wouldn't you feel the same as we do and do everything you could to avoid such a potential disaster? What sane society poisons its own water supply?

The well-informed citizens of St. Tammany who spoke at the hearing voiced their concerns and objections with eloquence and I am adding my own concerns to theirs - for my family, friends and all of us who live and work here.

Please do what you are constitutionally bound to do and deny the Helis permit.

Sincerely,

Joan Simon  
154 Belle Terre Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:53 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Permit

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

**From:** Gilda Reed [mailto:gildareed@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:14 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Patrick Courreges; jim.welch@la.gov  
**Subject:** Helis Permit

Jeff, Jim and Patrick,

Please choose people over profit and deny the permit to Helis. The opportunists at Helis stand to make quick easy money and leave our land as quickly as they have come, but leave it in a perilous condition. Our water, land stability and the health and safety of our people will be collateral damage. You can stop this atrocity before it happens. They can not guarantee that the feared possibilities will not happen like in countless other forever damaged communities. And they have no plans to fix what they break as the damage would be irrevocable.

Thank you,  
Gilda Reed

--

Gilda Werner Reed, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA 70148

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:03 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis permit

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Sissy Wiggin [mailto:s\_wiggin2003@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:03 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; jim.welch@la.gov; Patrick Courreges  
**Cc:** Sissy Wiggin  
**Subject:** Helis permit

Gentlemen:

I have lived in South Louisiana most of my almost 60 years - and much of it right here in St. Tammany Parish. I grew up swimming and water skiing on the Mississippi River near Donaldsonville, camping for most weekends of the summer on one of the many gorgeous rivers in our State with my family, canoeing on every little river around here, and bicycling hundreds of miles as an avid biker.

I have to tell you that I am relieved that my parents are gone so that they would not see what is being proposed by Helis for our beautiful section of this state. My daddy grew up in the 1930's snorkeling and sailing in Lake Pontchartrain, hunting in the swamps, loving the outdoors, and he passed that on to his four children.

I attended last week's hearing at Lakeshore High School, so I know you got the message loudly and clearly that the residents here are furious, afraid, disgusted, saddened. And I know that is exactly how you would feel if you lived here. Can you imagine what it feels like for us that this company wants to come in to our area and do this to us - for only their own profit? There is little else that will be gained - other than for the already wealthy landowners whose land they will use.

I have been an environmentalist my whole life - this is not some NIMBY thing. In 1970 my little environmental group in Donaldsonville won the state youth conservationists of the year award from the Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries for the huge amount of work we were doing to bring attention to what the new chemical factories along the River were doing to our town. We also were the first people in the area to do large scale recycling - large scale in the sense that we recycled everything from our families and all the friends we could convince to participate.

So I am not a NIMBY. These are battles I have been fighting my whole life.

I ask you as a citizen of Louisiana, as a special education teacher in the public schools for 26 years, as a rational human being - please do not give Helis the permit. Please do what you are supposed to do and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of our State.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jean "Sissy" Wiggin  
71599 Leveson St.  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Helis well, St. Tammany Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Helis well, St. Tammany Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1

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**From:** robbie [mailto:socorob@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 11:51 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis well, St. Tammany Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1

Dear Sirs,

I would like to strongly urge you to deny the permit for the planned fracking well in St. Tammany parish, as well as any in the future. We only have one source of water here. That goes, we go. Helis has not mentioned anything about water buffalos during any of this process. In case you're not sure what a water buffalo is, you can search on the internet, youtube, etc "water buffalo Pennsylvania" and see what they are. What has happened in Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and a few other places, is that fracking poisoned the water wells in whole subdivisions. The state then comes in and makes the people disconnect their water wells. Which is understandable, because they don't want whole neighborhoods of people dying. Now the people have no water to their homes. Sometimes the state makes the fracking companies provide water. They come in and put in these huge water tanks in front of everyone's homes, affectionately called water buffaloes by the locals. They are required to fill them every 2 weeks. If the people have a large family, they have to be very conserving of the water to make sure it doesn't run out in those 2 weeks. After a while, if the well runs dry, the frackers leave and they come in and remove the tanks, unless the people want to start paying for them. It costs about \$125 every 2 weeks to lease and have it filled, so that's another \$250 bill these poor people have to pay each month. Take in mind this water isn't potable, it's only for cooking, washing and flushing. They have to buy their drinking water on top of that. In those places they also have to vent their wells so they don't explode because of the methane migration into them (which is why they had to be capped off in the first place). A small dripping water leak now

becomes a gas leak. Several pump houses and at least 1 house have exploded across the country from this. Most of the wells in my neighborhood are in peoples garages, so that would be extra dangerous for us. People wonder why these people don't move. Well, now that the house doesn't have a water supply, no lending institutions will loan against that property, so the fracking has basically made their houses almost worthless. A few people with good enough credit started buying a second home, and abandoning the 1st home, not paying the mortgage. In response to that, real estate contracts now have a check box so you have to disclose if your property is within certain distance of a fracking property. Not from the well, from the edge of the property. It's already in the real estate disclosure forms in St. Tammany parish. I can provide you with a copy of that if needed. So in summary, please deny the permit.

Thank you for your concern,  
Robbie Creel

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:45 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: hydraulic fracking

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Kiana Rugar [mailto:kianarugar@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:29 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** hydraulic fracking

I am writing to you to let you know that I oppose Helis Oil's wish for fracking in St. Tammany.. Please deny it.

Thank you,  
Kiana Rugar

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:16 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Hydraulic Fracturing Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Hydraulic Fracturing Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

**From:** Nancy Caddigan [<mailto:nancadd@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:07 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Hydraulic Fracturing Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I live on 7 acres of land that is 5.5 miles away from the proposed sight for the Helis Oil & Gas Company vertical exploratory well.

This land has been in my husband's family for over forty years. We recently relocated to St. Tammany Parish from Iowa to live on this land. Our home's only source of running water is provided by a 180 foot deep ground water well. We are not near enough to either Mandeville or Covington city water sources.

We are STRONG AGAINST allowing this disruption to our environment and neighborhood.

Please DO NOT ALLOW this to take place.

Thanks you.

Nancy Caddigan (Giafagleone)  
1065 Dove Park Road,  
Covington LA 70433-6314

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error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 4:21 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: LA Office of Conservation Hearing - Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** Helis Drilling Permit Support Bullets 10 1 2014.docx

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** LDNR Public Information <info@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 16:20  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Cc:** Kaylin Parker  
**Subject:** FW: Fw: LA Office of Conservation Hearing - Engineering Docket No. 14-626

FYI

---

**From:** George E. Burch [mailto:geburch2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 2:59 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** FW: Fw: LA Office of Conservation Hearing - Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Madam / Sir:

Attached is my letter supporting the issuance of the Drilling Permit to Helis.

Sincerely,  
George E. Burch

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George E. Burch  
13344 S. tranquility Road  
Lacombe, Louisiana 70445  
(214) 402 8587

**October 15, 2014**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Via Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**RE: Comments in Support of Issuance  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA**

Dear Madam / Sir:

I support the approval of the Drilling Permit as referenced above. Specifically I note:

- In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increased energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world,
- In the event of successful development of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale throughout St. Tammany Parish, the positive economic impact would be extremely significant to the Parish, the region and the State accelerating economic growth, thus leading directly and indirectly to increased government revenues that can be used for the public's general welfare including the building of infrastructure and providing important services such as education and health care,
- No studies or historical data substantiate that hydraulic fracturing well completion methods, much less simply drilling a vertical well, creates unprecedented or unreasonable risk to the environment,
- The vertical subsurface separation between the fresh water aquifers and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval (+/- 13,000' subsea) is a substantially greater linear distance, approximately 9,500 linear feet, then found in most other shale exploration and development areas throughout the country,
- Compared to Marcellus Shale (+/- 5,500' – 8,500' subsea) in Pennsylvania; Barnett Shale (+/- 6,500' to 8,500' subsea) in suburban Texas; Eagle Ford Shale (+/- 6,000' – 9,000' subsea) in Texas, the areas of development for shale resources in Louisiana are preferable due to the deeper depth of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (+/- 13,000' subsea) and Haynesville Shale intervals,
- The absence of natural faulting in St. Tammany Parish further reduces the already low possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids migrating beyond the designed tolerance of a few hundred feet above the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval found at +/- 13,000' subsea,

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

- Based on the facts, circumstances and the specifics of the reference drilling permit application failure to issue the permit would unreasonably and unnecessarily usurp landowner rights and directly result in a taking of minerals under private property,
- The authority to grant this routine permit rest solely with the Office of Conservation and should not be unduly influenced by parochial issues or special interest groups expressing concerns that are not based on facts or science,
- Due to the fact that the current permit application seeks only the authorization to drill a vertical well, there is no basis for delay in issuance. As the permit was submitted, drilling a horizontal lateral in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale will require an amendment to the current permit. Permits to drill vertical wells are issued routinely and in a timely manner by the Office of Conservation.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Burch

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Mandeville Fracking

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg On Behalf Of LDNR Public Information  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:25 PM  
To: Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
Subject: FW: Mandeville Fracking

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Ridgeway [<mailto:michael.ridgeway@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:00 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Mandeville Fracking

I vehemently oppose this fracking. Please make note.

Wind, solar, and clean energy sources should be the focus of any responsible government- not pollution and destroying one of Louisiana's greatest aquifers.

We ruined our wetlands once, let's not do it again.

Michael J. Ridgeway  
504-259-3111

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2014 3:15 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: NBC Press Release  
**Attachments:** For release.doc

See attached for Helis comments

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

**From:** Don Shea [mailto:donshea0220@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2014 3:03 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Fwd: NBC Press Release

DON SHEA  
Director of Economic Development  
St. Tammany Parish  
21490 Koop Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70471

(985) 276-6417/work  
(985) 237-8800/cell  
[dshea@stpgov.org](mailto:dshea@stpgov.org)

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## Northshore Business Council

For release: Friday, October 10, 2014

Contact: Northshore Business Council, Larry Rase, (985)-630-7181

### **Northshore Business Council Issues Statement in Support of Oil and Gas Industry**

The citizens of our Northshore community are engaged in an important public dialogue regarding Helis Oil and Gas's intention to establish an exploratory well in St. Tammany Parish. The study and consideration of relevant issues by the leadership of the Northshore Business Council is appropriate given the community impact of these activities.

As CEO's representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in our Northshore region, we fully understand and appreciate the value that our community's quality of life has on our region. In fact, there are no greater valued assets in economic development efforts than our great schools, safe streets and the beautiful environment our region enjoys. We also recognize that a significant segment of our citizens believe that encouraging oil and gas exploration is not only good for our local economy, but also our state and, ultimately, our nation. We stand firm in the belief that with strong state and local government oversight, we can have both.

Thousands of jobs in St. Tammany stem from the oil and gas industry and hundreds of millions of dollars flow into our state's budget. The Northshore Business Council strongly encourages our political and regulatory leadership to keep these economic realities in mind, and to remember that we are a pro oil and gas parish in the heart of a pro oil and gas state. Our membership supports the responsible activities of those industries wholeheartedly. Safe, responsible exploration is both a regulated right and a community responsibility. Our organization is confident strong state and local oversight can insure the industry meets its responsibility to the community.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:51 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: No fracking

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Tara Zeller [<mailto:tarazeller@bellsouth.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:55 PM  
To: Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
Subject: No fracking

Gentlemen,

I am a lifelong resident of St Tammany Parish and the mother of 3 school age children who were also born here and have lived their entire lives in Covington.

I am steadfastly opposed to fracking in our parish and ask that the DNR not grant a permit to Helis that will allow them to put our water and natural resources at risk. The desire of a few to make money should not outweigh the interests of thousands of people who will bear the brunt of their activities and who stand to suffer irreparable damage like that suffered in other places where fracking has been permitted.

Please respect the wishes of our citizens and uphold your duty to protect our health and welfare. Deny Helis Oil's permit application.

Thank you,

Tara Zeller

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 2:08 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Oct 30, 2014 -400 Homes evacuated due to hydraulic fracturing gas well leak

For Helis hearing file

Patrick Courreges  
Department of Natural Resources  
225-454-8223

---

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens [terri@lsarchitecture.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 2:06 PM  
**To:** 'Farabee, Michael V MVN'; Robert M MVN Tewis; Elizabeth Johnson (DEQ); Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Cc:** Jake Groby; Greg Lemons; 'Jordan, Lisa W'; Marianne Cufone  
**Subject:** Oct 30, 2014 -400 Homes evacuated due to hydraulic fracturing gas well leak

<http://fracking.einnews.com/article/231979951/dOUYe7IF1Im-vOdu?n=2&code=5CMCg4ac48UddAKT>

With each passing day, another tale of an unplanned, unexpected well failure somewhere in the US-this time, Ohio. This is not an anomaly, this is a reality of the industry and I hope that your consideration of the real and lethal risks are being fully considered as you ponder the permit request of Helis Oil and Gas to begin exploration and subsequent fracking in STP.

Their hydraulic fracturing and well boring activities will affect the entire Parish, short term and long term, in relatively minor inconveniences (truck traffic, dust and noise), along with a real potential for catastrophic accidents.

Please deny Helis' request for permitting of any well, as well as any request for mitigation of critical wetland habitat in St Tammany Parish. What we bargain away now will have multi-generational impact on the area.

Regards,  
Terri



[www.LSArchitecture.com](http://www.LSArchitecture.com)  
Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: P. S. re - Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:39 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: P. S. re - Engineering Docket No. 14-626

---

**From:** Dave Easley [<mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:31 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov); Jeff Wells; [dnr.info@la.gov](mailto:dnr.info@la.gov)  
**Subject:** P. S. re - Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge. LA

70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA  
70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

**P. S**

Hi, Jim and Jeff, more thoughts on this permit:

What sort of a bond have they taken out to ensure that all of St. Tammany will have clean water to cook with, to drink and for bathing? If they are confident their proposed operation is safe they should put their money where their mouth is and guarantee 20 gallons a day of pure, clean water for every citizen of St. Tammany if any contamination is found in the aquifer. And this is not even addressing the air pollution issue.

It's not doing anyone any service to think of the initial well as anything other than the initial well of thousands. If you invalidate every comment that has to do with fracking because the well under consideration in this permit is a vertical well then what do you do when they come back with their permit for a

fracked well? It's not fair to them or anyone else to let them go through the expense of drilling an initial well only on the consideration of that one well when everyone knows that they're asking to drill the first one in hopes of drilling many, many more. It's widely known that they don't expect to get oil out of the shale without hydraulic fracturing and that this is clearly intended to be the initial well in a much, much larger fracking operation. **It's fundamentally dishonest to view this application in any other way.**

To illustrate this point I'm going to depart from the studies and incidents we've been talking about in my comments so far. I am not Dr. Martin Luther King. I don't tend to have grand, prophetic dreams of looking over mountaintops. Sometimes I have scary dreams. Sometimes I have funny dreams. I woke up laughing the other day. In my dream I'd been in a bus station waiting in line at the counter. Just ahead of me were several Helis Oil representatives and I was close enough to overhear what they were doing. They were buying tickets to a certain town even though they were actually going to the next town after that by way of a "Greyhound Slider". I'd never heard of such a thing and it was explained to me thusly, "The driver applies the brakes in one town so expertly and with such force that the passengers and luggage fly out of the bus and slide all the way to the next town." I laughed so hard I couldn't stay asleep and I woke up laughing. So Helis is going to slide into home plate like Ty Cobb? "We're only asking for one little, bitty well." after which, presumably, greed and oil lust will catapult them, like the "Greyhound Slider" to their final destination, thousands of wells in St. Tammany Parish. Well that's both funny and scary. It's scary that a bureaucracy might possibly be so rigid as to not see beyond the pieces of paper a particular application is written on.

What the recent PNAS study has proven is that contamination can come from any man-made oil well. That would include this proposed well.

If for some crazy bureaucratic reason you feel like you really can't deny this permit outright in spite of the strong possibility of polluting the water for a million people and the certainty of polluting our air, can you at least postpone this decision till after the courts decide the Parish Council's Declaratory Judgement Case?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/dangerously-high-levels-of-airborne-carcinogens-found-at-us-fracking-sites-9826586.html>

Please examine this power point presentation from a physician and member of the Lubbock TX Board of Health. Pay special attention to pages 6. 7 & 8.

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=32E594EF23E8DBB0!3834&ithint=file%2cpptx&app=PowerPoint&authkey=!ADE6Sw9OLKIDZTI>

Heils is obviously trying anyway it can to get a toehold. They've got Parish Council President Brister believing that they have a perfect record. Juxtapose that in your mind with the Helis gulf accident and the list of EPA violations I already sent you. Somebody who has recently changed the name of their LLC and failed to publicly own up to mistakes they've made in the past doesn't strike me as a company who can be trusted to do a responsible job of drilling a site that's zoned residential. According to the legislative audit,

[http://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/D6A0EBE279B83B9F86257CE700506EAD/\\$FILE/000010BC.pdf](http://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/D6A0EBE279B83B9F86257CE700506EAD/$FILE/000010BC.pdf)

2846 orphaned wells had not been plugged in Louisiana as of July 2013. Do we need any more wells when so many orphaned wells stand unplugged? This is just one more utterly compelling reason to stop issuing permits. One of the reasons the Parish Council is taking the long slow route of the Declaratory Judgement suit is that some council members were threatened and scared that they could be personally sued for voting against fracking. Every single lawyer who looked at that question besides Parish President Pat Brister's lawyer agreed that it was a ludicrous idea to sue someone for their vote on a council and that it would never succeed in court. No lawyer I know of has made such a claim of practical immunity for bureaucrats whose performance results somewhere down the line in injury or illness. Just food for thought. I'm not a sue you sue me kind of a guy but I'm just one of a million users of our single use aquifer.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Easley

310 E. 35th Ave.

Covington LA

70433

985-893-5708

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:26 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: petitions requesting denial of drilling permit (2)  
**Attachments:** Petition WelchWells.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 1.jpeg

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Dale Anderson [mailto:nawlinsgemini@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:23 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Cc:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** petitions requesting denial of drilling permit (2)

Please acknowledge receipt of these signatures asking DNR to DENY drilling permit to Eads Poitevent Et.Al. Engineering Doc N.14-626. These petitions were also mailed today via USPS

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**Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish**

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Lurline A. Cowan</i> LURSTIE A. COWAN	1187 SCARLET OAK LN Mandeville, LA	NOV 16, 2014
2	<i>Carol L. Hoppens</i> Carol L. Hoppens	105 Perret Dr Slidell LA 70461	11/16/14
3	<i>Ken Hoppens</i> Ken Hoppens	105 Perret Dr. Slidell 70461 LA	11/16/14
4	<i>Rebecca O'Brien</i> Rebecca O'Brien	144 Windover Rd. Bush, LA 70431	11/16/14
5	<i>Lisa Knickerbocker</i> Lisa S. Knickerbocker	103 North Dr. Covington LA 70433	11/16/14
6	<i>Paulette K. Smith</i> PAULETTE K. SMITH	432 NORTH PARK BLVD. COVINGTON, LA 70433	11/16/14
7	<i>Ben Fox</i> Ben Fox	2606 Frenchmen St New Orleans LA 70116	11/16/14
8	<i>Danna Robinson</i>	58405 CHACTAW Slidell	11/16
9	<i>L. B. Fox</i>	201 Shavnell Dr. Mandeville LA 70448	11/16
10	<i>Clairc Spang</i>	132 Water Oak Lane Mandeville, LA	11/16
11	<i>James M. Moore</i>	21190 Marsai Rd Bush LA 70431	
12	<i>Robert R. R.</i>	20430 INDIAN TRAIL ABITA Springs, LA 70430	11/16

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish**

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

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**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Maurice J. Dupre</i> MAURICE J. DUPRE	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	15 Nov 2014
2	<i>Vickie O'Hara</i> VICKIE O'HARA	1281 DOVE PK RD CUMMINGTON LA 70133	10-15 2014
3	<i>Louis M. Bertucci Jr.</i> LOUIS M. BERTUCCI JR	44021 Nicholas Cir. Hammond LA 70403	10-15-14
4	<i>Simone R. Bertucci</i> Simone R Bertucci	44021 Nicholas Circle Hammond LA 70403	10-15-14
5	<i>Barbara Wade</i>	14074 W. Fitzsimons Rd	11/15/14
6	<i>Norman Roche</i> Norman Roche	24005 Robali Dr BUSH LA 70431	11/15/14
7	<i>Camille McCarron</i> CAMILLE MCCARRON	922 Village Walk Covington LA 70433	11/15/14
8	<i>MICHAEL SHARP</i>	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
9	<i>Leanne Sharp</i>	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
10	<i>Belva Locker</i>	342 Huntington Dr Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
11	<i>MARGIE HUPER</i> Camilla Dimitri	1617 VELA COVE Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
12	<i>Aurelio Fonseca Perez</i> Aurelio Fonseca Perez	18307 Pelle Grain Dr Covington LA 70435	

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**OVER →**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:25 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Petitions to deny permit Eads Poitevot Et.Al group 1  
**Attachments:** Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 1.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 2.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 3.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 4.jpeg

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Dale Anderson [mailto:nawlinsgemini@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:16 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Cc:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Petitions to deny permit Eads Poitevot Et.Al group 1

Please acknowledge receipt of these signatures asking DNR to DENY drilling permit to Eads Poitevot Et.Al. Engineering Doc N.14-626. These petitions were also mailed today via USPS

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**Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish**

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

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1	<i>Maurice J. Dupre</i> MAURICE J. DUPRE	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	15 Nov 2014
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9	<i>Leanne Sharp</i>	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
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11	<i>MARGIE HUPER</i> Camilla Dimitri	1617 VELA COVE Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
12	<i>Aurelio Fonseca Perez</i> Aurelio Fonseca Perez	18307 Pelle Grain Dr Covington LA 70435	

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**OVER →**

MARY TERRELL

74373 Military Rd  
Covington, LA 70435

11/15/14

Petra Clark

203 W. 21st Ave  
Covington 70433

11/15/14

Alexa Mumflem

~~2512~~ 2512 Crossway Ct  
mandeville, LA 70418

11/15/14

Tern Box

214 Maryland Dr  
Luling, LA 70070

11/15/14

**Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish**

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
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**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	Bethie Kingston OKant	274 Citrus Rd River Ridge, LA 70123	11/15/14
2	JEFF KASDA	274 Citrus Rd River Ridge, LA 70123	
3	PAUL MCKONIE Paul McKonie	117 JANEDA SLIDELL, LA. 70460	11/15/14
4	John Barrett	661 Picque St Mandeville LA 70448	11/15/14
5	Annette D. Carby	32 Magnolia Gardens Covington 70435	11/15
6	James Madon	48 Gardenia Covington, LA	11/15
7	Kelli Esking Kelli F. Esking	98 Gardenia Dr. Covington, LA 70435	
8	REBECCA BREAUD Rebecca A. Breaud	13391 STONELAKE DR. FOLSOM, LA 70437	11/15
9	Debbie Morvant Debbie Morvant	305 E-15th Ave Cov La 70433	11/15
10	URBAIN A. BREAUD UA Breaud	13391 Stonelake Dr	11/15/2014
11	ALEXANDRA MANUEL Alexandre Manuel	101 SHERRY LN MANDÉVILLE	11.15.14
12	J.P. Gilles JP Gilles	117 Black Oak Lane Madisonville, LA 70449	11.15.14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

OVER →

13. Jim Willoughby 942 Village Walk Covington LA 70433  
 Ulrich Starke 942 Village Walk Covington LA 70433
14. Hallie ~~McMullen~~ ~~2312 Crossing St~~ ~~mandeville, LA~~ 11/15/14
15. Sophia Chiasson 788 Monterey Dr. Mandeville, LA 11/15/14
16. Mary Kraft Mary Kraft 568 Tanager mandeville, LA 70048 11/15/14

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Please base your decision on reality for Helis Well in St. Tammany

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Please base your decision on reality for Helis Well in St. Tammany

---

**From:** Avery Munson [mailto:Avery.Munson@mammoet.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 11:15 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Please base your decision on reality for Helis Well in St. Tammany

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a veteran of 20 years in the drilling operations(rig based).

My opinions are based on experience and knowledge of the oil and gas industry.

We all know the productive zones (if verified as such) are thousands of feet below any groundwater / reservoirs. IF there could be any migration it would be through lack of well integrity. This , of course, will show while drilling or producing. DNR could require additional Well Integrity Tests if so desired. I implore you to follow your mission prudently judge this project on science, not hysteria. Please rely on your standards, guidelines, and industry best practices to allow this project to move forward.

The reality:

Public opposition is being fanned by those that do not have the knowledge or experience to offer an objection based on science. The Hollywood actor will still be able to fish and crab – the children will still be safe in school. ( side bar - Did you ever notice it's always about the children, no matter what the issue?). A heavy rain will introduce more pollutants and hydrocarbons from street runoff than this well will.

Most of LA is a wetland, and permits are routinely issued to prudent operators.

Helis is a prudent operator.

DNR oversight is qualified and capable to oversee this project.

Thank you for your service, time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

## **Avery Munson**

Commercial Manager Americas



Mammoet Salvage Americas Inc.  
20525 FM 521  
Rosharon, TX 77583  
USA

Phone (281) 369-2200 (24/7)  
Mobile (832) 584-4260  
E-mail [Avery.Munson@mammoet.com](mailto:Avery.Munson@mammoet.com)  
Web [www.mammoetsalvage.com](http://www.mammoetsalvage.com)



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**MAMMOET THE BIGGEST THING WE MOVE IS TIME**

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:11 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Please DENY Fracking Permit request by Helis

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** yoga liz [mailto:yoga\_liz@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Please DENY Fracking Permit request by Helis

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Courreges:

Thank you for holding the recent permit hearing in a public forum, so that citizens could voice their concerns, opinions, and present facts regarding the dangers of hydrolic fracturing. I probably do not need to go into a rundown of all of the cons here, as you got an ear full of them - based not on hearsay, but on factual data, experience and scientific studies.

In the end, the bottom line is: any risk to our sole-source aquifer is unacceptable. We can live without 'oil and gas' and the dubious claims of 'increased employment opportunities' but we cannot live without water. Without a clean source of water to support the families and businesses here, this parish will not flourish, but die - no matter how much oil and gas you extract from it. As one of the citizen speakers rightly pointed out (who was also a lawyer defending the oil and gas industry for many years)...he has a job because accidents happen - 100's of cases per day handled just by his firm. Helis cannot and WOULD NOT guarantee no accidents...because they can't but they are asking YOU to gamble their non-guarantee and risk our singular water supply? That's ludicrous and criminal. We ask that you do what must be done, based on your sworn duties and REFUSE this permit. Do the right thing and the lawful thing.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Sincerely

Liz Bragdon  
503 S. Vermont St  
Covington LA 70433

The purpose of educating children is to let goodness flower in them and to help them see that knowledge is one small corner of a vast field. J. Krishnamurti

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**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 4:48 PM

**To:** chipmaught@gmail.com; Peggy Maught; Tom Himes; Gordon Cain; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Daniel Henry; David Acquistapace (david551973@yahoo.com); garrett acquistapace; Pete McEnery; martha.mcenery@gmail.com; Hy McEnery; Larry Ringham

**CC:** Larry Rase; 'Bruce Wainer' (bruce@wainerco.com)

**Subject:** FW: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

**Attachments:** Northshore\_Business\_Release.pdf

See below. Very important regional business support for Helis announced this afternoon by every business group in the area, beginning with the Northshore Business Council and all of the following business groups in the region:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

October 30, 2014

**Contact Information:**

Caitlin Berni, Greater New Orleans  
[cberni@gnoinc.org](mailto:cberni@gnoinc.org)

**Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council  
In Support of Energy Industry**

*Businesses Support Safe Exploration in Louisiana*

**NEW ORLEANS** -- The undersigned organizations endorse the Northshore Business Council

position of support for the oil and gas industry. Our organizations are in favor of production in Greater New Orleans and Louisiana, done in a safe and responsible manner, confident that strong state and local oversight can ensure the industry meets the needs of the community.

The importance of the energy industry to our state cannot be overstated. The industry supports over 300,000 jobs and \$20.5 billion in household earnings in Louisiana. The industry paid nearly \$1.5 billion in Louisiana taxes— 15% of the total taxes collected in Louisiana. Louisiana is leading America's energy boom, but we risk turning this boom into a bust if we do not support safe and responsible exploration and production.

You can read the Northshore Business Council's [statement of support here](#).

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

###

365 Canal Street, Suite 2300, New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: 504.527.6900 Fax: 504.527.6970 [www.gnoinc.org](http://www.gnoinc.org)

### **Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109

Cell: 713-540-8577

E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)

[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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For release: Friday, October 10, 2014

Contact: Northshore Business Council, Larry Rase, (985)-630-7181

**Northshore Business Council Issues Statement in Support of Oil and Gas Industry**

The citizens of our Northshore community are engaged in an important public dialogue regarding Helis Oil and Gas's intention to establish an exploratory well in St. Tammany Parish. The study and consideration of relevant issues by the leadership of the Northshore Business Council is appropriate given the community impact of these activities.

As CEO's representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in our Northshore region, we fully understand and appreciate the value that our community's quality of life has on our region. In fact, there are no greater valued assets in economic development efforts than our great schools, safe streets and the beautiful environment our region enjoys. We also recognize that a significant segment of our citizens believe that encouraging oil and gas exploration is not only good for our local economy, but also our state and, ultimately, our nation. We stand firm in the belief that with strong state and local government oversight, we can have both.

Thousands of jobs in St. Tammany stem from the oil and gas industry and hundreds of millions of dollars flow into our state's budget. The Northshore Business Council strongly encourages our political and regulatory leadership to keep these economic realities in mind, and to remember that we are a pro oil and gas parish in the heart of a pro oil and gas state. Our membership supports the responsible activities of those industries wholeheartedly. Safe, responsible exploration is both a regulated right and a community responsibility. Our organization is confident strong state and local oversight can insure the industry meets its responsibility to the community.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 5:03 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

FYI for Helis record

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** Don Shea <donshea0220@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 16:48  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

Please shRe this with Daniel Henry

Don Shea

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Donald A. Shea" <[dshea@stpgov.org](mailto:dshea@stpgov.org)>  
**Date:** October 30, 2014 at 4:30:41 PM CDT  
**To:** Don Shea <[donshea0220@gmail.com](mailto:donshea0220@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: **RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry**

Don Shea

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Greater New Orleans, Inc."  
<[communications@gnoinc.org](mailto:communications@gnoinc.org)>  
**Date:** October 30, 2014 at 4:21:39 PM CDT  
**To:** <[dshea@stpgov.org](mailto:dshea@stpgov.org)>  
**Subject:** **RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry**

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

October 30, 2014

## **Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry**

*Businesses Support Safe Exploration in Louisiana*

**NEW ORLEANS** -- The undersigned organizations endorse the Northshore Business Council's position of support for the oil and gas industry. Our organizations are in favor of increased production in Greater New Orleans and Louisiana, done in a safe and responsible manner. We are confident that strong state and local oversight can ensure the industry meets its obligations to the community.

The importance of the energy industry to our state cannot be overstated. The industry supports over 300,000 jobs and \$20.5 billion in household earnings in Louisiana. The energy industry paid nearly \$1.5 billion in Louisiana taxes- 15% of the total taxes collected in Louisiana. Louisiana is leading America's energy boom, but we risk turning this boom into a bust if we do not support safe and responsible exploration and production.

You can read the Northshore Business Council's [statement of support here](#).

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

###

**Contact Information:** Caitlin Berni, Greater New Orleans, Inc., 504.527.6900  
[cberni@gnoinc.org](mailto:cberni@gnoinc.org)

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**From:** Caitlin Berni [cberni@gnoinc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 2:48 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

Good Afternoon Gentlemen -

I wanted to share with you the below statement GNO, Inc. recently released regarding energy exploration and production in Southeast Louisiana.

Thanks -

Caitlin

**Caitlin S. Berni**  
Director of External Affairs

**Greater New Orleans, Inc.**  
365 Canal Street, Suite 2300  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130  
O:504.527.6980  
F:504.527.6970  
[cberni@gnoinc.org](mailto:cberni@gnoinc.org)  
[www.gnoinc.org](http://www.gnoinc.org)  
@gnoinc

---

**From:** Greater New Orleans, Inc. [communications@gnoinc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 4:21 PM  
**To:** Caitlin Berni  
**Subject:** RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

October 30, 2014

**Contact Information:** Caitlin Berni, Greater New Orleans, Inc., 504.527.6980,  
[cberni@gnoinc.org](mailto:cberni@gnoinc.org)

**Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council  
In Support of Energy Industry**  
*Businesses Support Safe Exploration in Louisiana*

**NEW ORLEANS** -- The undersigned organizations endorse the Northshore Business Council position of support for the oil and gas industry. Our organizations are in favor of energy production in Greater New Orleans and Louisiana, done in a safe and responsible manner. We are confident that strong state and local oversight can ensure the industry meets its responsibilities.

to the community.

The importance of the energy industry to our state cannot be overstated. The oil and gas supports over 300,000 jobs and \$20.5 billion in household earnings in Louisiana. Last year the industry paid nearly \$1.5 billion in Louisiana taxes- 15% of the total taxes collected by the state. Louisiana is leading America's energy boom, but we risk turning this boom into a bust if we do not support safe and responsible exploration and production.

You can read the Northshore Business Council's [statement of support here](#).

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
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**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:35 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution-- US Senate Environmental Committee Report  
**Attachments:** Setting Record Straight Fracking Report.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Here is an important Senate Environmental Committee report released today along with the press release that debunks all of the junk science and misinformation pushed by the left to stop fracking. It is a major work of over 100 pages with citations. Please feel free to use it for the hearing next Monday or in connection with the Nov. 12 hearing.. A link is also provided.

Edward

**Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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**From:** Zumwalt, Bryan (EPW) [[mailto:Bryan\\_Zumwalt@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Bryan_Zumwalt@epw.senate.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** Edward Poitevent

**Subject:** FW: REPORT on HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Clarifying the Obama Administration’s Coordinated Misinformation Campaigns

Use the attached version. We made two minor edits to the document. So the attached and this link work: <http://1.usa.gov/1wuT7XX>

---

**From:** Republicans, EPW (EPW)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:31 AM  
**To:** Republicans, EPW (EPW)  
**Subject:** REPORT on HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Clarifying the Obama Administration’s Coordinated Misinformation Campaigns

*Note:* As this email account is for outgoing messages only, please do not reply to this address. If you need assistance, please contact [luke\\_bolar@vitter.senate.gov](mailto:luke_bolar@vitter.senate.gov) or [cheyenne\\_steel@epw.senate.gov](mailto:cheyenne_steel@epw.senate.gov)



**For Immediate Release**  
October 23, 2014

Contact: Luke Bolar, Cheyenne Steel  
(202) 224-6176

**REPORT on HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Clarifying the Obama Administration’s Coordinated Misinformation Campaigns**

(Washington, D.C.) – The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Republicans released a report today, which uncovers the truth behind the science and economic benefits of hydraulic fracturing and exposes the depths of the Obama Administration’s war on oil and natural gas development.

**[Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America’s Energy Revolution](#)**

This hydraulic fracturing report is part of a series of investigations the EPW Republicans have been conducting. [Click here to see the series of work exposing the collusion](#) between the Administration and well-funded environmental activists who have been targeting groups from farmers to miners to rig workers to manufacturers and fishermen.

Key points from the report:

- The United States is in the midst of an energy renaissance, as a result of the combination of two key techniques in oil and natural gas development: hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling.
- From 2009 to 2013, there was a 6% fall in oil production and 28% fall in natural gas production on federal lands, while at the same time production on private lands increased dramatically. Most recent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) estimates show 90% of natural gas and 92% of oil on federal lands is either inaccessible or restricted.
- Environmental activists insist that hydraulic fracturing itself has a devastating impact on the environment, but decades of studies and empirical evidence have debunked these claims and proved otherwise.
- Hydraulic fracturing is extensively regulated by the states and has been for over sixty years. When it comes to regulating hydraulic fracturing and the oil and gas industry as a whole, states, not the federal government, are in the best position to create effective policies that address each state's distinct regulatory needs.
- The Obama Administration and their far-left environmental allies are constantly attacking hydraulic fracturing in an attempt to blur the line between what is and what is not hydraulic fracturing, and to manufacture risks and associate them with the practice.
- More than all other federal agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the most active against domestic fossil fuel production through hydraulic fracturing. Since in many instances the Agency does not have the direct authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing, it is creatively using other avenues such as broad studies, baseless investigations, and associated regulations to make the practice so costly and burdensome, the process and development of the resources will no longer be viable.
- Over the last four years, EPA has exceedingly abused its power in premeditated and concerted attacks on hydraulic fracturing highlighted in three specific cases: Dimock, Pennsylvania, Pavillion, Wyoming, and Parker County, Texas.
- Despite the Agency's efforts and political agenda in all three cases, the facts led EPA to reverse course and end their investigations without the smoking gun they so hoped to manufacture.
- EPA and Obama Administration also gained the support of a new ally, the EPA Office of Inspector General's office, who issued a report setting a dangerous precedent for EPA enforcement actions stating that the Agency can now halt any actions – by private citizens, businesses, and industries like oil and gas operations – based solely on their own made-up assumptions and contrived facts.

- Many of the Administration's policies targeting hydraulic fracturing were laid out in a 2007 report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which outlined the group's favored regulatory agenda to attack domestic oil and natural gas development. The EPA and its far-left allies are accomplishing many of NRDC's stated policy goals, often in response to sue-and-settle arrangements or through a similar friendly petition process.
- Deep pocket donors are among the most prominent activists with ties to the Administration's efforts to phase out hydraulic fracturing. Major environmental organizations, such as the Sierra Club and the NRDC are at the forefront, coordinating with the EPA, initiating legal challenges to prompt federal action, and blurring the scientific literature with spurious studies.
- Over the course of environmentalists' misinformation campaign, many groups have taken hypocritical positions. One key example is the Sierra Club, who after years of embracing natural gas, suddenly rejected it only when the Club got a generous financial deal from partnering with solar company Sungevity, Inc. Notably, Sungevity has received millions in subsidies from the U.S. Department of Treasury and the company gives Sierra Club a hefty donation for every solar panel purchased.
- Among the most visible far-left activists carrying out the anti-fossil fuel agenda is billionaire Tom Steyer who has pledged over \$100 million in campaign funds this year alone to leftist Democrats who support his agenda. Steyer was rumored to be in the running as President Obama's Secretary of Energy and was supported for that position by Center for American Progress co-founder and current White House climate and energy counselor, John Podesta.
- One of the most recent illustrations of Hollywood anti-fracking activists' hypocritical nature involved two film producers eager to accept Middle Eastern oil money to create an American anti-fracking film. Another is highlighted by anti-fossil fuel activist Leonardo DiCaprio who advocates for killing the fossil fuel industry, while riding around the world on yachts with an estimated fuel economy of one mile per gallon and paid for by oil rich Middle Eastern regimes.

-30-

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:57 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Oil Drilling

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** michael boardman [mailto:elboardmano@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:54 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** St. Tammany Oil Drilling

Dear Mr. Courreges:

I would like to express my dismay at the possibility that a permit to use fracking to find oil in St. Tammany Parish is being contemplated. My father was in the business of drilling, in Oklahoma and Texas and he told some gruesome stories about the accidents that went along with the enterprise. Here, of course, what is at stake is one of the most pristine water tables in the world. I urge you not to risk its destruction.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Boardman, Ph.D.  
Tulane, retired

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**From:** Gary Ross [Gary.Ross@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 4:39 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Update

---

**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 2:53 PM  
**To:** Stephen Chustz (DNR); Robert Benoit (DNR); Blake Canfield; Beverly Hodges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges; Kaylin Parker  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Update

## Helis Holds Interests of St. Tammany Parish Residents at Heart



### St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Overview

Helis continues to hold the interests of St. Tammany Parish at heart and America's energy independence in mind. We care about, and are committed to, the residents of St. Tammany Parish and recognize that open and constructive dialogue throughout this process is beneficial to all parties involved.

Last month, energy expert Charlotte Batson addressed some of the common concerns surrounding hydraulic fracturing but explained why she believes the St. Tammany Parish energy project is [poised to make a positive difference on many levels](#).

Furthermore, after months of thorough research, [GNO, Inc. and the entire regional business community](#) announced support of safe exploration in St.

Tammany and Louisiana which reinforced the [Northshore Business Council's endorsement](#) of the project. Recently, documents were filed with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in preparation for a [fracking site in Washington Parish](#). So far, the project is only being met with support from the community.

Contrary to popular belief, a survey conducted by St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce back in July showed a similar sentiment to those in Washington Parish as [nearly 70 percent](#) of the St. Tammany Parish respondents expressed support for fracking. Nine percent sought more information.

The fact is that hydraulic fracturing has been practiced safely for more than 60 years and the technology exists to protect the water supply and ensure no harm to the environment; in fact, fracturing in St. Tammany will take place approximately 1.7 miles below the bottom of the aquifer that supplies water to Parish residents.

As project manager Mike Barham has said, "Helis is committed to [going above and beyond](#) what we have to do, what the state requires us to do." It's important to us at Helis to remain transparent and work closely with Parish Officials, the citizens of St. Tammany Parish et al to educate the public on specifics about the project.

Thanks to all who support St. Tammany's role in energy independence. We will continue to provide project updates and inform the public as we have done all along.

Please take a moment to watch the video below as Helis takes you on a tour of the proposed St. Tammany Parish energy project site. The video explains the scientific process of fracking and how it relates to St. Tammany Parish.

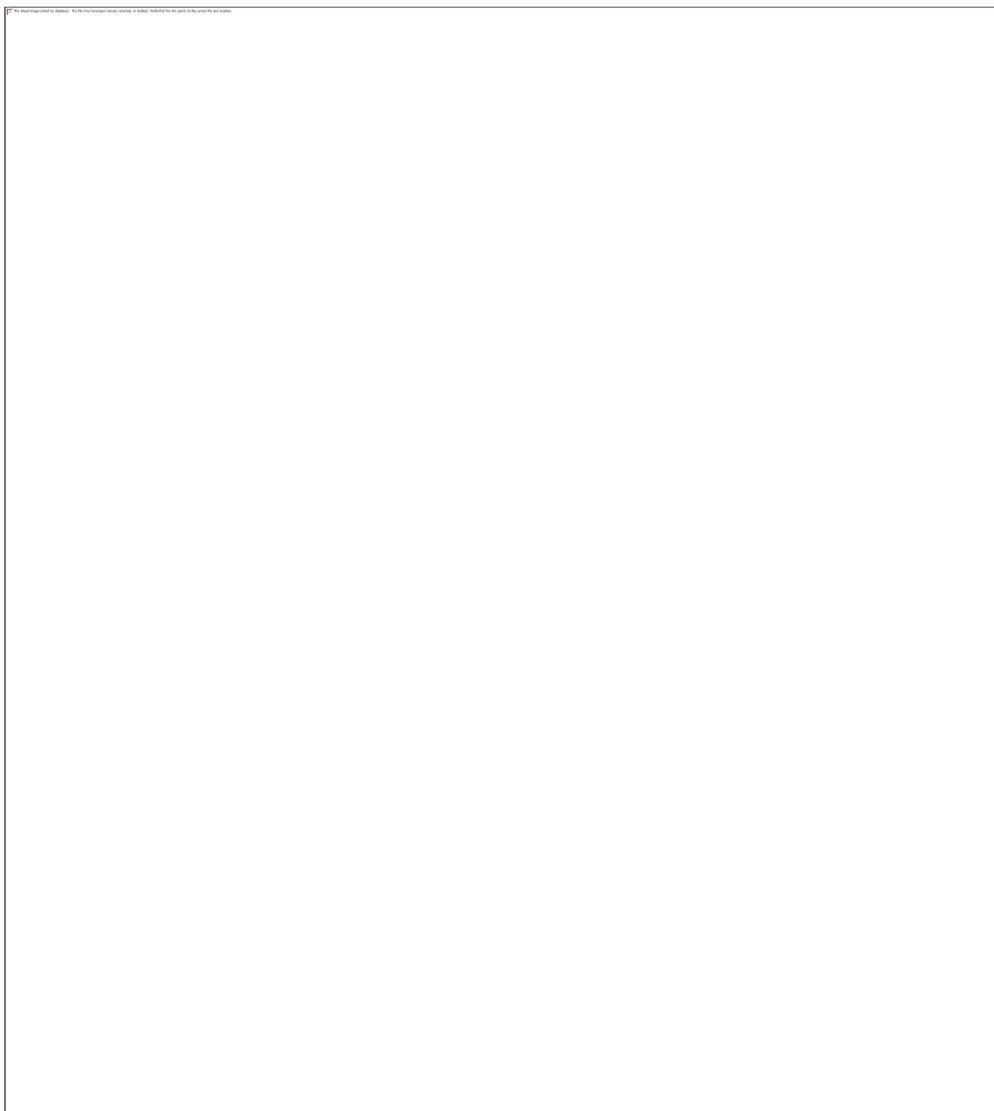
THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS UNCLASSIFIED, EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE, AND IS RELEASED UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS ACT.

*Helis Oil & Gas, a New Orleans-based energy company with a record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations around the United States, has obtained leases and options to lease to explore for oil and gas on privately owned land in a remote and rural area of St. Tammany Parish.*

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## Information About The DNR Public Hearing

Please join the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), St. Tammany Parish Officials and Helis Oil & Gas at next week's public hearing at Lakeshore High School to discuss this important St. Tammany Parish energy project.



### Key Facts Regarding The Project

- Oil and gas activity in this area is not new. More than 15 other exploratory wells have been drilled within a 15 mile radius of this proposed well site over the past several decades.
- Oil and gas fracturing operations below the same aquifer have been conducted just across the parish line in Tangipahoa Parish, without incident and to the economic benefit of that parish and the state of Louisiana.
- There are thousands of these projects throughout the state, and,

according to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials, there are no air, water quality or health problems reported at any of them.

- The well site is secluded and sits approximately 2 miles from the nearest residential or commercial areas. In an abundance of caution, sound barriers will be utilized during the drilling and production processes.
- Fluids to be injected into the well are 99% fresh water and natural sand and ceramic proppants. Any chemicals used must be reported to the regulatory agencies. Any air emissions will be strictly regulated by the state Department of Environmental Quality.
- Three strings of casing will add additional levels of protection for the environment.
- Fracturing would take place approximately 1.7 miles below the bottom of the aquifer.
- There are no plans to access parish roads for any aspect of this project.
- Helis has offered to fund additional traffic control personnel, either through the parish Sheriff's Department, or through the Louisiana State Police, to help regulate any increase in traffic and ensure a maximum degree of public safety.

---

## About Helis Oil & Gas

*Proud to call Louisiana home for over 80 years*

*Helis Oil & Gas is a privately owned oil and gas exploration and production company that has owned and operated wells throughout the nation, including properties in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. The company has had extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in federal offshore waters and inland state waters in Louisiana. Helis Oil & Gas has drilled in sensitive environments, such as wildlife preserves, always with the highest regard for its surroundings. Helis Oil & Gas regards itself as a respectful guest in the communities in which we work and has historically been*

*committed to contributing to these communities through philanthropic and civic endeavors.*

*Learn more about the St. Tammany Energy Project at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/>.*



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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:21 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Fracking: Yes

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Fracking: Yes

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**From:** Paul R. Richard, Jr.,CPA [<mailto:prichardjr@rdgproperties.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:21 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Support for Fracking: Yes

I went to the hearing and I support fracking in St. Tammany. I grew up in Slidell and own property in Slidell, Covington and Madisonville. Thank you for your support.

Paul R. Richard, Jr.,CPA

RDG Properties, LLC

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 1:47 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting Drilling in St Tammany Parish  
**Attachments:** Helis Drilling Oct 2014.pdf

Helis Hearing letter attached

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 1:46 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting Drilling in St Tammany Parish

FYI

---

**From:** Katherine G. Burke [<mailto:KatherineB@blbglaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 1:19 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Supporting Drilling in St Tammany Parish

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,  
Katherine Burke  
Assistant to G. Anthony Gelderman, III  
Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP  
2727 Prytania Street, suite 14  
New Orleans, La 70130  
Phone (504) 899-2339  
Fax (504) 899-2342

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Katherine Gibbons Burke  
719 Pleasant Street  
New Orleans, La 70115

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

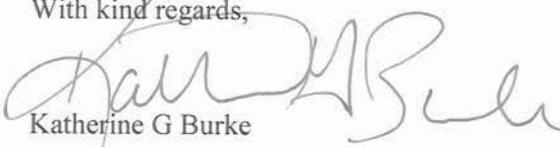
RE: Comments in Support of Issuance  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA

- In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increased energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world,
- In the event of successful development of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale throughout St. Tammany Parish, the positive economic impact would be extremely significant to the Parish, the region and the State accelerating economic growth, thus leading directly and indirectly to increased government revenues that can be used for the public's general welfare including the building of infrastructure and providing important services such as education and health care,
- No studies or historical data substantiate that hydraulic fracturing well completion methods, much less simply drilling a vertical well, creates unprecedented or unreasonable risk to the environment,
- The vertical subsurface separation between the fresh water aquifers and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval (+/- 13,000' subsea) is a substantially greater linear distance, approximately 9,500 linear feet, then found in most other shale exploration and development areas throughout the country,
- Compared to Marcellus Shale (+/- 5,500' – 8,500' subsea) in Pennsylvania; Barnett Shale (+/- 6,500' to 8,500' subsea) in suburban Texas; Eagle Ford Shale (+/- 6,000' – 9,000' subsea) in Texas, the areas of development for shale resources in Louisiana are preferable due to the deeper depth of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (+/- 13,000' subsea) and Haynesville Shale intervals,
- The absence of natural faulting in St. Tammany Parish further reduces the already low possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids migrating beyond the designed tolerance of a few hundred feet above the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval found at +/- 13,000' subsea,
- Based on the facts, circumstances and the specifics of the reference drilling permit application failure to issue the permit would unreasonably and unnecessarily usurp landowner rights and directly result in a taking of minerals under private property,
- The authority to grant this routine permit rest solely with the Office of Conservation and should not be unduly influenced by parochial issues or special interest groups expressing concerns that are not based on facts or science,

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

- Due to the fact that the current permit application seeks only the authorization to drill a vertical well, there is no basis for delay in issuance. As the permit was submitted, drilling a horizontal lateral in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale will require an amendment to the current permit. Permits to drill vertical wells are issued routinely and in a timely manner by the Office of Conservation.

With kind regards,



Katherine G Burke

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 1:09 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting Drilling in St Tammany Parish  
**Attachments:** Helis Drilling Oct 2014.pdf

Fyi

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 1:46 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting Drilling in St Tammany Parish

FYI

---

**From:** Katherine G. Burke [<mailto:KatherineB@blbgllaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 1:19 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
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Katherine Burke  
Assistant to G. Anthony Gelderman, III  
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2727 Prytania Street, suite 14  
New Orleans, La 70130  
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Katherine Gibbons Burke  
719 Pleasant Street  
New Orleans, La 70115

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
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Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

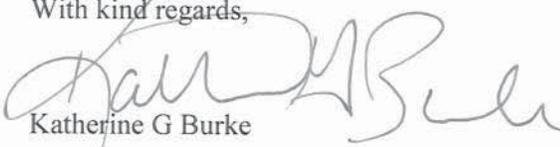
RE: Comments in Support of Issuance  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA

- In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increased energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world,
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With kind regards,



Katherine G Burke

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:19 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Tammany fracking

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg On Behalf Of LDNR Public Information  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:31 PM  
To: Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
Subject: FW: Tammany fracking

-----Original Message-----

From: Yvonne Landry [<mailto:yvonneland@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:35 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Tammany fracking

I am a student in Petroleum safety studies at Nicholls state, and a property owner in st Tammany. Even my professor says that he has concerns about drilling through aquifers.

Nothing that I have learned, is reassuring. Cement cracks, all the time. Wells "kick" all the time. Barite, a leading component in drilling fluid, is a known carcinogen.

Please don't let them drill through the aquifer. It's just too risky.

Thanks,  
Yvonne Landry  
504-231-7011

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fw: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens <terri@lsarchitecture.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 09:58  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Reply To:** Terri@LSArchitecture.com  
**Cc:** Robert M MVN Tewis; 'Farabee, Michael V MVN'; Rick Franzo; Patrick Courreges; Greg Lemons; 'Lisa Jordon'; 'Donald Lee'  
**Subject:** Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

Then I went on to suggest at the DNR hearing that if this is true, then what must be considered by the DNR is HOW the act of drilling will impact this community, beyond the act of punching a hole.

The article, however, suggested that, "According to Courreges, if Helis proves they can meet DNR's requirements, they will be issued a permit. Public comment about quality of life concerns won't suffice to stop it."

<http://desmogblog.com/2014/11/14/citizens-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-s-st-tammany-parish>

Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond simply granting a permit to drill/hydraulically fracture. Your title and authority is Commissioner of Natural Resources, which implies ALL, not simply for oil/gas resources. This would suggest that your authority is to consider ALL of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted. If this would not be the case, then why not simply dole out permits which could be used anywhere? Why care what happens to the lakes, streams, air and earth in the course of fracking it with toxic chemicals?

The specific, and as we have learned minimal, criteria for injecting toxic chemicals into the Natural Resources below us, and the processes by which this resource is extracted, and the resulting emissions, wasted water, contamination inherent with the process, truck traffic and emissions associated with the

mineral removal...must all be considered as an impact of the permit. One effort is not mutually exclusive of the others. It cannot be.

This would be tantamount to suggesting that you regulate the use of matches being lit beneath a house...and then not being responsible when the house burns down. One action directly affects the other.

No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. From my understanding no other community within LA has objected to a permit being granted. For those communities I suggest, live and let live.

This community's residents, however, must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. We have Rights in the granting of the permit as well, do we not? And why wouldn't we, if you are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared- both above and below ground, by us all. As such, should the residents not be entitled to reasonable consideration as well?

Once the resources reach the surface are when they become the property of Helis...but until that time they are Natural, shared and unclaimed. The process is the critical aspect which must be considered in all that you approve.

I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

Because the risks to the masses by far outweigh the potential benefit to one single private Limited Liability company, I will urge you, once again, to deny the permit on the basis that **it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration toward the residents where this action is to occur**. Equal consideration must be given to all who share the Natural Resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-the resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Helis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



[www.LSArchitecture.com](http://www.LSArchitecture.com)

Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:51 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Charles Goodwin [mailto:bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:18 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Cc:** Terri@LSArchitecture.com; Robert M MVN Tewis; 'Farabee, Michael V MVN'; Rick Franzo; Patrick Courreges; Greg Lemons; 'Lisa Jordon'; 'Donald Lee'; League of Women Voters; Joan Simon; stp Jake Groby stp council; stp Marty Gould, stp council; stp Marty Dean stp council; stp Dennis Sharp, stp council; stp Maureen Obrien stp council; stp James Thompson, stp council; stp Gene Bellisario stp council; stp Jerry Binder stp council; stp Steve Stefancik stp council; stp Chris Canulette stp council; stp Richard Tanner, stp council; stp Reid Falconer, stp council chair; m Donald Villere Mayor; m Ernest Burguieres; m Clay Madden; m Rick Danielson; m David Ellis; m Carla Buchholz  
**Subject:** Re: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all

Mr. Welsh,

First, I agree totally with Terri Lewis Stevens letter (below) to you.

Second, granting a permit defies your own Mission Statement.

Third, either decline this permit or change your Mission Statement. (1)

Fourth, if you intend to issue a permit per this quote "“State law is very clear,” Couregess told DeSmogBlog. “If the Helis permit complies with the rules they will get their permit.” (2) then that confirms the rules to get a permit are laughable, meaningless, insulting and a bar set low enough to trip a turtle.

Possibly, and justifiably, DNR may become the laughing stock of all Louisiana agencies, and probably other state DNRs as well.

**PLEASE PROTECT LOUISIANA BY DENYING THIS PERMIT AND COMPLYING WITH YOUR MISSION STATEMENT.**

B.C. Goodwin  
Mandeville, La  
985-635-1900

(1) **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.*

(2) <http://desmogblog.com/2014/10/17/more-oil-companies-disclose-risks-fracking-climate-change-investors>

If fracking is so safe.....

If fracking is so safe, why won't frackers guarantee to clean-up the mess they make, and to provide an irrevocable performance bond to do so?

If so safe, why won't the frackers provide their plan to clean up what they pollute? What is their "Plan B" ??

If so safe, why has the North Carolina legislature proposed jailing anyone who reveals what chemicals are actually used in fracking?

If so safe, why would fracking be severely curtailed if it had to pass the Clean Water Act? (It was exempted in 1995 by Dick Cheney aka Halliburton.)

If so safe, why does the so-called "treated" toxic waste water cause numerous earthquakes in areas that have previously had few or none?

If so safe, why are there more annual spills in the US than Exxon Valdez?

If so safe, why do property values drop, and why do realty disclosure statements now ask how far you are from fracking/injection well sites?

If so safe, why did Exxon's CEO protest fracking in his area, where it would affect His Property Value, His Clean Air, His Clean Water?

The property rights of the Many trump the mineral rights of the Few.

Clean energy creates more jobs than fossil fuel energy.

On 11/15/2014 9:57 AM, Terri Lewis Stevens wrote:

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

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<http://desmogblog.com/2014/11/14/citizens-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-s-st-tammany-parish>

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Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Helis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:32 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: Docket # 14-626 (Helis St Tammany Application)

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LDNR Public Information <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:16:23 PM CST  
**To:** Jim Welsh <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, Gary Ross <[Gary.Ross@LA.GOV](mailto:Gary.Ross@LA.GOV)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Docket # 14-626 (Helis St Tammany Application)

**From:** Erik Johansen [<mailto:covlion@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 12:25 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** [ccst.tammany@yahoo.com](mailto:ccst.tammany@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Docket # 14-626 (Helis St Tammany Application)

Regarding the Helis application to drill in St Tammany Parish, though hydraulic fracturing is no longer a certain/definite part of the application, it still is part of Helis' stated ultimate plan.

The US Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District in their June 19 letter to Helis identified six (6) major pathways of contamination to underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) along with best management practices (BMPs) for each major pathway.

If Helis' application to drill in St Tammany is approved (I am not supporting approval), please require Helis to adhere to the BMPs specified by the USACoE, as a minimum, to reduce the risks to USDWs from oil/gas activity in St Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,  
Erik Johansen

164 Hano Rd  
Madisonville, LA 70447

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:35 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: Docket #14-626 Helis Oil drilling permit

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LDNR Public Information <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:15:49 PM CST  
**To:** Jim Welsh <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, Gary Ross <[Gary.Ross@LA.GOV](mailto:Gary.Ross@LA.GOV)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626 Helis Oil drilling permit

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**From:** Richard Werlein [<mailto:rowfeco@flash.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 4:54 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket #14-626 Helis Oil drilling permit

This is my request and approval for your Department to issue the requested drilling permit as sought.  
The Greater New Orleans and Northshore Business Council both approve, and there's no evidence (only a fear) that fracking has hurt the environment or an individual.

Respectfully,  
Richard O. Werlein

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:56 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: Donald Lee's DNR comments

FYI.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Donald Lee <[donaldplee77@gmail.com](mailto:donaldplee77@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 16, 2014 at 9:58:05 PM CST  
**To:** <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>, <[michael.v.farabee@urace.mil](mailto:michael.v.farabee@urace.mil)>, <[patrick.courreges@la.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@la.gov)>, Rick Franzo <[Rick@uniam.net](mailto:Rick@uniam.net)>, Terri Lewis Stevens <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>, Marianne Cufone <[mcufone@recirculatingfarms.org](mailto:mcufone@recirculatingfarms.org)>, Melissa Pearson <[melissakpearson@gmail.com](mailto:melissakpearson@gmail.com)>, Ian Somerhalder <[iansome@me.com](mailto:iansome@me.com)>, Gail Blazek <[ghblaze@yahoo.com](mailto:ghblaze@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject: Donald Lee's DNR comments**

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

My name is Donald Lee. I am a resident of St. Tammany Parish (STP). I am also an attorney and volunteer member of Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany's Legal Committee (CCST). I am writing to urge the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reject the Helis Oil & Gas Company's (Helis) September 10, 2014 application for a drilling permit for the EDS Poitevent et al. No. 1 Well. For the reasons set forth below, Helis' application for a drilling permit fails to satisfy the DNR's permit requirements.

Horizontal hydraulic shale fracturing (Fracking) is a heavy, brutal industrial process, fraught with demonstrable environmental and human health risks, and therefore Helis should not be permitted to unleash this dangerous technology into the very heart of our community. Collectively, the State of Louisiana's Constitution, STP's zoning requirements, the increasingly well-documented record of soil, air, and water contamination Fracking is causing throughout the United States of America (including in Bossier Parish), and the DNR's officially documented failure to adequately regulate oil and gas exploration prohibits the DNR from granting Helis' permit application.

Perhaps the best way to proceed is through an evaluation of each of the individual the arguments Helis' advances in support of its drilling application.

The law firm representing Helis in the application process, Liskow & Lewis, submitted a memorandum (the Memorandum) to the DNR on October 23, 2014, which asserts Helis has complied with all DNR's regulatory requirements

for issuance of a drilling permit. I reject this assertion. The memorandum observes Helis has submitted its Office of Conservation Form MD-10-R-1, in duplicate, along with the requisite application fee, an Affidavit of Compliance Related to Pre-Entry Notice, and a permit plat of the drill site location prepared by a Louisiana registered surveyor. The surveyor has confirmed there are no residential or commercial structures not owned by Helis, its lessors, or predecessors-in-interest within a 500' radius of the proposed drilling location as required by 30: 28 (D). Beyond meeting these perfunctory requirements, which hardly seem more rigorous than those required to obtain an individual driver's license, and at least with respect to the 500 feet rule are quite literally preposterous, the Memorandum instructs the DNR that Helis will drill and complete the subject well in a way which equals or exceeds all regulatory requirements and employs best practices in the industry. The Memorandum relies on La. R.S. 30:28 (F) to summarily limit the DNR's decision-making jurisdiction from including any land use and zoning rights STP may wish to assert under the Louisiana State Constitution and STP Home Rule Charter (HRC). From Helis' perspective, the referenced statutory provision preempts STP zoning requirements from interfering with the drilling of its test well. In support for this proposition, the Memorandum offers the case of Energy Management Corp. V. City of Shreveport.

Now let's review each of the arguments advanced in the Memorandum.

In its consideration of Helis' drilling permit application, a threshold question the DNR must answer is whether, based upon all the available evidence where fracking has occurred in this country (and not merely Louisiana) over the past decade, does there exist a preponderance of reliable data showing that fracking has caused, or is likely to cause over the course of time, an unacceptable risk of harm to the environment (i.e., air, soil, water) and human health. This question must be answered on the basis of scientific evidence, and particularly through a review of the known environmental and human health consequences of fracking in all the places in the country where it has occurred or is occurring. Based upon its review of the objectively determined scientific record, CCST believes the technology of fracking, notwithstanding current energy industry best practices, including the drilling practices proposed in the current matter by Helis, poses a clear and certain threat to the environment and human health. Many communities throughout the country have banned or are attempting, against bitter industry opposition, to ban fracking, not because their residents necessarily want to continue to live in an area free of heavy industrialization (although that is sometimes also the case), or don't believe in America's goal of energy independence, or are somehow un-American, but rather because fracking, based upon objectively verifiable data, is poisoning their land, air and water, and threatening their human health. In fact, even the United States Environmental Protection Agency now has grave reservations about the potential threats to water sources from fracking and the states' ability to manage those threats, and the

agency's Office of Inspector General has determined to launch a wide-scale investigation into the matter.

Helis' paid experts offer testimony and exquisitely colorful, sanitized, and professional exhibits to demonstrate the fracking process does not pose an unacceptable risk to the Southern Hills Aquifer (the Aquifer). The Memorandum notes that over 50 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the aquifer, that thousands of water wells in the parish are in communication with the aquifer, and that hundreds of additional oil and gas wells have been drilled through the aquifer from outside the parish. Apropos of nothing, the Memorandum observes, "Helis is not aware of any incident involving groundwater contamination in relation to any of these oil and gas wells, nor have the opponents made any specific allegations of any such incident."

First, assuming all the wells Helis references are relevant to the matter at hand, which I question, it is neither STP residents or nor CCST's responsibility to provide evidence the referenced wells have caused groundwater contamination; STP residents and CCST should be able to rely on the DNR to inspect the wells for groundwater contamination. Have the wells been inspected? If so, what are the findings? If the DNR has not inspected the wells, then neither Helis nor anyone else can know whether the wells, or some percentage of the wells have groundwater contamination. Indeed, given the magnitude of what is permanently at stake in environmental and human costs, it would be grossly irresponsible and a violation of the agency's drill permit requirements and Constitutional duty for the DNR not to assure itself through testing that the wells are free of groundwater contamination. Second, to the extent Helis is proposing to employ fracking drilling processes commonly used in the industry, there is no rationale basis for the DNR to limit its well survey size to that offered in the memorandum. Hundreds of thousands of wells have been fracked all over the country. The DNR must make a determination about the percentage of these wells which show clear evidence of contamination, and there are many contaminated wells based upon CCST's review of public reports. Moreover, it is indisputably the case that cement is not a perfectly reliable seal. Over time, with the heat and pressure underground, a percentage of wells casing will fail, and their failure will result in groundwater contamination. In light of the lethal chemicals Helis proposes to inject into the ground, which are not susceptible to any water treatment process, the parish's Aquifer will eventually suffer contamination. The DNR's legal duty to protect the environment and human health from known unacceptable contamination is absolute, whether this contamination occurs in 3 or 5 of 12 or 25 years.

The Memorandum acknowledges that Helis is proposing to drill at a location STP has zoned residential, but the DNR does not have the jurisdictional authority to consider STP zoning requirements in the agency's evaluation of Helis' drilling permit. Specifically, the memorandum offers La. R.S. 30:28 (F), and the case of

Energy management V. City of Shreveport as evidence STP is preempted from interfering with Helis' drilling of its test well.

Despite Helis' argument to the contrary, the DNR's duty to protect Louisiana citizens' health, safety, and welfare is clearly recognized in the **The Louisiana State Constitution, Article IX, Section 1**. Additionally, **La. R.S. 33.109.1** stipulates that whenever a parish or municipal planning commission adopts a master plan, state agencies and departments shall consider such adopted master plan before undertaking any activity which would affect the adopted elements of the master plan.

Helis' drilling proposal violates the clear language and intent of STP's Master Plan as well as its Home Rule Charter's residential zoning requirements. Moreover, the referenced Shreveport case does not support Helis' contention that La. R.S. 30:28 (F) preempts the zoning authority granted to STP government under the Louisiana State Constitution, Louisiana Revised Statutes, and the parish's Home Rule Charter. The ordinance the court invalidated in the Shreveport case was authorized under the power of a police jury. The court never decided whether La. R.S. 30:28 (F) would preempt a parish zoning requirement passed under the authority of a Home Rule Charter, and a Home Rule Charter is generally accepted as a legally more powerful fountain of authority than a police jury.

Finally, I'd like to thank the DNR for giving citizens a platform to express their concerns in regard to Helis' application for a drilling permit. As a practical matter, it has been exceedingly difficult for citizens to raise their voice in a meaningful way against the Helis' drilling project.

First, the very nature of legal and environmental controversies are highly technical, and often require the services of lawyers and technical experts most citizens cannot afford. Second, citizens opposed to the Helis drilling project are routinely ridiculed and even subjected to ad hominem attack in the corporate news media, particularly by lazy journalists like James Varney, whose coverage of the drilling controversy is cartoonish in its simplicity, nasty in tone, and arguably rises to the level of propaganda on behalf of the energy industry (See, for example, Varney's November 14, 21014 coverage of the DNR hearing which appeared on [NOLA.com](http://NOLA.com)). Third, as a matter of public policy, STP government has had a difficult time coming to grips with the vastly complex legal, environmental, social, and cultural issues relative to allowing fracking in the STP. Elected officials are on the horns of a dilemma: under the clear auspices of the Louisiana State Constitution and STP Home Rule Charter, officials are authorized to ban fracking and protect the health and welfare of parish residents; however, if they do pass a ban on fracking, officials fear the parish will be exposed to the expense of a potential Helis' lawsuit; officials would also risk their personal political fortunes to the immense financial and political power the energy industry and its business lobby would wield against them. On the other hand, officials can

fall on their political sword and pursue a path of accommodation and capitulation where they effectively eviscerate resident's legal rights and offer earnest but ultimately worthless assurances the parish will work with Helis to implement safety measures adequate to protect the environment and citizens health.

In the end, the energy industry has come to amass immense financial and political power in this country, and especially in Louisiana. This explains why Helis, even as a bit player in the energy industry's exploitation of the country's mineral resources, is in a position to wield Louisiana oil and gas law like a medieval cudgel to manipulate Louisiana energy industry regulators, strong arm St. Tammany Parish elected officials, and trample on the basic human rights of ordinary citizens. I have no confidence the DNR will have the courage to deny Helis' drilling permit; nor do I have confidence STP officials will have the good sense and courage to pass a ban on fracking in the parish. Ultimately it will left to ordinary citizens to act through the courts and the ballot box to protect their environment and well-being. This is what happens when such enormous concentrations of financial and political power are placed in the hands of a single industry.

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:34 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket 14-626 - Helis Oil Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LDNR Public Information <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:16:06 PM CST  
**To:** Jim Welsh <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, Gary Ross <[Gary.Ross@LA.GOV](mailto:Gary.Ross@LA.GOV)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626 - Helis Oil Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

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**From:** Cynthia Brooking [<mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:39 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626 - Helis Oil Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

November 15, 2014

To: [James "Jim" H. Welsh](#)  
Commissioner of Conservation

Regarding: Presentations/Exhibits and other materials related to Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil and Gas Permit Application and Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Welsh,

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak my mind at the public hearing on November 12, 2014 at Lakeshore High School. This is a synopsis of what I said, and what I did not have the

opportunity to say due to time limitations. Please make this letter a matter of public record as relates to this matter.

First, I want to state that WE have RIGHTS - according to the US Constitution, the Louisiana Constitution and our Home Rule Charter – the right to health, safety, and welfare. Fracking is directly opposite of those things.

I worked in oil for 20 some odd years. Pennzoil, Quaker State, BP, Windward Petroleum, a regional distributor in the northeast, and SK Energy, a South Korean base oil supplier for Pennzoil. It is a dirty, dangerous business. I want to note that I started at a packaging plant for Pennzoil in Shreveport, LA. Of the maybe 30 – 35 people who worked there during the time I was there, of the ones I have kept up with, 6 of us had or have cancer. I am one of the lucky ones. I'm still around to talk about it.

As part of the hearing, Dr Bourgoyne stated that “The Economic impact COULD be considerable”

I want to state that the Environmental impact WILL be considerable. We will ALL have to live with the repercussions of the industrialization of St Tammany.

I'm not going to talk about the aquifer. I'm going to focus on other environmental impacts.

#### TRAFFIC:

Using an estimate of 2,500 trucks per well to carry equipment and supplies to and from the well site, and our potential in St Tammany Parish of 6,000 wells – that's 15 **million** more 18 wheelers on our roads in St. Tammany.

That's a tremendous increase in traffic congestion, potential for traffic accidents, including fatalities, wear and tear on our roads, and every day compromise and delays during our daily activities.

What happens when an 18 wheeler loaded with toxic chemicals hits a school bus loaded with children? Who is responsible then? Helis Oil? No, probably the contractor they will use to bring supplies and equipment into the well site, and to carry toxic waste away from the well site.

For parents of the children that attend Lakeshore School, IF there is only ONE well across the street that means two thousand five

hundred 18 wheelers going up and down this very road that your high school students travel twice a day.

#### CLEAN WATER and TOXIC WASTE:

Using a conservative estimate of 2.5 million gallons of water used per well, and 6,000 potential wells, 15 BILLION gallons of water will be forever destroyed. This water can never be returned to the eco-system. Once it's gone – it's gone.

Water is a valuable resource – just ask T. Boone Pickens, Goldman-Sachs, or Nestle. They are buying up as much water as they possibly can.

From a link on your website,

<http://www.savewateramerica.com/index.htm>, according to the EPA:

- More than one billion people - one in five people- on this planet we live on, lacks access to safe drinking water.
- By the year 2050, 40 percent of the world will suffer water shortages.
- Less than 3% of the world's water supply is fresh water and much of that is inaccessible

In the state of Louisiana *we are giving it away to hydraulic fracturing projects* - even from our scenic rivers! We have already given away 105 million gallons, with more permits pending. In Baton Rouge – our state capital – major industries are using aquifer water to the tune of millions of gallons per day – when the Mississippi River is right there.

What is wrong with this state? It's not like oil companies can't afford to pay for what they take from this state. But even if it were paid for – water should not be sold to the highest bidder! And it damn sure shouldn't be given away to be forever removed from the eco-system. We ALL need water to survive. We ALL own that water.

#### AIR POLLUTION:

Emissions from diesel-fueled engines are composed of thousands of substances including more than 40 air toxics that are known or suspected carcinogens. Increasing evidence links exposures to these substances with lung cancer, upper respiratory illness, allergies, asthma attacks, and death from heart and respiratory disorders. In fact, recent EPA data indicate that diesel exhaust is likely the main air pollutant contributing to cancer risk in Oregon.

Diesel is a dirty fuel. It is heavier and oilier than gasoline. Diesel exhaust is a complex mixture of carbon, ash, and sulfate particulates, and hydrocarbons. In addition, the engine produces nitrous oxide (NOx) a precursor of smog. One heavy-duty diesel truck can produce as much air pollution as 150 passenger cars.

On road emissions are particularly dangerous for those who share the road. When cars follow diesel trucks or buses, the levels of soot INSIDE those cars are 6 to 8 times higher than the ambient air outside those cars.

Using figures from a study on diesel pollution in Oregon, 2,500 trucks (this is only for ONE well, remember) going up and down the highway right outside Lakeshore High School will result in the Lakeshore High students breathing:

1,240,000 lbs Volatile Organic Compounds  
2,717,500 lbs Carbon Monoxide  
32,500 lbs Particulate Matter  
139,645,000 lbs Carbon Dioxide  
3,225,000 lbs Nitrogen Oxides

That's ONE well. Multiply those figures by 6,000 and you can imagine what the air quality in St Tammany will be like. Fracking itself will release compounds into the air such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and n-hexane; long term exposure to these has been linked to birth defects, neurological problems, blood disorders and cancer.

#### CHEMICAL MIX USED IN FRACKING:

Between 2005 and 2009 the most widely used chemical in hydraulic fracturing, as measured by the number of compounds containing the chemical, was methanol. which was used in 342 hydraulic fracturing products, is a hazardous air pollutant and is on the candidate list for potential regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Some of the other most widely used chemicals were isopropyl alcohol (used in 274 products), 2-butoxyethanol (used in 126 products), and ethylene glycol (used in 119 products).

Between 2005 and 2009, the oil and gas service companies used hydraulic fracturing products containing 29 chemicals that are

- (1) known or possible human carcinogens,
- (2) regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for their risks to human health, or
- (3) listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

These 29 chemicals were components of more than 650 different products used in hydraulic fracturing.

Those 2,500 trucks driving to and from the well site across the street will be bringing these chemicals to the site, and removing the frack water which has been polluted with these chemicals. Any kind of leak, traffic accident, or intentional spill of any of these compounds will be hazardous to these children at Lakeshore High School.

**WE WILL NOT GET RICH FROM THIS RISKY VENTURE:**

Louisiana has a severance tax exemption on minerals extracted using directional drilling for 2 years or until the cost of drilling the well is recovered, whichever comes first.

Obviously, this exemption encourages fast action on the part of the oil companies, to drill and recover as much oil as possible before the 2 year deadline. (How safe does that sound?)

**OUR GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND DOES NOT PROTECT US OR OUR RESOURCES:**

The state Department of Natural Resources' Office of Conservation is doing an inadequate job of regulating and inspecting the state's oil and gas wells, and is not properly overseeing a growing number of "orphaned" wells abandoned by private operators, (Legislative Audit June 2014)

The Office of Conservation failed to inspect at least 53% of the 50,960 oil and gas wells in the state at least once every three years between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2013, as required by department rules. That resulted in more than 12,700 wells not being inspected at all during that time.

The Office of Conservation also has failed to develop an effective enforcement process to address non-compliance.

There are many exemptions for hydraulic fracturing under United States federal law: the oil and gas industries are exempt or excluded from several of the major federal environmental laws. These laws range from protecting clean water and air, to preventing the release of toxic substances and chemicals into the environment:

the Clean Air Act,  
the Clean Water Act,  
the Safe Drinking Water Act,  
the National Environmental Policy Act,  
the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,

the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund.

On your own website, Commissioner Welch, you site you list groundwater conservation tips (<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/conservation/groundwater/page3.pdf>) Here's a major groundwater conservation tip: Do NOT grant hydraulic fracturing permits in St Tammany parish!

We have valid concerns for our health, safety and welfare. I implore you NOT to grant this drilling permit or any other drilling permit using hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany parish.

Cynthia Brooking  
St Tammany Parish

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:38 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket 14-626 Helis Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Cynthia Brooking <[sbelle1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 10:21:07 AM CST  
**To:** "[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)" <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626 Helis Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish**  
**Reply-To:** Cynthia Brooking <[sbelle1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net)>

11/17/2014

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I would appreciate a response to this email. I would also like this communication added to the public record.

As I ponder what it would take to entice you to deny the Helis permit to drill, I am at a loss to know what it will take for you to be convinced that hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany parish is unsafe, unhealthy and un-welcome, violates YOUR oath to preserve and protect our natural resources and OUR rights to health, safety and welfare.

Denying this permit is a no-brainer. I attended the hearing on November 12<sup>th</sup> along with probably 700 other people. Although it was not widely reported in the media, even your representatives that attended must admit there were perhaps only a dozen "pro-frackers" in attendance.

Think about that. The OVERWHELMING opinion in St Tammany parish - at least among those of us willing to come out on a school

night, immediately after work, and sit on hard wooden bleachers for 7+ hours – is DO NOT FRACK HERE.

We all gave compelling reasons why we do not want this industrialization here, ranging from the emotional to the factual. You would have to be a pretty heartless individual to ignore the overwhelming evidence that simply put, fracking is bad. Fracking is bad for people, bad for the planet. It is not, and should not, be about greed and money, or the desires of a few individuals with a stake in the profits over the health, safety and welfare of the many ordinary citizens.

This is a democracy! I remind you that we do have rights granted to us in the U S Constitution, the Louisiana State Constitution and our Home Rule Charter - and it is your sworn duty to protect us and our resources. Losing a minimum of 15 BILLION gallons of precious, potable water (2.5 million gallons x 6,000 wells if all goes according to the lease map of St Tammany parish) is not acceptable here -or anywhere!

There was a compelling segment on 60 Minutes just last night which outlines just how precious, and depleted, the world's water supply has become over the past few decades. Here is the link – I beg you to watch this! You cannot argue with the cold, hard, scientific facts that are presented in this segment:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/depleting-the-water/>

As evidenced by the 60 Minutes segment, the aquifer itself can become more and more depleted simply due to the demand for fresh, clean water, for public use. It stands to reason that some of the “pond water” has got to be fed from the aquifer since it is just impossible for the massive amounts of water needed for fracking to come from surface ponds in the area. The Helis representatives were evasive on the issue of where, exactly, all the water will be sourced. Until and unless we know exactly where that water will be sourced, this drilling permit should NOT be granted.

Even if this water is not coming from the aquifer (highly doubtful) can you really justify the waste of 15 billion gallons of potable water when water is such a valuable resource?

The odds of our sole source aquifer being polluted increases with every drilling permit that is granted. We in St Tammany don't like those odds. Even with the cement casings, steel pipes, etc. – these safeguards will not last forever! Approximately 6% of well casings fail during the original drilling. Given they make it past the original well casing process without incident, that casing WILL degrade

over time; that pipe and that cement, no matter how carefully installed cannot stand up to the immense pressure of hydraulic fracturing (given how difficult it is to fracture the shale – how can 2 or 3 inches of cement be impervious to that same amount of stress?) or the years in the ground and still an effective barrier. There will be leaks, if not now, then within our children’s lifetime – the aquifer stands to be compromised, and the sole source of water in St Tammany will be lost. Can anyone even begin to imagine the consequences of that catastrophe? Again, as in my previous letters and public statements in the past – I BEG you to deny this, and any other, drilling permits for hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany parish.

Have a heart. Go against the grain in the State of Louisiana and deny what you know to be an atrocity upon the people of St Tammany. Protect our rights. Live up to your sworn oath. To paraphrase the pro-frackers - Deny, baby, deny!

Cynthia Brooking  
23015 Hwy 1084  
Covington, LA 70435

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 6:06 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** PHM letter in support.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Fyi. Letter of support from former Commissioner Martin. For Record.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patrick Martin <[mart139@bellsouth.net](mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 11, 2014 at 4:37:02 PM CST  
**To:** <[dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)>, <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Attached please find my letter in support of the drilling permit application.

I am also sending the same by U. S. mail.

My previous transmittal was unsigned; this one is corrected and should be the copy for the record.

Pat Martin

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PATRICK H. MARTIN

*Attorney at Law*  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: [mart139@bellsouth.net](mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net)

By email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov).

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patrick H. Martin*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Exercise your authority as Commissioner to protect our state

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** adrienne petrosini <[adrienne\\_pet@yahoo.com](mailto:adrienne_pet@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 11:14:25 AM CST  
**To:** "[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)" <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>,  
"[Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mail](mailto:Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mail)" <[Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mail](mailto:Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mail)>,  
"[Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil)" <[Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** Exercise your authority as Commissioner to protect our state  
**Reply-To:** adrienne petrosini <[adrienne\\_pet@yahoo.com](mailto:adrienne_pet@yahoo.com)>

Dear Commissioner Welsh,  
Ironically, I am writing this as falling gas prices make fracking the least financially viable method of extraction in the country.  
Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond granting a permit to drill/hydraulically fracture. Your authority and responsibility is to consider all of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted.  
No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. No other community within LA has objected to a permit being granted. This community's residents must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. You are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared both above and below ground by us all. As such, should not the concerns of the residents be entitled to reasonable consideration as well/  
I urge you to deny the permit on the basis that it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration towards the residents where this action is to occur.  
Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-- the resultant devastation to our living breathing neighborhoods and environments must be equally protected.

Thank you for your patience and consideration of this request. Please deny the Helis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without secret unnamed toxic chemicals; with more than adequate state monitoring; and with the greatest understanding of the impact on our natural resources.

Adrienne

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Helis Drilling Application - St. Tammany Parish

FYI.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Michel PROVOSTY <[mikepro1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mikepro1@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 16, 2014 at 2:45:42 PM CST  
**To:** "[Jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.welsh@la.gov)" <[Jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Helis Drilling Application - St. Tammany Parish  
**Reply-To:** Michel PROVOSTY <[mikepro1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mikepro1@bellsouth.net)>

On Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:43 PM, Michel PROVOSTY <[mikepro1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mikepro1@bellsouth.net)> wrote:

On Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:36 PM, Michel PROVOSTY <[mikepro1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mikepro1@bellsouth.net)> wrote:

It is important that the Dept. allow projects such as that proposed by Helis Oil to proceed despite the objections of locals. Production of Oil and gas by hydraulic fracturing is vital to reduce our dependence on unreliable foreign sources of oil, to improve our balance of trade and to provide well paying jobs. I have looked at the proposed site from the road. It is relatively open land and drilling there would not appear to cause undue inconvenience to anyone. I am a resident of St. Tammany and do not feel that the the fears expressed by the opponents are justified. If fracking cannot be done there, where can it be done?

Michel O.Provosty  
804 Bocage Ln.  
Mandeville, LA 70471

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error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:12 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA

Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>  
**Date:** November 14, 2014 at 11:14:24 PM CST  
**To:** "Dupre, Maurice J" <[mdupre@tulane.edu](mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu)>  
**Cc:** "Jim.Welsh@la.gov" <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>, Robert Jewett <[jewettms@gmail.com](mailto:jewettms@gmail.com)>, Robert Waldron <[robwaldron@bellsouth.net](mailto:robwaldron@bellsouth.net)>, Ren Clark <[rylaur@bellsouth.net](mailto:rylaur@bellsouth.net)>, Terri Lewis Stevens <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>, stephanie grey <[shgphd1@yahoo.com](mailto:shgphd1@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject: Re: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA**

Outstanding

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 14, 2014, at 10:52 PM, "Dupre, Maurice J" <[mdupre@tulane.edu](mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu)> wrote:

November 14, 2014

Department of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana  
Attn: James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
RE: Helis Oil Permit Application

From: Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D.

I want to thank the commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources for coming to Lakeshore High School and having the permit hearing for the Helis Oil permit application as well as staying to well after midnight to allow all the public comments. As my comments were made at around 10:30 pm, to the best of my recollection, I am not sure they were in the record of the meeting. I will begin here with those, and as well, make some points which were not made during the hearing as I had to cut short my remarks due to the time limitation. By way of background, I received my Ph.D. from the University of PA in 1972, and after one year on the faculty at the University of Hawaii, I came to Tulane University, where I have spent my whole career as a research mathematician and college professor. I received membership in the American Mathematical Society around 45 years ago, and received membership in the North American Society of Research Scientists almost 40 years ago. Even though most of my research has been in pure mathematics, I have done research in mathematical physics and mathematical chemistry, as well as probability theory. My initial response to the idea of hydraulic fracturing was that it should not cause any problem, since the hydraulic fracturing was taking place miles below any drinking water aquifers. But, as the amount of public outcry began to increase, and as I became aware of the move by Helis to hydraulic fracture in St Tammany Parish where I have lived since 1984, I thought that I had better look into this myself.

I was immediately struck by the enormity of the hydrofrack fluid and waste fluids from flow back and produced water. As the US Geological Survey reports, typical well completions require between 2 and 6 million gallons of water with larger wells requiring as much as 15 million gallons. As there are thousands of these wells in every major shale play, this amounts to billions and billions of gallons of toxic fluids being handled and trucked and injected. In fact, the recent June 2014 report of the US Government Accounting Office stated, nationwide, industry is injecting 2 BILLION gallons PER DAY of toxic fluids for either hydraulic fracturing or for waste disposal. Obviously, this is 720 BILLION gallons of toxic fluids injected PER YEAR. Recently, the CEO of Halliburton reported that the new hydrofrack well designs will require 75 railroad cars of sand instead of just 20 railroad cars of sand to complete a single well. Obviously, this signals an almost four-fold increase in the amount of hydrofrack fluid used for well completion, and in fact the amount of hydrofrack fluid used did recently pass 60 million gallons in at least one case. As hydrofracking for oil and gas is essentially underground strip mining, it certainly makes sense economically to

increase the number of horizontal well bores from a single well pad and as well to maximize the density of bores through the shale as much as possible, limited only by the problem of different bores fracturing into each other. Now, in 2012, the oil and gas industry produced 280 billion gallons of toxic waste, so we see that the yearly production of toxic waste is rapidly increasing with time, both by increasing the number of wells and the amount created per well. By comparison, nationwide, mineral mining only produces 26 billion gallons of toxic waste water per year, so it would seem that the majority of the 720 billion gallons per year being injected in waste wells and for hydraulic fracturing is actually due to hydraulic fracturing operations. This means that under the new well designs, the amount of toxic fluids being trucked about and injected into wells could increase by a factor of four which would be 2.88 TRILLION gallons PER YEAR. Now the volume of water in Lake Pontchartrain is only 2.4 trillion gallons, so we are now dealing with trucking about and injecting at high pressure every year, a volume of water far in excess of the volume of Lake Pontchartrain. It defies logic to think that such enormous volumes of toxic waste can be trucked about and injected into wells at high pressure without enormous amounts of spillage and contamination. The end result has to be extremely detrimental to the environment, with enormous amount of toxic fluids migrating eventually into drinking water aquifers and drinking water systems. To give another comparison, the volume of high level radioactive waste produced over the entire history of the US nuclear energy program is only 10 million gallons, the volume of hydrofrack fluid required for what will soon be a merely ordinary well completion. Of course, this is nationwide, but here in St Tammany Parish, if hydrofracking is allowed to take hold, there could eventually be 1000 or more wells. And as hydrofracking has not even begun here, I have to conclude that if it does take hold here, very rapidly the industry will want to use the most aggressive techniques to maximize profit, so we could be looking at 60 million gallons per well, or even more in the future. Thus, we could be looking at having over 60 billion gallons of toxic fluids being trucked around St Tammany Parish alone. Again, it defies logic to think that such enormous volumes of toxic fluids can be handled in a single parish without leading to environmental destruction and the eventual pollution of our sole source aquifer. In fact, this is just what has happened in the shale plays that have already been heavily hydrofracked.

Even though the industry likes to claim that the chemicals used in hydrofracking are only household products and only constitute less than half a percent of the fluid, in fact, many of these chemicals are

toxic in parts per million or parts per billion. This means that the hydrofrack fluids can be thousands of times more toxic than required to be harmful to people, plants, and animals. Unfortunately, many of these chemicals are of unknown toxicity and insufficiently studied according to the EPA's own website. For instance, as a result of the well fire on June 28, 2014 in Ohio, which burned out of control for 5 days causing 30 explosions, a five mile stretch of a tributary of the Ohio River was polluted to the point of instantly killing 70 thousand fish.

Recently, the scientific studies on hydraulic fracturing and its various effects have begun to appear in the peer reviewed scientific literature. The worlds foremost scientific journal is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and it just reported that the well failure rate for hydrofrack wells is between 1.57 and 2.6 times that of conventional wells. Besides spills from the enormous volumes of toxic fluids being handled, the main avenue of aquifer contamination has now been realized to be well failure, as has been reported also by the US EPA and admitted by many in the industry. Certainly, subjecting well bores to explosives and fluids at 10 thousand pounds per square inch has to increase the likelihood of well failure. However, if the well casing and cementing is sufficiently thick and strong, certainly proper design should prevent the internal failure. However, there is also the possibility of contaminants traveling around the outside of the casing along its surface due to failure of the outermost layer of cement to completely bond to the rock and material around the well bore. Notice that the increase thickness of the casing serves also to increase the outer surface area of the well bore, thus increasing the likelihood of contamination leaking around the outside of the well bore, either from the shale being fractured or from contaminants which the well bore passes through below the aquifer but possibly much closer than the target shale layer.

Another indicator of problems with hydrofracking is the fact that the energy return on energy invested is only 5 or 6 to one whereas for conventional wells it is about 50 to one. In other words, it takes about ten times as much energy to get the same energy production from hydrofracking as from conventional drilling. This means ten times as much trucking and ten times as many accidents and ten times as much industrial mess. And because of this low energy return, it only makes sense economically when it is done extremely aggressively with as many wells per unit area as possible. This means that to allow hydrofracking in an area is a

virtual guarantee that it will become highly industrialized and cause lots of pollution of the environment.

I am also concerned that the industry is obviously spreading false information about the effects of hydrofracking. They have repeatedly claimed that there has never been a documented case of hydrofracking causing a well contamination, and Helis has repeated this false claim numerous times in the local media here in St Tammany Parish. In fact this is not the case, because in Parker County, TX, scientists at the University of TX at Arlington found by isotopic analysis that methane from the target shale layer near a hydrofrack operation had found its way into a drinking water aquifer. Apparently, the driller had hydrofracked into a geologic fault of which the operators were unaware. But, this is almost irrelevant. The real issue is whether or not hydrofrack operations are through any means causing drinking water contamination. Recently, peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that drinking water wells within a mile of a hydrofrack well are from 6 to 17 times more likely to be contaminated than those outside the one mile radius. The contamination levels are to the point that the affected drinking water wells are completely useless for drinking or bathing. The drillers have been forced to provide drinking water in such cases by trucking water to the contaminated wells. But the industry has repeatedly claimed that the methane was "always there". This should be an obvious falsehood to any scientifically literate person. Of course, there are trace amounts of methane in drinking water in some areas. But for water coming from a tap to be able to be lit on fire is very uncommon. In fact, a documentary favorable to hydrofracking included old film footage of a public water fountain from a spring in rural Louisiana which burned perpetually. The reason for the existence of the old film footage however clearly is because of the rarity of the phenomena, not because it is common. But, obviously, if such high levels of methane in drinking water were common in the hydrofrack areas before hydrofracking, as methane is colorless and odorless, it would have caused many home explosions merely from letting tap water run too long, as well as many asphyxiations from people taking long showers. But the best evidence that the high levels of methane had not been there before is the simple fact that peoples' well pumps will cavitate due to the fizziness of that level of methane in the water which would cause water pump burnout. The fact that these water pump problems begin right after hydraulic fracturing operations begin nearby is clear evidence that the cause is the hydraulic fracturing, one way or another. Recently, in TX, a family of four, near a hydrofrack operation, was badly burned and had to be hospitalized when their water pump quit working and

they all went out to their pump house to see what was the matter. The pump had quit working, but the methane had filled the pump house to an explosively dangerous level and exploded in their faces when they opened the door. Recently, the PA DEP released records of 243 cases of well contamination caused by hydrofracking and there have been many cases in other areas of hydrofracking as well. So, by now, there are many scientifically documented cases of well contamination caused by hydrofrack operations. A second falsehood announced by the industry is that hydrofracking cannot cause an earthquake. In fact, there are documented cases in both Colorado and Ohio. But, on top of that is the fact that back in the late sixties and early seventies, the technique of hydraulic fracturing was used by geophysicists to create earthquakes, so there is in fact clear experimental evidence that has existed for over fifty years, that hydrofracking can cause an earthquake. Of course the geology of St Tammany Parish makes earthquakes almost impossible, but the point here is the truthfulness of the industry leaders. If they can allow themselves to indulge in promulgating falsehoods in order to maintain their profits, how can they possibly be trusted in any claims they make. Already in Oklahoma, the number of earthquakes per year has increased by two orders of magnitude, and the situation continues to get worse. The problems are mainly caused by injection wells used for toxic waste storage, but that is one of the requirements of hydrofrack operations-all that toxic waste has to go somewhere.

The Helis presentation on the evening of 12 November 2014 would be very convincing to any one not knowledgeable in scientific matters, but when one considers all the lies that Helis has promulgated in the media, how can they be trusted?

As far as St Tammany Parish is concerned, another very serious point is the effect that hydrfracking has on property values. A peer reviewed study in the scientific literature has shown that in areas where hydrofracking happens, it causes an average 30 percent drop in property values of homes using underground drinking water aquifers. This is all the homes in St Tammany Parish, as we have a sole source aquifer. The study showed this is only offset by an 11 percent increase due to the hydrofrack operations, for an overall net loss of 19 percent. The 30 percent drop is due merely to the perception in the public about the effects of hydrofracking, and happens even if the hydrofracking causes no contamination. Keep in mind, these are averages. The 30 percent drop is suffered by all the citizens, but the 11 percent increase mainly goes to those with

the oil and gas leases. In case of St Tamany, this will be a few wealthy landowners profiting at the expense of the vast amount of ordinary citizens. In fact, the St Tammany Parish assessors office reports the total assessed value of property in St Tammany at 2.2 billion dollars. Since residential property is assessed at ten percent of fair market value and commercial property is assessed at fifteen percent of fair market value, this means that the total market value of all the property in St Tammany Parish is between 14 and two thirds billion and 22 billion dollars. That means that the thirty percent drop in market value will cost the ordinary citizens of St Tammany Parish between 4.4 and 6.6 billion dollars and the few wealthy landowners will receive an increase in market value of over 2.4 billion dollars. This is clearly enriching the wealthy by taking twice to three times as much from the ordinary citizens.

The claims of vast economic advantage coming from hydrofrack operations really only applies to rural areas where there is little economic activity to begin with, so that hydrfracking is basically the only economy. Poor people are so easy to take advantage of. But St Tammany has a very strong economy already, and most of the economy depends on the area maintaining its residential pristine nature. If that is ruined, the economic loss will be far greater than the gains due to the hydrofrack economy. Moreover, as the per barrel price of oil drops toward the 65 dollar per barrel level, the hydrofrack economy becomes less and less viable. At this point, it is a bad bet, since the Arabians can kill it by simply increasing the oil supply a little more. You cannot compete at 5 to 1 energy return on energy invested with Arabian operations yielding 50 to 1 energy return on energy invested. The worst scenario for St Tammany Parish would be for the parish to indulge the hydrofrackers and then have the hydrofrack economy collapse at the will of the Arabians after our environment is ruined with industrialization. Then we will be left with no economy. Why should we risk such an economic disaster when there is no economic need to do so?

Finally, I would say to the oil and gas industry and anyone else who thinks that hydrofracking is environmentally safe. Why don't you advocate the removal of all your special exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and any special exemptions from liability that were granted by the federal government during the Cheney administration, all collectively known as the Halliburton Loophole. If hydrofracking is as safe as you claim, then you have no need of these special exemptions. In addition, as there is

extreme risk to the environment and to drinking water aquifers as well as risk to air quality, the industry should pool their resources to form a large emergency relief fund which would give immediate financial relief to the citizens after any disaster caused by the oil and gas industry. There is no reason that the ordinary citizens should have to suffer the consequences of industrial disasters such as the BP oil spill while the industry postpones their liability for years with lengthy court battles. The emergency relief fund could make immediate payment to those who have been damaged by industrial disasters, and then the payments of those at fault could be paid into the fund when the litigation is complete.

Conclusion: granting the Helis permit is not in the interest of St Tammany Parish.

Thankyou for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D., 1972, U of PA

Member: American Mathematical Society

Member: North American Society of Research Scientists

Member: Department of Mathematics, Tulane University

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:12 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA

Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>  
**Date:** November 14, 2014 at 10:56:13 PM CST  
**To:** "'Dupre, Maurice J'" <[mdupre@tulane.edu](mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu)>, <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'Rick Franzo' <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, 'Robert Jewett' <[jewettms@gmail.com](mailto:jewettms@gmail.com)>, 'Robert Waldron' <[robwaldron@bellsouth.net](mailto:robwaldron@bellsouth.net)>, 'Ren Clark' <[rylaur@bellsouth.net](mailto:rylaur@bellsouth.net)>, 'stephanie grey' <[shgphd1@yahoo.com](mailto:shgphd1@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA  
**Reply-To:** <[Terri@LSArchitecture.com](mailto:Terri@LSArchitecture.com)>

Fabulous letter, Maurice! Let's hope that they consider everything when deciding what choice they'll make.

Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dupre, Maurice J [<mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu>]  
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 10:52 PM  
To: [Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)

Cc: Rick Franzo; Robert Jewett; Robert Waldron; Ren Clark;  
Terri Lewis Stevens; stephanie grey  
Subject: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY  
PARISH LOUISIANA

November 14, 2014

Department of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana  
Attn: James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
RE: Helis Oil Permit Application

From: Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D.

I want to thank the commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources for coming to Lakeshore High School and having the permit hearing for the Helis Oil permit application as well as staying to well after midnight to allow all the public comments. As my comments were made at around 10:30 pm, to the best of my recollection, I am not sure they were in the record of the meeting. I will begin here with those, and as well, make some points which were not made during the hearing as I had to cut short my remarks due to the time limitation. By way of background, I received my Ph.D. from the University of PA in 1972, and after one year on the faculty at the University of Hawaii, I came to Tulane University, where I have spent my whole career as a research mathematician and college professor. I received membership in the American Mathematical Society around 45 years ago, and received membership in the North American Society of Research Scientists almost 40 years ago. Even though most of my research has been in pure mathematics, I have done research in mathematical physics and mathematical chemistry, as well as probability theory. My initial response to the idea of hydraulic fracturing was that it should not cause any problem, since the hydraulic fracturing was taking place miles below any drinking water aquifers. But, as the amount of public outcry began to increase, and as I became aware of the move by Helis to hydraulic fracture in St Tammany Parish where I have lived since 1984, I thought that I had better look into this myself.

I was immediately struck by the enormity of the hydrofrack fluid and waste fluids from flow back and produced water. As the US Geological Survey reports, typical well completions require between 2 and 6 million gallons of water with larger wells requiring as much as 15 million

gallons. As there are thousands of these wells in every major shale play, this amounts to billions and billions of gallons of toxic fluids being handled and trucked and injected. In fact, the recent June 2014 report of the US Government Accounting Office stated, nationwide, industry is injecting 2 BILLION gallons PER DAY of toxic fluids for either hydraulic fracturing or for waste disposal. Obviously, this is 720 BILLION gallons of toxic fluids injected PER YEAR. Recently, the CEO of Halliburton reported that the new hydrofrack well designs will require 75 railroad cars of sand instead of just 20 railroad cars of sand to complete a single well. Obviously, this signals an almost four-fold increase in the amount of hydrofrack fluid used for well completion, and in fact the amount of hydrofrack fluid used did recently pass 60 million gallons in at least one case. As hydrofracking for oil and gas is essentially underground strip mining, it certainly makes sense economically to increase the number of horizontal well bores from a single well pad and as well to maximize the density of bores through the shale as much as possible, limited only by the problem of different bores fracturing into each other. Now, in 2012, the oil and gas industry produced 280 billion gallons of toxic waste, so we see that the yearly production of toxic waste is rapidly increasing with time, both by increasing the number of wells and the amount created per well. By comparison, nationwide, mineral mining only produces 26 billion gallons of toxic waste water per year, so it would seem that the majority of the 720 billion gallons per year being injected in waste wells and for hydraulic fracturing is actually due to hydraulic fracturing operations. This means that under the new well designs, the amount of toxic fluids being trucked about and injected into wells could increase by a factor of four which would be 2.88 TRILLION gallons PER YEAR. Now the volume of water in Lake Pontchartrain is only 2.4 trillion gallons, so we are now dealing with trucking about and injecting at high pressure every year, a volume of water far in excess of the volume of Lake Pontchartrain. It defies logic to think that such enormous volumes of toxic waste can be trucked about and injected into wells at high pressure without enormous amounts of spillage and contamination. The end result has to be extremely detrimental to the environment, with enormous amount of toxic fluids migrating eventually into drinking water aquifers and drinking water systems. To give another

comparison, the volume of high level radioactive waste produced over the entire history of the US nuclear energy program is only 10 million gallons, the volume of hydrofrack fluid required for what will soon be a merely ordinary well completion. Of course, this is nationwide, but here in St Tammany Parish, if hydrofracking is allowed to take hold, there could eventually be 1000 or more wells. And as hydrofracking has not even begun here, I have to conclude that if it does take hold here, very rapidly the industry will want to use the most aggressive techniques to maximize profit, so we could be looking at 60 million gallons per well, or even more in the future. Thus, we could be looking at having over 60 billion gallons of toxic fluids being trucked around St Tammany Parish alone. Again, it defies logic to think that such enormous volumes of toxic fluids can be handled in a single parish without leading to environmental destruction and the eventual pollution of our sole source aquifer. In fact, this is just what has happened in the shale plays that have already been heavily hydrofracked.

Even though the industry likes to claim that the chemicals used in hydrofracking are only household products and only constitute less than half a percent of the fluid, in fact, many of these chemicals are toxic in parts per million or parts per billion. This means that the hydrofrack fluids can be thousands of times more toxic than required to be harmful to people, plants, and animals. Unfortunately, many of these chemicals are of unknown toxicity and insufficiently studied according to the EPA's own website. For instance, as a result of the well fire on June 28, 2014 in Ohio, which burned out of control for 5 days causing 30 explosions, a five lie stretch of a tributary of the Ohio River was polluted to the point of instantly killing 70 thousand fish.

Recently, the scientific studies on hydraulic fracturing and its various effects have begun to appear in the peer reviewed scientific literature. The worlds foremost scientific journal is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and it just reported that the well failure rate for hydrofrack wells is between 1.57 and 2.6 times that of conventional wells. Besides spills from the enormous volumes of toxic fluids being handled, the main avenue of aquifer contamination has now been realized to be well failure, as has been reported also by the US EPA

and admitted by many in the industry. Certainly, subjecting well bores to explosives and fluids at 10 thousand pounds per square inch has to increase the likelihood of well failure. However, if the well casing and cementing is sufficiently thick and strong, certainly proper design should prevent the internal failure. However, there is also the possibility of contaminants traveling around the outside of the casing along its surface due to failure of the outermost layer of cement to completely bond to the rock and material around the well bore. Notice that the increase thickness of the casing serves also to increase the outer surface area of the well bore, thus increasing the likelihood of contamination leaking around the outside of the well bore, either from the shale being fractured or from contaminants which the well bore passes through below the aquifer but possibly much closer than the target shale layer.

Another indicator of problems with hydrofracking is the fact that the energy return on energy invested is only 5 or 6 to one whereas for conventional wells it is about 50 to one. In other words, it takes about ten times as much energy to get the same energy production from hydrofracking as from conventional drilling. This means ten times as much trucking and ten times as many accidents and ten times as much industrial mess. And because of this low energy return, it only makes sense economically when it is done extremely aggressively with as many wells per unit area as possible. This means that to allow hydrofracking in an area is a virtual guarantee that it will become highly industrialized and cause lots of pollution of the environment.

I am also concerned that the industry is obviously spreading false information about the effects of hydrofracking. They have repeatedly claimed that there has never been a documented case of hydrofracking causing a well contamination, and Helis has repeated this false claim numerous times in the local media here in St Tammany Parish. In fact this is not the case, because in Parker County, TX, scientists at the University of TX at Arlington found by isotopic analysis that methane from the target shale layer near a hydrofrack operation had found its way into a drinking water aquifer. Apparently, the driller had hydrofracked into a geologic fault of which the operators were unaware. But, this is almost

irrelevant. The real issue is whether or not hydrofrack operations are through any means causing drinking water contamination. Recently, peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that drinking water wells within a mile of a hydrofrack well are from 6 to 17 times more likely to be contaminated than those outside the one mile radius. The contamination levels are to the point that the affected drinking water wells are completely useless for drinking or bathing. The drillers have been forced to provide drinking water in such cases by trucking water to the contaminated wells. But the industry has repeatedly claimed that the methane was "always there". This should be an obvious falsehood to any scientifically literate person. Of course, there are trace amounts of methane in drinking water in some areas. But for water coming from a tap to be able to be lit on fire is very uncommon. In fact, a documentary favorable to hydrofracking included old film footage of a public water fountain from a spring in rural Louisiana which burned perpetually. The reason for the existence of the old film footage however clearly is because of the rarity of the phenomena, not because it is common. But, obviously, if such high levels of methane in drinking water were common in the hydrofrack areas before hydrofracking, as methane is colorless and odorless, it would have caused many home explosions merely from letting tap water run too long, as well as many asphyxiations from people taking long showers. But the best evidence that the high levels of methane had not been there before is the simple fact that peoples' well pumps will cavitate due to the fizziness of that level of methane in the water which would cause water pump burnout. The fact that these water pump problems begin right after hydraulic fracturing operations begin nearby is clear evidence that the cause is the hydraulic fracturing, one way or another. Recently, in TX, a family of four, near a hydrofrack operation, was badly burned and had to be hospitalized when their water pump quit working and they all went out to their pump house to see what was the matter. The pump had quit working, but the methane had filled the pump house to an explosively dangerous level and exploded in their faces when they opened the door. Recently, the PA DEP released records of 243 cases of well contamination caused by hydrofracking and there have been many cases in other areas of hydrofracking as well. So, by now, there are many scientifically documented cases of well contamination caused by hydrofrack operations. A

second falsehood announced by the industry is that hydrofracking cannot cause an earthquake. In fact, there are documented cases in both Colorado and Ohio. But, on top of that is the fact that back in the late sixties and early seventies, the technique of hydraulic fracturing was used by geophysicists to create earthquakes, so there is in fact clear experimental evidence that has existed for over fifty years, that hydrofracking can cause an earthquake. Of course the geology of St Tammany Parish makes earthquakes almost impossible, but the point here is the truthfulness of the industry leaders. If they can allow themselves to indulge in promulgating falsehoods in order to maintain their profits, how can they possibly be trusted in any claims they make. Already in Oklahoma, the number of earthquakes per year has increased by two orders of magnitude, and the situation continues to get worse. The problems are mainly caused by injection wells used for toxic waste storage, but that is one of the requirements of hydrofrack operations-all that toxic waste has to go somewhere.

The Helis presentation on the evening of 12 November 2014 would be very convincing to any one not knowledgeable in scientific matters, but when one considers all the lies that Helis has promulgated in the media, how can they be trusted?

As far as St Tammany Parish is concerned, another very serious point is the effect that hydrfracking has on property values. A peer reviewed study in the scientific literature has shown that in areas where hydrofracking happens, it causes an average 30 percent drop in property values of homes using underground drinking water aquifers. This is all the homes in St Tammany Parish, as we have a sole source aquifer. The study showed this is only offset by an 11 percent increase due to the hydrofrack operations, for an overall net loss of 19 percent. The 30 percent drop is due merely to the perception in the public about the effects of hydrofracking, and happens even if the hydrofracking causes no contamination. Keep in mind, these are averages. The 30 percent drop is suffered by all the citizens, but the 11 percent increase mainly goes to those with the oil and gas leases. In case of St Tammany, this will be a few wealthy landowners profiting at the expense of the vast amount of ordinary citizens. In fact, the St Tammany Parish assessors office reports the

total assessed value of property in St Tammany at 2.2 billion dollars. Since residential property is assessed at ten percent of fair market value and commercial property is assessed at fifteen percent of fair market value, this means that the total market value of all the property in St Tammany Parish is between 14 and two thirds billion and 22 billion dollars. That means that the thirty percent drop in market value will cost the ordinary citizens of St Tammany Parish between 4.4 and 6.6 billion dollars and the few wealthy landowners will receive an increase in market value of over 2.4 billion dollars. This is clearly enriching the wealthy by taking twice to three times as much from the ordinary citizens.

The claims of vast economic advantage coming from hydrofrack operations really only applies to rural areas where there is little economic activity to begin with, so that hydrfracking is basically the only economy. Poor people are so easy to take advantage of. But St Tammany has a very strong economy already, and most of the economy depends on the area maintaining its residential pristine nature. If that is ruined, the economic loss will be far greater than the gains due to the hydrofrack economy. Moreover, as the per barrel price of oil drops toward the 65 dollar per barrel level, the hydrofrack economy becomes less and less viable. At this point, it is a bad bet, since the Arabians can kill it by simply increasing the oil supply a little more. You cannot compete at 5 to 1 energy return on energy invested with Arabian operations yielding 50 to 1 energy return on energy invested. The worst scenario for St Tammany Parish would be for the parish to indulge the hydrofrackers and then have the hydrofrack economy collapse at the will of the Arabians after our environment is ruined with industrialization. Then we will be left with no economy. Why should we risk such an economic disaster when there is no economic need to do so?

Finally, I would say to the oil and gas industry and anyone else who thinks that hydrofracking is environmentally safe. Why don't you advocate the removal of all your special exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and any special exemptions from liability that were granted by the federal government during the Cheney administration, all collectively known as the Halliburton

Loophole. If hydrofracking is as safe as you claim, then you have no need of these special exemptions. In addition, as there is extreme risk to the environment and to drinking water aquifers as well as risk to air quality, the industry should pool their resources to form a large emergency relief fund which would give immediate financial relief to the citizens after any disaster caused by the oil and gas industry. There is no reason that the ordinary citizens should have to suffer the consequences of industrial disasters such as the BP oil spill while the industry postpones their liability for years with lengthy court battles. The emergency relief fund could make immediate payment to those who have been damaged by industrial disasters, and then the payments of those at fault could be paid into the fund when the litigation is complete.

Conclusion: granting the Helis permit is not in the interest of St Tammany Parish.

Thankyou for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D., 1972, U of PA  
Member: American Mathematical Society  
Member: North American Society of Research Scientists  
Member: Department of Mathematics, Tulane University

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**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:13 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
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Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Dupre, Maurice J" <[mdupre@tulane.edu](mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu)>  
**Date:** November 14, 2014 at 10:52:20 PM CST  
**To:** "[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)" <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, Robert Jewett <[jewettms@gmail.com](mailto:jewettms@gmail.com)>, "Robert Waldron" <[robwaldron@bellsouth.net](mailto:robwaldron@bellsouth.net)>, Ren Clark <[rylaur@bellsouth.net](mailto:rylaur@bellsouth.net)>, "Terri Lewis Stevens" <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>, stephanie grey <[shgphd1@yahoo.com](mailto:shgphd1@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA

November 14, 2014  
Department of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana  
Attn: James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
RE: Helis Oil Permit Application

From: Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D.

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As far as St Tammany Parish is concerned, another very serious point is the effect that hydrfracking has on property values. A peer reviewed study in the scientific literature has shown that in areas where hydrofracking happens, it causes an average 30 percent drop in property values of homes using underground drinking water aquifers. This is all the homes in St Tammany Parish, as we have a sole source aquifer. The study showed this is only offset by an 11 percent increase due to the hydrofrack operations, for an overall net loss of 19 percent. The 30 percent drop is due merely to the perception in the public about the effects of hydrofracking, and happens even if the hydrofracking causes no contamination. Keep in mind, these are averages. The 30 percent drop is suffered by all the citizens, but the 11 percent increase mainly goes to those with the oil and gas leases. In case of St Tamany, this will be a few wealthy landowners profiting at the expense of the vast amount of ordinary citizens. In fact, the St Tammany Parish assessors office reports the total assessed value of property in St Tammany at 2.2 billion dollars. Since residential property is assessed at ten percent of fair market value and commercial property is assessed at fifteen percent of fair market value, this means that the total market value of all the property in St Tamany Parish is between 14 and two thirds billion and 22 billion dollars. That means that the thirty percent drop in market value will cost the ordinary citizens

of St Tammany Parish between 4.4 and 6.6 billion dollars and the few wealthy landowners will receive an increase in market value of over 2.4 billion dollars. This is clearly enriching the wealthy by taking twice to three times as much from the ordinary citizens.

The claims of vast economic advantage coming from hydrofrack operations really only applies to rural areas where there is little economic activity to begin with, so that hydrfracking is basically the only economy. Poor people are so easy to take advantage of. But St Tammany has a very strong economy already, and most of the economy depends on the area maintaining its residential pristine nature. If that is ruined, the economic loss will be far greater than the gains due to the hydrofrack economy. Moreover, as the per barrel price of oil drops toward the 65 dollar per barrel level, the hydrofrack economy becomes less and less viable. At this point, it is a bad bet, since the Arabians can kill it by simply increasing the oil supply a little more. You cannot compete at 5 to 1 energy return on energy invested with Arabian operations yielding 50 to 1 energy return on energy invested. The worst scenario for St Tammany Parish would be for the parish to indulge the hydrofrackers and then have the hydrofrack economy collapse at the will of the Arabians after our environment is ruined with industrialization. Then we will be left with no economy. Why should we risk such an economic disaster when there is no economic need to do so?

Finally, I would say to the oil and gas industry and anyone else who thinks that hydrofracking is environmentally safe. Why don't you advocate the removal of all your special exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and any special exemptions from liability that were granted by the federal government during the Cheney administration, all collectively known as the Halliburton Loophole. If hydrofracking is as safe as you claim, then you have no need of these special exemptions. In addition, as there is extreme risk to the environment and to drinking water aquifers as well as risk to air quality, the industry should pool their resources to form a large emergency relief fund which would give immediate financial relief to the citizens after any disaster caused by the oil and gas industry. There is no reason that the ordinary citizens should have to suffer the consequences of industrial disasters such as the BP oil spill while the industry postpones their liability for years with lengthy court battles. The emergency relief fund could make immediate payment to those who have been damaged by industrial disasters, and then the payments of those at fault could be paid into the fund when the litigation is complete.

Conclusion: granting the Helis permit is not in the interest of St Tammany Parish.

Thankyou for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D., 1972, U of PA

Member: American Mathematical Society  
Member: North American Society of Research Scientists  
Member: Department of Mathematics, Tulane University

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**From:** Don Shea [donshea0220@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2014 3:03 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Fwd: NBC Press Release  
**Attachments:** For release.doc

DON SHEA  
Director of Economic Development  
St. Tammany Parish  
21490 Koop Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70471

(985) 276-6417/work  
(985) 237-8800/cell  
[dshea@stpgov.org](mailto:dshea@stpgov.org)



For release: Friday, October 10, 2014

Contact: Northshore Business Council, Larry Rase, (985)-630-7181

#### **Northshore Business Council Issues Statement in Support of Oil and Gas Industry**

The citizens of our Northshore community are engaged in an important public dialogue regarding Helis Oil and Gas's intention to establish an exploratory well in St. Tammany Parish. The study and consideration of relevant issues by the leadership of the Northshore Business Council is appropriate given the community impact of these activities.

As CEO's representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in our Northshore region, we fully understand and appreciate the value that our community's quality of life has on our region. In fact, there are no greater valued assets in economic development efforts than our great schools, safe streets and the beautiful environment our region enjoys. We also recognize that a significant segment of our citizens believe that encouraging oil and gas exploration is not only good for our local economy, but also our state and, ultimately, our nation. We stand firm in the belief that with strong state and local government oversight, we can have both.

Thousands of jobs in St. Tammany stem from the oil and gas industry and hundreds of millions of dollars flow into our state's budget. The Northshore Business Council strongly encourages our political and regulatory leadership to keep these economic realities in mind, and to remember that we are a pro oil and gas parish in the heart of a pro oil and gas state. Our membership supports the responsible activities of those industries wholeheartedly. Safe, responsible exploration is both a regulated right and a community responsibility. Our organization is confident strong state and local oversight can insure the industry meets its responsibility to the community.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 8:55 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: No fracking

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tara Zeller <[tarazeller@bellsouth.net](mailto:tarazeller@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 16, 2014 at 7:55:03 PM CST  
**To:** "[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)" <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>, "[patrick.courreges@la.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@la.gov)" <[patrick.courreges@la.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** No fracking

Gentlemen,

I am a lifelong resident of St Tammany Parish and the mother of 3 school age children who were also born here and have lived their entire lives in Covington.

I am steadfastly opposed to fracking in our parish and ask that the DNR not grant a permit to Helis that will allow them to put our water and natural resources at risk. The desire of a few to make money should not outweigh the interests of thousands of people who will bear the brunt of their activities and who stand to suffer irreparable damage like that suffered in other places where fracking has been permitted.

Please respect the wishes of our citizens and uphold your duty to protect our health and welfare. Deny Helis Oil's permit application.

Thank you,

Tara Zeller

## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 11:00 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges  
**CC:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nov 12 Public Meeting in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chuck and Deb Kirby <[kirby.da.ce@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.da.ce@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 6, 2014 at 10:36:54 AM CST  
**To:** <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Nov 12 Public Meeting in St Tammany Parish

Jim:

I want to thank you and the DNR for electing to hold a public meeting in St Tammany Parish. Some comments:

As I read the tea leaves, St Tammany citizens overwhelmingly do not want to go down the path of becoming another oil patch parish. I would submit that no more than the DNR would permit a fracking well in Death Valley, Jackson Square, New Orleans, or Oak Alley Plantation should the DNR permit a fracking well in St Tammany: perhaps this is legally possible, perhaps not: but regardless, should this be done? I would submit this is a case, like the examples, where the clear answer is : No we shouldn't.

You've seen the statistics so I won't waste your valuable time reiterating: you know they show that fracking is a short term economic shell game where the profits are privatized but the long term costs on the ground are socialized, and among these are the environmental messes to deal with for subsequent generations. In some cases where citizens have nothing they may be desperate enough to accept these terms. That is not the case in St Tammany today.

I see this as a "tipping point" moment for St Tammany parish. I would submit that long term, St Tammany (and Louisiana) is much better off, considering economics, population growth, environmental impact, and citizen quality of life

by St Tammany remaining as Louisiana's oil patch outcast. Once the genie is out of the bottle, it's messy putting ithe genie back in the bottle (see:Denton, TX).

You can help the St Tammany kids of today to grow up and live their entire lives in a parish they love, free from the ravages of long term oil patch economics and practices. Its a step is the right direction: All the DNR needs to do is, to quote Nancy Reagan, "Just Say No" to fracking in St Tammany Parish.

I hope you have a productive and safe trip.

Chuck Kirby  
605 Tanager Dr  
Mandeville, LA

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:29 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: to deny fracking in St. Tammany

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** erlisa boshti <[erlisaboshti@gmail.com](mailto:erlisaboshti@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:57:20 PM CST  
**To:** <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** to deny fracking in St. Tammany

Dear sir,

I am writing from Albania.I know it is far,far away from America, but I feel like it is my obligation to share my concerns about the future of the nature. Nowadays there are only few natural recourses left and if we try to destroy them then we truly are the worst criminals. Like I said before, I live far away from St. Tammany ,but I thought it was my right as an inhabitant of this planet to interfere in this matter. I categorically oppose fracking St. Tammany because it would destroy the only aquifer that supplies 100% of the water for every home and business.

Thank you for your time. I hope my voice was heard.

With respect

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 10:26 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg

Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>  
**Date:** November 15, 2014 at 9:57:53 AM CST  
**To:** <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** Robert M MVN Tewis <[Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil)>, "'Farabee, Michael V MVN'" <[Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil)>, Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>, Greg Lemons <[greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com](mailto:greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com)>, 'Lisa Jordan' <[lwjordan@tulane.edu](mailto:lwjordan@tulane.edu)>, 'Donald Lee' <[donaldplee77@gmail.com](mailto:donaldplee77@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** **Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all**  
**Reply-To:** <[Terri@LSArchitecture.com](mailto:Terri@LSArchitecture.com)>

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

Then I went on to suggest at the DNR hearing that if this is true, then what must be considered by the DNR is HOW the act of drilling will impact this community, beyond the act of punching a hole.

The article, however, suggested that, "According to Courresges, if Helis proves they can meet DNR's requirements, they will be issued a permit. Public comment about quality of life concerns won't suffice to stop it."

<http://desmogblog.com/2014/11/14/citizens-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-s-st-tammany-parish>

Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond simply granting a permit to drill/hydraulically fracture. Your title and authority is Commissioner of Natural Resources, which implies ALL, not simply for oil/gas resources. This would suggest that your authority is to consider ALL of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted. If this would not be the case, then why not simply dole out permits which could be used anywhere? Why care what happens to the lakes, streams, air and earth in the course of fracking it with toxic chemicals?

The specific, and as we have learned minimal, criteria for injecting toxic chemicals into the Natural Resources below us, and the processes by which this resource is extracted, and the resulting emissions, wasted water, contamination inherent with the process, truck traffic and emissions associated with the mineral removal...must all be considered as an impact of the permit. One effort is not mutually exclusive of the others. It cannot be.

This would be tantamount to suggesting that you regulate the use of matches being lit beneath a house...and then not being responsible when the house burns down. One action directly affects the other.

No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. From my understanding no other community within LA has objected to a permit being granted. For those communities I suggest, live and let live.

This community's residents, however, must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. We have Rights in the granting of the permit as well, do we not? And why wouldn't we, if you are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared-both above and below ground, by us all. As such, should the residents not be entitled to reasonable consideration as well?

Once the resources reach the surface are when they become the property of Helis...but until that time they are Natural, shared and unclaimed. The process is the critical aspect which must be considered in all that you approve.

I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

Because the risks to the masses by far outweigh the potential benefit to one single private Limited Liability company, I will urge you, once again, to deny the permit on the basis that **it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration toward the residents where this action is to occur**. Equal consideration must be given to all who share the Natural Resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-the resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Helis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:42 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all  
**Attachments:** mime-attachment.jpg

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Charles Goodwin <[bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net](mailto:bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net)>  
**Date:** November 16, 2014 at 7:17:50 PM CST  
**To:** <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** <[Terri@LSArchitecture.com](mailto:Terri@LSArchitecture.com)>, Robert M MVN Tewis <[Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil)>, "Farabee, Michael V MVN" <[Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil)>, Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, "Patrick Courreges" <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>, Greg Lemons <[greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com](mailto:greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com)>, 'Lisa Jordan' <[lwjordan@tulane.edu](mailto:lwjordan@tulane.edu)>, 'Donald Lee' <[donaldplee77@gmail.com](mailto:donaldplee77@gmail.com)>, League of Women Voters <[info@tammanytogether.org](mailto:info@tammanytogether.org)>, Joan Simon <[joan154.simon@gmail.com](mailto:joan154.simon@gmail.com)>, "stp Jake Groby stp council" <[jbgroby@stpgov.org](mailto:jbgroby@stpgov.org)>, "stp Marty Gould, stp council" <[mgouldjr@charter.net](mailto:mgouldjr@charter.net)>, stp Marty Dean stp council <[mdean2799@gmail.com](mailto:mdean2799@gmail.com)>, "stp Dennis Sharp, stp council" <[fdsharp@stpgov.org](mailto:fdsharp@stpgov.org)>, "stp Maureen Obrien stp council" <[mobrien@stpgov.org](mailto:mobrien@stpgov.org)>, "stp James Thompson, stp council" <[jthompson@stpgov.org](mailto:jthompson@stpgov.org)>, stp Gene Bellisario stp council <[genebell07@yahoo.com](mailto:genebell07@yahoo.com)>, stp Jerry Binder stp council <[jbinder@stpgov.org](mailto:jbinder@stpgov.org)>, stp Steve Stefancik stp council <[steves@stpgov.org](mailto:steves@stpgov.org)>, "stp Chris Canulette stp council" <[canulette@stpgov.org](mailto:canulette@stpgov.org)>, "stp Richard Tanner, stp council" <[ret1186@charter.net](mailto:ret1186@charter.net)>, "stp Reid Falconer, stp council chair" <[rrfalconer@stpgov.org](mailto:rrfalconer@stpgov.org)>, m Donald Villere Mayor <[dvillere@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:dvillere@cityofmandeville.com)>, m Ernest Burguieres <[eab3@bellsouth.net](mailto:eab3@bellsouth.net)>, "m Clay Madden" <[cmadden@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:cmadden@cityofmandeville.com)>, m Rick Danielson <[rdanielson@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:rdanielson@cityofmandeville.com)>, m David Ellis <[dellis@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:dellis@cityofmandeville.com)>, m Carla Buchholz <[cbuchholz@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:cbuchholz@cityofmandeville.com)>  
**Subject: Re: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all**

Mr. Welsh,

First, I agree totally with Terri Lewis Stevens letter (below) to you.

Second, granting a permit defies your own Mission Statement.

Third, either decline this permit or change your Mission Statement. (1)

Fourth, if you intend to issue a permit per this quote "State law is very clear," Couregeess told DeSmogBlog. "If the Helis permit complies with the rules they will get their permit." (2) then that confirms the rules to get a permit are laughable, meaningless, insulting and a bar set low enough to trip a turtle.

Possibly, and justifiably, DNR may become the laughing stock of all Louisiana agencies, and probably other state DNRs as well.

**PLEASE PROTECT LOUISIANA BY DENYING THIS PERMIT AND COMPLYING WITH YOUR MISSION STATEMENT.**

B.C. Goodwin  
Mandeville, La  
985-635-1900

**(1) MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.*

(2) <http://desmogblog.com/2014/10/17/more-oil-companies-disclose-risks-fracking-climate-change-investors>

If fracking is so safe.....

If fracking is so safe, why won't frackers guarantee to clean-up the mess they make, and to provide an irrevocable performance bond to do so?

If so safe, why won't the frackers provide their plan to clean up what they pollute? What is their "Plan B" ??

If so safe, why has the North Carolina legislature proposed jailing anyone who reveals what chemicals are actually used in fracking?

It so safe, why would fracking be severely curtailed if it had to pass the Clean Water Act? (It was exempted in 1995 by Dick Cheney aka Halliburton.)

If so safe, why does the so-called "treated" toxic waste water cause numerous earthquakes in areas that have previously had few or none?

If so safe, why are there more annual spills in the US than Exxon Valdez?

If so safe, why do property values drop, and why do realty disclosure statements now ask how far you are from fracking/injection well sites?

If so safe, why did Exxon's CEO protest fracking in his area, where it would affect His Property Value, His Clean Air, His Clean Water?

The property rights of the Many trump the mineral rights of the Few.

Clean energy creates more jobs than fossil fuel energy.

On 11/15/2014 9:57 AM, Terri Lewis Stevens wrote:

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

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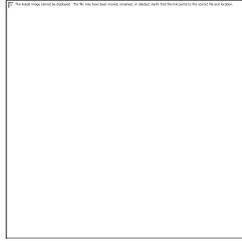
I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

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Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-the resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Helis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

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#### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email communication may contain confidential information which also may be legally privileged and is intended only for the use of the intended recipients identified above. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized review, use, dissemination, distribution, downloading, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.



**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jeff Wells [Jeff.Wells@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:35 AM

**To:** Daniel Henry

**CC:** Todd Keating; Gary Ross; Carrie Heffron; John Adams (DNR)

**Subject:** Helis Permit Objections

**Attachments:** Helis Permit; fracking in st tammany parish; Just say "NO" to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Helis well proposed for St. Tammany; Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.; LaComb Archaeological sites.; petitions requesting denial of drilling permit (2); Petitions to deny permit Eads Poitevet Et.Al group 1; Helis permit; St. Tammany oil drilling; Helis Permit; Helis Oil Permit; HELIS PERMIT

I am forwarding the past two days of emails I've received regarding the Helis permit in St. Tammany.

Jeff Wells

Office of Conservation

Permits Section Manager

225-342-5638

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

617 N. Third St.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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**From:** Ann Kirkpatrick [annkirkpatrick51@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:22 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; jim.welch@la.gov; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Helis Permit

Gentlemen:

I am a lifelong resident of south Louisiana. I moved to St. Tammany when my husband retired from the state. We both love Louisiana and have never dreamed of leaving because of the beauty of the land. We have always felt safe and blessed to have so many avenues of outdoor enjoyment. We've thought of St. Tammany as an area beneficial to our health and well being, an area where we could enjoy the nature's beauty and the recreation it provides. Now all of this is being attacked.

I am writing to urge you to deny the Helis permit. While this company might possibly meet the **minimum** standards that the DNR has established, how can that be acceptable? I certainly hope that you would have more respect for the citizens of St. Tammany Parish than to blatantly disregard our rights to health and safety, which would be the case if you were to say yes to this small group of people who do not even live in St. Tammany.

Please remember that you are constitutionally bound to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents. Mineral rights are only one part of the resources of Louisiana, though they have been treated as if they are the only resources and oil companies as if they were royalty to which we must bow and scrape. Our land, our water and our people should be valued more highly.

The testimony presented at the hearing at Lakeshore High School last Wednesday night should make it abundantly clear that to frack St. Tammany Parish would be a dangerous undertaking that would jeopardize our sole source aquifer, ground water, air, transportation grid, home values and the quality of life in this Parish.

No single company who stands to make lots of money has the right to trump our zoning laws and our home rule charter. It is truly the duty of our government to respect those laws and make decisions based on the good of the many, not the few.

My whole family for generations have lived in South Louisiana and still do. We cannot stand idly by and watch as others rape our land. What would you do if this happened where you live? Wouldn't you feel the same as we do and do everything you could to avoid such a potential disaster? What sane society poisons its own water supply?

The well-informed citizens of St. Tammany who spoke at the hearing voiced their concerns and objections with eloquence and I am adding my own concerns to theirs - for my family, friends and all of us who live and work here.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Please do what you are constitutionally bound to do and deny the Helis permit.

Sincerely,  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
72497 Kingbird St.  
Covington, LA 70435

**From:** debra70471@charter.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:58 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** fracking in st tammany parish

Dear Sir:

I have been a life long resident of Louisiana and a resident of St Tammany Parish for over 20 years.

I know that you probably feel you have heard enough about fracking. I have studied the issue--- read and listened to the arguments on both sides. Regarding the argument "One has a right to do what they want with their own property." I completely disagree. Can I construct a factory on my property that puts out light, noise, and odors, 24 hours a day? Of course not, as it would affect my neighbors. I could name numerous examples such as this.

Is fracking safe? Sure, most of the time. Is drilling in the ocean safe? Sure, most of the time. Please consider the BP oil spill. The damage continues over 4 years later. The ocean is big. St Tammany is small and will not be able to recover if anything goes wrong with fracking. Once the aquifer is comprised, there is no recovery from this type of incident. Why are some insisting on enriching the pockets of only a few to risk the health and well being of the over 240,000 other residents of this parish?

Please think carefully of what is right for ALL the residents of St Tammany parish in making your decision on this request.

Thank you for your attention.

Deborah Hodge  
205 Pineland Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70471

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Toni Eastham [tonieastham@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:32 PM

**To:** Jeff Wells; Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Just say "NO" to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Wells and Welsh:

Thank you for staying last week during the permit hearing in Mandeville. There are so many reasons to deny a drilling permit to Helis and we heard many of them last Wednesday evening. The damage that can be done far outweighs and outlasts the possible positives, of which there are few, if any, for an average citizen.

For me, the worst thing is that I cannot encourage my daughters to return to St. Tammany Parish to raise their families. The health risks around fracking sites are huge, including still births and child developmental delays. I wouldn't want my grandchildren to grow up (if they are born and if they are not so delayed that they never grow up) in an industrialized setting. I will actively encourage them to live elsewhere if fracking comes to St. Tammany.

I love St. Tammany and moved here very purposefully in 1995, from New Orleans. I'm glad I had the opportunity to raise my children here. I consciously made a choice to live here in 2005, when I bought my house for retirement. Like others, I doubt that I will stay if this permit is granted. Who wants to ruin their health or live in a place that will become so unhealthy that inviting friends becomes a health risk to them? I own my own business, so moving will not be an easy thing to do and continue working in my profession.

For four months, I have intensively researched and written about fracking in St. Tammany. I helped begin Fracking 101 and its Storefront. I spent hours with other researchers, who are researchers by virtue of their jobs. It was insulting to listen to Helis' "expert" witnesses and not be able to answer simple questions about drilling and the process.

I ask you to do your job and protect the people and the environment (which keeps/doesn't keep) the people healthy. Hydraulic fracturing is not a safe practice, and in fact, a dangerous one. Now that gag orders have been removed from doctors in other states and real scientists have investigated some of the outcomes, many of the results are in.

--

Toni Eastham

Home:

71388 St. Joseph Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

Office:

607 E. Boston Street, # 205  
Covington, LA 70433

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

985-502-3926

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Allen Bealle [allen.bealle@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:29 PM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Helis well proposed for St. Tammany

Dear Jeff, There are 4500 residential wells within a 10 mile radius of the proposed well. My well is one of these. There is no over site , no liability and the possibility of huge damage to our water supply. The only upside is to Helis Oil. I am aware that this is no longer a democracy. What the people want is not important. But this is very important to me. The thought is that you guys are all wrapped up with the oil industry....which is cool until you really hurt someone. Please do the right thing...many oil wells will follow this one. Sincerely, Allen Bealle...retiree who hunts and fishes...

**From:** Anita Dugat-Greene [blutxwmn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Jeff Wells; jim.welch@la.gov; patrick.correges@la.gov  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Re: Helis Permit, Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

DNR Personnel:

I am writing to in order to go on record in opposition to Helis Oil and Gas's well permit for St. Tammany Parish--but let me clear up front. My opposition is not just a NIMBY response:

(1) I am very much concerned about how hydraulic fracturing has been touted as providing "clean" energy when reports of methane release through fracturing suggests that it is far from that;

(2) I am appalled by how energy industry representatives--including those who were in the forum at Abita Springs, which I attended, as well as those who were "witnessing" for the industry at the public forum at Lakeshore High School, which I also attended--speak in absolute terms that hydraulic fracturing presents no problems whatsoever to the environment or to aquifers. Anyone with a few minutes and access to the Internet can quickly refute that claim, and I'm talking about reputable research available online, not hysteria or conspiracy theories or political propaganda.

(3) I am dismayed by how little oversight there is of the oil industry and by how feeble are the penalties when a company is discovered to have failed to follow federal and state environmental protection laws.

These are national problems that desperately need to be addressed--and if Helis Oil and Gas gets its permit to drill near Lakeshore High School, they will be local problems, in a state with a sketchy record of oversight. A [report by Pro-Publica in 2011](#) indicates that while enforcement actions against the oil industry in Louisiana has somewhat increased since 2003, enforcement personnel in this state's regulatory agencies are dreadfully understaffed--173 enforcement staff for 39,633 wells in 2011. The more up-to-date and Louisiana-focused [Legislative Auditor's report, "Regulation of Oil and Gas Wells and Management of Orphan Wells"](#) concludes that the "OC also does not sufficiently monitor wells to determine if they are in compliance with regulations and does not always take enforcement action when it identifies noncompliance."

In the public forum at Lakeshore High School, one of the witnesses for Helis Oil assured the crowd that regulatory oversight will ensure a safe and environmentally sound operation, but those reports do not inspire confidence.

Helis Oil and Gas representatives, however, ooze with confidence when they describe how little impact this one little well will have on St. Tammany Parish, but we all know that if the company gets permission to drill and if that well is successful, permits for MANY wells will be requested--with more-likely rubber-stamped permission and less-likely public input. The wetland the company destroys here will join the long list of wetlands destroyed in Louisiana--all under regulatory oversight. Potential problems with all that concrete lining that's supposed to keep our

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

sole-source aquifer safe will be multiplied exponentially. Heavy truck traffic--with the increase in traffic fatalities that follow--and the noise associated with drilling will destroy our quality of life in this parish.

Please stand up for the environment, for the people of this parish, and for the citizens of this country who are reading the research and discovering that the promises of "clean" and "safe" hydraulic fracturing--its immense water use, its waste disposal problems, its destruction of fragile environments--are hollow. Please deny the Helis permit.

Sincerely,  
Anita Dugat-Greene  
71484 Warren St.  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

**From:** Yarbrough Joseph [yarbrough.joseph@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:31 PM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** LaComb Archaeological sites.

My name is Joseph C. Yarbrough and I am a cemetery archaeologist in St. Tammany Parish. I have been keeping up to date with the fracking in LaComb. LaComb is well documented on Historic and Native American site many of which I have documented and mapped as archaeological sites with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. There are a number of sites that todate still need to be documented and registered as sites. Has anyone done the required ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY on the proposed drilling areas? There are State and Federal Laws pertaining to the disturbances of Native American Sites as well as cemeteries. It would be a huge crime to drill and destroy these sites. But hey oil companies PAY people off to get what they want RIGHT. I am notifying my colleagues on this matter to ensure ALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE PROTECTED.

St. Tammany Parish Cemetery Archaeology  
Joseph C. Yarbrough BA

**From:** Dale Anderson [nawlinsgemini@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:23 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**CC:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** petitions requesting denial of drilling permit (2)  
**Attachments:** Petition WelchWells.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 1.jpeg

Please acknowledge receipt of these signatures asking DNR to DENY drilling permit to Eads Poitevent Et.Al.  
Engineering Doc N.14-626. These petitions were also mailed today via USPS

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish**

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Lurline A. Cowan</i> LURSTIE A. COWAN	1187 SCARLET OAK LN Mandeville, LA	NOV 16, 2014
2	<i>Carol L. Hoppens</i> Carol L. Hoppens	105 Perret Dr Slidell LA 70461	11/16/14
3	<i>Ken Hoppens</i> Ken Hoppens	105 Perret Dr. Slidell 70461 LA	11/16/14
4	<i>Rebecca O'Brien</i> Rebecca O'Brien	144 Windover Rd. Bush, LA 70431	11/16/14
5	<i>Lisa Knickerbocker</i> LISA S. WILK	103 North Dr. Covington LA 70433	11/16/14
6	<i>Paulette K. Smith</i> PAULETTE K. SMITH	432 NORTH PARK BLVD. COVINGTON, LA 70433	11/16/14
7	<i>Ben Fox</i> Ben Fox	2606 Frenchmen St New Orleans LA 70116	11/16/14
8	<i>Danna Robinson</i>	58405 CHACTAW Slidell	11/16
9	<i>L. B. Fox</i>	201 Shavnell Dr. Mandeville LA 70448	11/16
10	<i>Clairc Spang</i>	132 Water Oak Lane Mandeville, LA	11/16
11	<i>James M. Moore</i>	21190 Marsai Rd Bush LA 70431	
12	<i>Robert R. R.</i>	20430 INDIAN Trail Abita Springs, LA 70430	11/16

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish**

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**Department of Natural Resources**  
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**P.O. Box 94275**  
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**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
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**State of Louisiana**  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Maurice J. Dupre</i> MAURICE J. DUPRE	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	15 Nov 2014
2	<i>Vickie O'Hara</i> VICKIE O'HARA	1281 DOVE PK RD CUMMINGTON LA 70133	10-15 2014
3	<i>Louis M. Bertucci Jr.</i> LOUIS M. BERTUCCI JR	44021 Nicholas Cir. Hammond LA 70403	10-15-14
4	<i>Simone R. Bertucci</i> Simone R Bertucci	44021 Nicholas Circle Hammond LA 70403	10-15-14
5	<i>Barbara Wade</i> Barbara Wade	14074 W. Fitzsimons Rd	11/15/14
6	<i>Norman Roche</i> Norman Roche	24005 Robali Dr BUSH LA 70431	11/15/14
7	<i>Camille McCarron</i> CAMILLE MCCARRON	922 Village Walk Covington LA 70433	11/15/14
8	<i>MICHAEL SHARP</i> <del>MICHAEL SHARP</del>	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
9	<i>Leanne Sharp</i> Leanne Sharp	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
10	<i>Belva Locker</i> Belva Locker	342 Huntington Dr Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
11	<i>MARGIE HUPER</i> Camilla Dimitri	1617 VELA COVE Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
12	<i>Aurelio Fonseca Perez</i> Aurelio Fonseca Perez	18307 Pelle Grain Dr Covington LA 70435	

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**OVER →**

**From:** Dale Anderson [nawlinsgemini@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:16 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**CC:** Jeff Wells

**Subject:** Petitions to deny permit Eads Poitevet Et.Al group 1

**Attachments:** Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 1.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 2.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 3.jpeg; Petition to DNR 11-15-2014 4.jpeg

Please acknowledge receipt of these signatures asking DNR to DENY drilling permit to Eads Poitevent Et.Al.

Engineering Doc N.14-626. These petitions were also mailed today via USPS

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**P.O. Box 94275**  
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12	<i>Aurelio Fonseca Perez</i> Aurelio Fonseca Perez	18307 Pelle Grain Dr Covington LA 70435	

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**OVER →**

MARY TERRELL

74373 Military Rd  
Covington, LA 70435

11/15/14

Petra Clark

203 W. 21st Ave  
Covington 70433

11/15/14

Alexa Mumflem

~~2512~~ 2512 Crossway Ct  
mandeville, LA 70418

11/15/14

Tern Box

214 Maryland Dr  
Luling, LA 70070

11/15/14

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**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Bethie Kingston</i> Bethie Kingston	<i>274 Citrus Pl</i> River Ridge, LA 70123	11/15/14
2	<i>JEFF KASDA</i> Jeff Kasda	274 Citrus Pl River Ridge, LA 70123	
3	<i>PAUL MCKONIE</i> Paul McKonie	117 JANEDA SLIDELL, LA. 70460	11/15/14
4	<i>John Barrett</i> John Barrett	661 Picque St Mandeville LA 70448	11/15/14
5	<i>Annette D. Carby</i> Annette D. Carby	32 Magnolia Gardens Covington 70435	11/15
6	<i>James Maden</i> James Maden	48 Gardenia Covington, LA	11/15
7	<i>Kelli Esking</i> Kelli F. Esking	98 Gardenia Dr. Covington, LA 70435	
8	<i>REBECCA BREAUD</i> Rebecca A. Breaud	13391 STONELAKE DR. FOLSOM, LA 70437	11/15
9	<i>Delbie Morvant</i> Delbie Morvant	305 E-15th Ave Cov La 70433	11/15
10	<i>URBAIN A. BREAUD</i> Urbain A. Breaud	13391 Stonelake Dr	11/15/2014
11	<i>ALEXANDRA MANUEL</i> Alexandra Manuel	101 SHERRY LN MANDEVILLE	11.15.14
12	<i>J.P. Gilles</i> JP Gilles	117 Black Oak Lane Madisonville, LA 70449	11.15.14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

OVER →

13. Jim Willoughby 942 Village Walk Covington LA 70433  
 Ulrich Starke 942 Village Walk Covington LA 70433
14. Hallie ~~McMullen~~ ~~2312 Crossing St~~ ~~mandeville, LA~~ 11/16/14
15. Sophia Chiasson 788 Monterey Dr. Mandeville, LA 11/15/14
16. Mary Kraft Mary Kraft 568 Tanager mandeville, LA 70048 11/15/14

**From:** Sissy Wiggin [s\_wiggin2003@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:03 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; jim.welch@la.gov; Patrick Courreges  
**CC:** Sissy Wiggin  
**Subject:** Helis permit

Gentlemen:

I have lived in South Louisiana most of my almost 60 years - and much of it right here in St. Tammany Parish. I grew up swimming and water skiing on the Mississippi River near Donaldsonville, camping for most weekends of the summer on one of the many gorgeous rivers in our State with my family, canoeing on every little river around here, and bicycling hundreds of miles as an avid biker.

I have to tell you that I am relieved that my parents are gone so that they would not see what is being proposed by Helis for our beautiful section of this state. My daddy grew up in the 1930's snorkeling and sailing in Lake Pontchartrain, hunting in the swamps, loving the outdoors, and he passed that on to his four children.

I attended last week's hearing at Lakeshore High School, so I know you got the message loudly and clearly that the residents here are furious, afraid, disgusted, saddened. And I know that is exactly how you would feel if you lived here. Can you imagine what it feels like for us that this company wants to come in to our area and do this to us - for only their own profit? There is little else that will be gained - other than for the already wealthy landowners whose land they will use.

I have been an environmentalist my whole life - this is not some NIMBY thing. In 1970 my little environmental group in Donaldsonville won the state youth conservationists of the year award from the Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries for the huge amount of work we were doing to bring attention to what the new chemical factories along the River were doing to our town. We also were the first people in the area to do large scale recycling - large scale in the sense that we recycled everything from our families and all the friends we could convince to participate.

So I am not a NIMBY. These are battles I have been fighting my whole life.

I ask you as a citizen of Louisiana, as a special education teacher in the public schools for 26 years, as a rational human being - please do not give Helis the permit. Please do what you are supposed to do and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of our State.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jean "Sissy" Wiggin  
71599 Leveson St.  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** michael boardman [elboardmano@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:49 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** St. Tammany oil drilling

Dear Mr. Wells:

I would like to express my dismay at the possibility that a permit to use fracking to find oil in St. Tammany Parish is being contemplated. My father was in the business of drilling, in Oklahoma and Texas and he told some gruesome stories about the accidents that went along with the enterprise. Here, of course, what is at stake is one of the most pristine water tables in the world. I urge you not to risk its destruction.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Boardman, Ph.D.  
Tulane, retired

**From:** Gilda Reed [gildareed@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:14 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Patrick Courreges; jim.welch@la.gov  
**Subject:** Helis Permit

Jeff, Jim and Patrick,

Please choose people over profit and deny the permit to Helis. The opportunists at Helis stand to make quick easy money and leave our land as quickly as they have come, but leave it in a perilous condition. Our water, land stability and the health and safety of our people will be collateral damage. You can stop this atrocity before it happens. They can not guarantee that the feared possibilities will not happen like in countless other forever damaged communities. And they have no plans to fix what they break as the damage would be irrevocable.

Thank you,  
Gilda Reed

--

Gilda Werner Reed, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA 70148

**From:** Paula Boardman [pbboardman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:12 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Patrick Courreges; jimwelch@la.gov  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Permit

I am writing in opposition to the above-noted application for a drilling/fracking permit in St. Tammany Parish. The evidence is incontrovertible that such activity would be dangerous in the extreme. As you heard the testimony of the expert witness at the recent meeting, (at least I hope you were there), since the drilling would occur through the major aquifer for the region the slightest mishap -- a leaky seam at the junction of any of the hundreds of sections of pipe, the failure of 2 inches of concrete, ever-present human error -- could cause a disaster of unthinkable proportions for hundreds of thousands of residents of the Parish. And since we rely on the purity of the water as it rises from the earth, there is no infrastructure in place to do anything about it. Think about it today: how often do you turn on a tap or drink from a water bottle, or wash your hands, or bathe or brush your teeth. Think about this precious resource being destroyed for the greed of a few oil and gas executives. It is well known in Louisiana that the Oil and Gas industry gets a pass to do whatever it wants to do with little or no oversight. Permits have been rubber stamped for so long that you will understand why we are PLEADING with you to simply do your job and recognize that this is too risky an endeavor to receive your approval. At the very least, there needs to be much more investigation of the possibility of destructive consequences of such drilling and assurances of legally-binding liability for Helis oil. The very fact that a governor (who is clearly trying to run for president), gives these executives a "free" ride should tell us all a great deal. Please consult your own good hearts and consciences when you make this decision.

Sincerely,

Paula B. Boardman  
76337 Robinson Rd.  
Folsom, LA 70437

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Joan Simon [joan154.simon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:00 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Jim Welch; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** HELIS PERMIT

Gentlemen:

I am a 30 year resident of St. Tammany Parish and am writing to urge you to deny the Helis permit. While this company might possibly meet the minimum standards that the DNR has established, how can that be acceptable? I am not assuming you would be basing your decision on these narrow guidelines but in view of the history of your agency, I feel compelled to mention it. I certainly hope that you would have more respect for the citizens of St. Tammany Parish than to blatantly disregard our rights to health and safety, which would be the case if you were to say yes to this small group of people who do not even live in St. Tammany.

Despite the past history of your agency to rubber stamp most, if not all, oil permits, please remember that you are constitutionally bound to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents. Mineral rights are only one part of the resources of Louisiana, though they have been treated as if they are the only resources and oil companies as if they were royalty to which we must bow and scrape.

The testimony presented at the hearing at Lakeshore High School last Wednesday night should make it abundantly clear that to frack St. Tammany Parish would be a dangerous undertaking that would jeopardize our sole source aquifer, ground water, air, transportation grid, home values and the quality of life in this Parish.

No single company who stands to make lots of money has the right to trump our zoning laws and our home rule charter. It is truly the duty of our government to respect those laws and make decisions based on the good of the many, not the few.

This morning when I awakened I brushed my teeth, took a shower, boiled water for tea, and did dishes in my kitchen sink. As I did these routine tasks a huge wave of fear came over me - because I realized that I could not safely lead my life - nor could my husband, my daughter and son-in-law and 4 year old granddaughter - if fracking poisoned the water we all rely on as is our right. What would you do if this happened where you live? Wouldn't you feel the same as we do and do everything you could to avoid such a potential disaster? What sane society poisons its own water supply?

The well-informed citizens of St. Tammany who spoke at the hearing voiced their concerns and objections with eloquence and I am adding my own concerns to theirs - for my family, friends and all of us who live and work here.

Please do what you are constitutionally bound to do and deny the Helis permit.

Sincerely,

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Joan Simon  
154 Belle Terre Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 10:15 PM  
**To:** B. Thomas Himes; Gordon Cain; Bryan Zumwalt; Mr. Peter M. McEnery; Scott McKay; 'gpace15@yahoo.com'; Rick Richardson; Blake Debrock; Richard W. W Revels, Jr. Jr; Daniel Henry; Larry Rase; 'Bruce Wainer'; Patrick Martin; Adrien Maught Jr.; pmaught@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Helis Statement for Nov. 12 Hearing

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/St--Tammany-Parish-Energy-Project-Update.html?soid=1101701160503&aid=DmmtXhKGXmI>

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Jeff Wells [Jeff.Wells@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:53 AM

**To:** Daniel Henry

**CC:** John Adams (DNR); Gary Ross; Todd Keating; Carrie Heffron; Russell McGee; Richard Hudson

**Subject:** Objections to the Helis Permit in St. Tammany

**Attachments:** P. S. re - Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; HELIS PERMIT IN ST. TAMMANY; No Fracking; No Fracking in St. Tammany Parish ; Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No.14-626; Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. Engineering Docket No. 14-626; ENGINEERING DOCKET 14-626: RECENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR REVIEW; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Emailing: 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Helis' Application for Permits. Jan Jumonville

As mentioned, I am forwarding the objections I've received to you.

Jeff Wells  
Office of Conservation  
Permits Section Manager  
225-342-5638  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275  
617 N. Third St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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**From:** Dave Easley [davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 11:31 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells; dnr.info@la.gov  
**Subject:** P. S. re - Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge. LA

70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,

Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Engineering - Regulatory Division

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge. LA

70804-9275

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

**P. S**

Hi, Jim and Jeff, more thoughts on this permit:

What sort of a bond have they taken out to ensure that all of St. Tammany will have clean water to cook with, to drink and for bathing? If they are confident their proposed operation is safe they should put their money where their mouth is and guarantee 20 gallons a day of pure, clean water for every citizen of St. Tammany if any contamination is found in the aquifer. And this is not even addressing the air pollution issue.

It's not doing anyone any service to think of the initial well as anything other than the initial well of thousands. If you invalidate every comment that has to do with fracking because the well under consideration in this permit is a vertical well then what do you do when they come back with their permit for a fracked well? It's not fair to them or anyone else to let them go through the expense of drilling an initial well only on the consideration of that one well when everyone knows that they're asking to drill the first one in hopes of drilling many, many more. It's widely known that they don't expect to get oil out of the shale without hydraulic fracturing and that this is clearly intended to be the initial well in a much, much larger fracking operation. **It's fundamentally dishonest to view this application in any other way.**

To illustrate this point I'm going to depart from the studies and incidents we've been talking about in my comments so far. I am not Dr. Martin Luther King. I don't tend to have grand, prophetic dreams of looking over mountaintops. Sometimes I have scary dreams. Sometimes I have funny dreams. I woke up laughing the other day. In my dream I'd been in a bus station waiting in line at the counter. Just ahead of me were several Helix Oil representatives and I was close enough to overhear what they were doing. They were buying tickets to a certain town even though they were

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

actually going to the next town after that by way of a "Greyhound Slider". I'd never heard of such a thing and it was explained to me thusly, "The driver applies the brakes in one town so expertly and with such force that the passengers and luggage fly out of the bus and slide all the way to the next town." I laughed so hard I couldn't stay asleep and I woke up laughing. So Helis is going to slide into home plate like Ty Cobb? "We're only asking for one little, bitty well." after which, presumably, greed and oil lust will catapult them, like the "Greyhound Slider" to their final destination, thousands of wells in St. Tammany Parish. Well that's both funny and scary. It's scary that a bureaucracy might possibly be so rigid as to not see beyond the pieces of paper a particular application is written on.

What the recent PNAS study has proven is that contamination can come from any man-made oil well. That would include this proposed well.

If for some crazy bureaucratic reason you feel like you really can't deny this permit outright in spite of the strong possibility of polluting the water for a million people and the certainty of polluting our air, can you at least postpone this decision till after the courts decide the Parish Council's Declaratory Judgement Case?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/dangerously-high-levels-of-airborne-carcinogens-found-at-us-fracking-sites-9826586.html>

Please examine this power point presentation from a physician and member of the Lubbock TX Board of Health. Pay special attention to pages 6. 7 & 8.

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=32E594EF23E8DBB0!3834&ithint=file%2cpptx&app=PowerPoint&authkey=!ADE6Sw9OLKIDZTI>

Helis is obviously trying anyway it can to get a toehold. They've got Parish Council President Brister believing that they have a perfect record. Juxtapose

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that in your mind with the Helix gulf accident and the list of EPA violations I already sent you. Somebody who has recently changed the name of their LLC and failed to publicly own up to mistakes they've made in the past doesn't strike me as a company who can be trusted to do a responsible job of drilling a site that's zoned residential. According to the legislative audit,

[http://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/D6A0EBE279B83B9F86257CE700506EAD/\\$FILE/000010BC.pdf](http://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/D6A0EBE279B83B9F86257CE700506EAD/$FILE/000010BC.pdf)

2846 orphaned wells had not been plugged in Louisiana as of July 2013. Do we need any more wells when so many orphaned wells stand unplugged? This is just one more utterly compelling reason to stop issuing permits. One of the reasons the Parish Council is taking the long slow route of the Declaratory Judgement suit is that some council members were threatened and scared that they could be personally sued for voting against fracking. Every single lawyer who looked at that question besides Parish President Pat Brister's lawyer agreed that it was a ludicrous idea to sue someone for their vote on a council and that it would never succeed in court. No lawyer I know of has made such a claim of practical immunity for bureaucrats whose performance results somewhere down the line in injury or illness. Just food for thought. I'm not a sue you sue me kind of a guy but I'm just one of a million users of our single use aquifer.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Easley

310 E. 35th Ave.

Covington LA

70433

985-893-5708

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Dave Easley [davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 09, 2014 2:39 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA  
70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA  
70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Mr. Welch and Mr. Wells (Oh, no, that name mightn't bode well for my request today! Maybe your ancestors were named after water wells and not oil wells!)

We don't want Helis's well in St. Tammany Parish! People on both sides of the issue are touting the recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences as being in support of their side.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/110/28/11250.full.pdf+html><http://www.pnas.org/content/110/28/11250.full.pdf+html>

One author even created a fanciful headline stating that the study proved that fracking doesn't contaminate drinking water which would beg the question, who is going to frack without annuluses (annuli?), production casings and underground wells, the man-made elements of fracking found by the study to have failed in instances of contamination? The study clearly traced the contaminated water they studied to fracking projects in the areas affected. Only by an **impossibly strict** definition of

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fracking, one which includes the fracturing of rock but not any of the actions of men, chemicals and equipment that cause the fracturing, can it be said that fracking did not contaminate the water.

So, basically, a company that has been perfect in the past and has plans in place to remedy failures in the future might be expected to drill without problems in St. Tammany. Helis is neither such company. I guess you are familiar with the following incident in the Gulf of Mexico involving Helis: (conclusions on pages 15 and 16)

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/)

and this list of Helis EPA violations:

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/RHC/EPAAdmin.nsf/Filings/1F2518C745AC347385257BAD001BCADC/\\$File/helis.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/RHC/EPAAdmin.nsf/Filings/1F2518C745AC347385257BAD001BCADC/$File/helis.pdf)

As Mike Stagg points out in the letters he and Jan Jummonville wrote, the oil industry has been drilling for 100 years and hasn't perfected it yet. We are truly dreaming if we expect them to perfect it just in time for them to drill through our single source aquifer. All that risk for what? So a few people can get rich? Why would any sensible person even consider allowing it? Are people being paid off or pressured by CIA agents into accepting it as a matter of national security even though we're already out-producing the Arabs? Sorry if those two hypothetical reasons sound paranoid. Can you give me a non-paranoid reason why anyone should be allowed to drill for oil through a single-source aquifer, especially a company with as poor a record as Helis?

What plans do they have in place in case of a problem? (This is definitely not a paranoid question. See just a handful out of a multitude of recent examples below.) Escaping to China before they can be sued?

<http://fracking.einnews.com/article/231979951/dOUYe7lF1Im-vOdu?n=2&code=5CMCg4ac48UddAKT>

<http://wvpublic.org/post/dep-september-drilling-accident-contaminated-water-doddridge-county>

[http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well\\_explosion.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well_explosion.html)

not to mention other things that go wrong around oil and gas drilling.

As you know, hydro-carbons are often found together and oil wells will produce methane which is typically flared if no pipeline is in place.

Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale) , the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out," So industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are expecting a high gas content in this play.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/28/Investigators-checking-cause-of-pipeline-fire.html>

**and things that go very wrong with the air quality.**

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141030/5-state-study-finds-unsafe-levels-airborne-chemicals-near-oil-and-gas-sites>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/dangerously-high-levels-of-airborne-carcinogens-found-at-us-fracking-sites-9826586.html>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/fracking-leaving-radioactive-pollution-in-pa-2013-10>

In signing off I respectfully urge you both to please do the sensible thing and reject this application to drill and I want to say that I agree with every point in the following letter by Jummonville and Stagg.

Dave Easley  
Covington LA

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poiteviant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Hellis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In Science Daily the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells." **Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

October 25, 2014 Page 2 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: dnrinfo.la.gov**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 3 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).
2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f) (2).

**Email: dnrinfo.la.gov**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 4 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

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Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field- constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(I).

Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).

Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11 (G).

Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).

Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11(G).

Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).

Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(O).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014 Page 5 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

- 10.

Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated it's lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poitevant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Joan Simon [joan154.simon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 09, 2014 10:12 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Johnson (DEQ); Jeff Wells; Jim Welch  
**Subject:** HELIS PERMIT IN ST. TAMMANY

Dear Ms. Johson, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Welch,

I recently heard that Helis Oil became an LLC. Such a move makes me even more nervous when it comes to Helis' responsibility to St. Tammany residents should they be given a permit to drill in our residential parish. Please read below the links involving the accidents, deaths, and poisonings as a result of fracking.

Please do not allow this company to drill in this Parish. It is becoming increasingly obvious that hydraulic fracturing is an industry loaded with risk to our health, safety, the environment and our precious water supply.

Sincerely,

Joan Simon  
154 Belle Terre Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433

[http://www.eenews.net/special\\_reports/danger\\_zone](http://www.eenews.net/special_reports/danger_zone)

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/) Serious accident and fatality involving Helis.

[http://www.umces.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/db\\_house\\_testimony\\_attach\\_021111.pdf](http://www.umces.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/db_house_testimony_attach_021111.pdf)

<http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Reports/Full-Oil-Incident-List.pdf> Comprehensive listing of many, many accidents involving oil/gas recovery since Jan 2000.

**From:** Gary [gary154@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 11:07 PM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** No Fracking

Let's be clear at the outset. I am vehemently against Helis Oil being given a permit to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a long-standing resident of this Parish, I am appalled at the possibility of my single source of drinking water being contaminated because of the interests of a few people who don't even live in this Parish.

There are so many studies, nationally and locally, (ie, cattle kill in Caddo Parish and well contamination near Lafayette) that make it apparent that fracking is fraught with danger – to our water, of course, but also to our land and air. Consider the high levels of methane in drinking water related to the Barnett Shale Trend fracking in Parker County, Texas; Alberta, Canada; Pavillion, Wyoming; Dimrock, Pennsylvania; Utica Shale Trend in upstate New York and the Marcellus Shale Trend near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Moreover, studies show that 5 percent of new wells fail immediately and over time as many as 50 percent. Once spoiled with contamination, there is no turning back – no way that Helis could or would for that matter as they have no legal obligation to make matters right. The Parish does not have the money to correct such heinous actions nor does the state have the resources to even monitor these wells.

With constant dangers of flooding from hurricanes or even heavy rain, I shudder at the catastrophic possibilities should this well (and of course one well means hundreds more, perhaps thousands) be permitted to frack.

I have heard that this is simply a request to drill one well – minimal at best. Once allowed, the recent history of fracking shows us that it is not a profitable venture until many more wells are drilled. In the meantime, what about the risk to our wetlands or ground contamination from so many dangerous, cancer-causing chemicals and even methane (unseen) poisoning our airspace? This is such a life-altering decision that I would think prudent action, such as an environmental impact study, would be undertaken before all else. Until demonstrated that hydraulic fracturing benefits outweigh the risks to human health, to wetlands, and to habitat, this outlandish permit should be denied.

St. Tammany is a beautiful and peaceful community that will be forever changed for the worst should Helis Oil be allowed a permit. The health and welfare of our residents will be, without question, jeopardized if you say yes. My request to you is this: SAY NOT TO HELIS OIL.

Gary Simon  
Covington, LA 70433

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Judith Jones [trvltl9e@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 10:40 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** No Fracking in St. Tammany Parish

3433 Hwy. 190, #375  
Mandeville, La. 70471  
November 5, 2014

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am a Mandeville homeowner and a native of Louisiana.

The data on solely water pollution from fracking should make it clear you must deny the Helis Oil application. Although I focus on water pollution, there are many other reasons to deny the permit.

I recommend the documentary film Split Estate (1 hour, 15 minutes) on the results of fracking in Colorado as a resource for your decision in this case.

The experts for both pro and con fracking argue on the time required for pollution of water to occur. The pro fracking have argued that leeching of chemicals into the rivers and water table would take from one hundred to millions of years, or essentially for us, never. The con fracking were claiming leakage would occur from ten to one hundred years. In fact, leakage has occurred near fracked wells between four months and two years after drilling, according to people living near the wells. The leakage has resulted in severe health problems, abandoned homes, and financially ruined communities.

There are 700 chemicals used in the fracking process, some known and documented, others deduced and proprietary. Benzene alone has disastrous negative health effects. St Tammany Parish Councilwoman Maureen O'Brien asked the experts addressing the Council on the fracking issue how benzene could be cleaned from the water. Even the pro fracking experts told her, she reported in her constituent meeting, that it basically could not be done!

St Tammany has such unstable soil that homes are built on packed fill. Much of our Parish is true marsh land or in flood plains. We have 4 rivers, 3 bayous, sit on an aquifer, and about 2 lakes, one of which enters the Gulf. When you have explosive forces underground strong enough to crack rock, common sense tells you it will wreck havoc on our land and buildings. Once the land and rock are disturbed, then the fracking chemical fluids will mix with our multiple water resources.

My neighbor has combed state records to learn that Mr. Poitevent owns 49% of Helis Oil in addition to the 60,000 acres in question in St. Tammany Parish. As a public official you are

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

charged with considering the public good. How can the profit of one man be more important than known health risks and damages to 250,000 residents?

When bad health problems reach an epidemic level in a community, the health industry will profit. But sick people don't have the interest or money to spend on elective expenses with local retailers. Thanks to all the medical bills, they don't even have enough to make their previously normal purchases in the economy. Employers large and small lose money on absences due to illness.

This financial loss to the community is the reality rather than the prosperity claimed by the pro fracking lobby. The oil industry takes its profits out of the area. And Louisiana has agreements that basically do not start the severance tax on drilling until after 2 years, by which time most of the content and profit from the fracked wells already will have been taken. So, even the State of Louisiana profits little from the resource depletion of the fracking wells.

Today, we have knowledge and experience not available in the 1950's, when Louisiana began welcoming the oil industry unquestioningly. It is this experience that documents that frack wells in St. Tammany will be harmful to the health, economy, and ecology of its 250,000 residents. The common good of St. Tammany and Louisiana must outweigh the profits of one man and one company.

I respectfully urge you to deny the Helis Oil application.

Most sincerely,  
Judith C. Jones

**From:** Susan Tyler [susanjune09@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 02, 2014 2:45 PM

**To:** Jeff Wells

**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Attachments:** draft.wells.docx

Dear Mr. Wells,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Susan J. Tyler

Susan J. Tyler  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering – Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Jeff.Wells@la.gov

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the above-named application by Helis Oil & Gas, to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a resident and property owner, I am very concerned about the potential short and long-term negative effects to the health and safety of St. Tammany's residents. We cannot allow the dangerous and largely unregulated practice of hydraulic fracturing to take place in our parish. By Helis's own admission, the project has only a 50/50 chance of success. With those odds, why would we risk the safety of our air quality and drinking water for the short-term gains of a few parties? The following are just a few of my concerns:

Although the industry repeatedly tells us that fracking is "safe," a quick online search will turn up scores of documented instances of ground water contamination in the states presently allowing the practice. Studies have shown that new wells leak approximately 6% of the time, and 50% of wells fail at some point. The Southern Hills Aquifer is the sole source of St. Tammany's drinking water. Once an aquifer is poisoned, there is no remedy.

Because of the dire risks to our only source of drinking water, we request that you prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the potential wide-spread effects on St. Tammany's air, water, wildlife, ecosystems, endangered species and fragile wetlands from hydraulic fracturing activity. Please bear in mind that if one well is permitted and is "successful," our parish will be inundated with applications for hundreds of wells. The impacts to our fragile ecosystems would be devastating.

St. Tammany is prone to flooding during mere rain events, not to mention during hurricanes. A "waste water pond," outgassing toxic chemicals and vulnerable to flooding during storm events, would be an accident waiting to happen. Additionally, to my knowledge, Helis has not indicated where they will obtain the millions of gallons of fresh water needed for fracking operations, nor have they stated where they will be disposing of the resulting toxic waste water. While many states are currently suffering historic droughts, these millions of gallons of water will be unusable, permanently

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

poisoned, and unavailable to the water cycle. Fracking waste water is permanently contaminated with radioactive elements (that should remain underground) and with cancer-causing chemicals.

Another concern is the location of the proposed site: 1,000 feet from Lakeshore High School in a densely populated area. This area, along with much of the parish, already suffers from major traffic congestion problems. The idea of adding countless trucks hauling hazardous materials at all hours of the day and night to our already traffic-burdened roads is appalling. The number of traffic fatalities in the area will rise exponentially.

The proposed site is zoned A-3—residential use only. Heavily industrial activities, with their contingent flammability and chemical spill hazards, are strictly prohibited in residentially-zoned areas. We do not want these types of hazards in St. Tammany Parish at all, as our zoning reflects.

The industry touts jobs and potential revenues accruing to the area, but instead, with these types of operations, outside labor is imported (as we have seen in Mississippi,) and any revenues gained will be to a few non-resident landowners and to Helis. The parish and state are unlikely to profit due to Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling.

Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

Another major concern is the lack of contingency planning. Has Helis Oil submitted any type of plan to handle a catastrophic accident in St. Tammany Parish? Recent events in Louisiana, such as the disastrous BP Oil Spill and the Bayou Corne Sinkhole, as well as in many other parts of the country, have proven that the oil and gas industry is very short on contingency planning for bad or worst-case scenarios. In June of 2014, a fire on a drill pad in Ohio burned for five days, exposing the volunteer fire department responders to toxic chemical exposures as well as exposure to radioactive elements. Additionally, during the Ohio incident, waterways were fouled and 70,000 fish were killed. How would St. Tammany handle such an event? On a more basic level, why, and by whose authority, should we be put in a position to have to deal with such a contingency? (Please see <http://www.theoec.org/sites/default/files/Eisenbarth%20well%20pad%20fire.pdf>).

Industries cannot be counted on to self-regulate, and hydraulic fracturing is no exception. State agencies do not have the resources to adequately monitor their activities. Instead we, the residents, are told to involuntarily assume all the risks of permanent damage, for no gain.

As a property owner whose water is supplied by a well, I have a simple question: why should my drinking water, along with that of all of my fellow St. Tammany residents, be put at risk for permanent damage without my/our consent? If our water is damaged, our health is at risk and our property values go to nil.

We are fundamentally entitled to clean air, clean water and a safe environment. A clean, safe and poison-free environment is necessary for our constitutionally-protected rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No industry has the right to enter our parish and trample on those rights. The risks to the safety and health of the residents, communities and ecosystems of St. Tammany Parish should far outweigh any potential gains to a few individuals and one company, none of whom reside in our parish. We, the residents, have everything to lose. We would be risking our health, property and peace of mind to gain nothing, again, without our consent. Please respect the wishes of St.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Tammany's residents, and deny any and all permits requests by Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Tyler

Links to Articles:

Compendium compiled by Concerned Health Professionals of New York:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Charles Sapp [cwssjt08@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 02, 2014 2:33 PM

**To:** Jeff Wells

**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No.14-626

**Attachments:** draft.cws.wells.docx

Dear Mr. Wells,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Charles Sapp

Charles W. Sapp  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering – Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Jeff.Wells@la.gov

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Wells:

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

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Sincerely,

Charles W. Sapp

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**From:** louis henschen [lou\_henschen@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, November 01, 2014 1:19 PM

**To:** Jeff Wells

**CC:** lou\_henschen@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Mr Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering \_ Regulatory division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P.O.Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, La 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No 14-626

Dear Mr. Wells,

Helis Oil & Gas wants to drill an exploratory vertical well into the Tuscaloosa marine shale formation to determine whether a horizontal fracking well would be productive. This exploratory well would be on wetlands on property zoned residential in St. Tammany. If Helis determines that well would be productive, and they are permitted to drill the horizontal fracking well(s) it could be the first of hundreds of wells. These wells would endanger the Southern Hills Aquifer that supplies water to Baton Rouge and many other towns and cities in Louisiana. Casings could break as it did in the BP oil spill in the gulf. Casings in the aquifer can't be fixed. Please don't permit them to drill this well on wetlands, in residential zoned land, through our aquifer.

Thank You, Louis Henschen

22168 6th St.  
Abita Springs, La. 70420

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Joan Simon [joan154.simon@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 8:40 AM

**To:** Jeff Wells; jim.welch@la.gov

**Subject:** ENGINEERING DOCKET 14-626: RECENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR REVIEW

**Attachments:** helis EPA violation 2013.pdf; Newsroom \_ DEP PA dept of environmental health concludes the migration of frack fluids into water supply.pdf; Helis 2012 violation AQ SA 4971-12.pdf

Dear Mr. Wells and Mr. Welch,

Please see links and pdfs regarding fracking pollution and casing failures that I hope you will consider in your decision regarding the issuance of a permit to Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish. I read them with a great deal of concern and thank you for reviewing them.

Sincerely,

Joan Simon  
154 Belle Terre Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433

[http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/IG\\_response\\_10-20-2014.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/IG_response_10-20-2014.pdf)  
EPA Inspector General Reopens the investigation into Fracking pollution

Casing failure example: (Very Graphic) <http://this-small-planet.com/2013/major-failure-a-graphic-example-of-the-risks-of-modern-well-completion-technologies/>

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

FILED  
2013 JUL 10 PM 2:53  
REGIONAL CLERK  
EPA REGION VI

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6

IN THE MATTER OF

**Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
Willow Cove Facility  
St. Martin Parish, LA**

Respondent

**CWA SECTION 311 CLASS I  
CONSENT AGREEMENT  
AND FINAL ORDER**

**UNDER 40 CFR § 22.13(b)**

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

**LEGAL AUTHORITY**

1. This Consent Agreement is proposed and entered into under the authority vested in the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Section 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Clean Water Act ("Act"), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(B)(i), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and under the authority provided by 40 CFR §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2). The Administrator has delegated these authorities to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 6, who has in turn delegated them to the Director of the Superfund Division of EPA, Region 6, who has, by his concurrence, re-delegated the authority to act as Complainant to the Associate Director Prevention and Response Branch in Region 6, Delegation No. R6-2-51, dated February 13, 2008 ("Complainant").

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

**Stipulations**

The parties, in their own capacity or by their attorneys or other authorized representatives, hereby stipulate:

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

2. Section 311(j)(1)(C) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(j)(1)(C), provides that the President shall issue regulations "establishing procedures, methods, and equipment and other requirements for equipment to prevent discharges of oil from onshore or offshore vessels and from onshore or offshore facilities, and to contain such discharges."

3. Initially by Executive Order 11548 (July 20, 1970), 35 Fed. Reg. 11677 (July 22, 1970), and most recently by Section 2(b)(1) of Executive Order 12777 (October 18, 1991), 56 Fed. Reg. 54757 (October 22, 1991), the President delegated to EPA his Section 311(j)(1)(C) authority to issue the regulations referenced in the preceding Paragraph for non-transportation-related onshore and offshore facilities.

4. Through Executive Order 12777 (October 18, 1991), 56 Fed. Reg. 54757 (October 22, 1991), the President delegated to DOI, responsibility for spill prevention and control, contingency planning, and equipment inspection activities associated with offshore facilities. Subsequently, pursuant to section 2(i) of E.O. 12777, the Secretary of the Interior re-delegated, and the Administrator of EPA agreed to assume (MOU published as Appendix B to 40 CFR Part 112), responsibility for non-transportation-related offshore facilities located landward of the coast line.

5. EPA promulgated the Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations pursuant to delegated statutory authorities, and pursuant to its authorities under the Clean Water Act, 33 USC § 1251 *et seq.*, which established certain procedures, methods and other requirements upon each owner and operator of a non-transportation-related onshore or off-shore facility, if such facility, due to its location, could reasonably be expected to discharge oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States and their adjoining shorelines in such quantity as

EPA has determined in 40 CFR § 110.3 may be harmful to the public health or welfare or the environment of the United States ("harmful quantity").

6. In promulgating 40 CFR § 110.3, which implements Section 311(b)(4) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(4), EPA has determined that discharges of harmful quantities include oil discharges that cause either (1) a violation of applicable water quality standards or (2) a film, sheen upon, or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines, or (3) a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

7. Respondent is a firm conducting business in the State of Louisiana, with a place of business located at 228 St. Charles Ave. Suite 912 and is a person within the meaning of Sections 311(a)(7) and 502(5) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1321(a)(7) and 1362(5), and 40 CFR § 112.2.

8. Respondent is the owner within the meaning of Section 311(a)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(a)(6), and 40 CFR § 112.2 of an oil production facility, Willow Cove, located in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana ("the facility"). The approximate coordinates of the facility are 29.8830° N and -91.3011° W. Drainage from the facility travels to an unnamed canal; thence, the Atchafalaya River; thence the Gulf of Mexico.

9. The facility has an aggregate above-ground storage capacity greater than 1320 gallons of oil in containers each with a shell capacity of at least 55 gallons. Facility capacity is approximately 823,643 gallons.

10. The Atchafalaya River and the Gulf of Mexico are navigable waters of the United States within the meaning of 40 CFR § 112.2.

11. Respondent is engaged in drilling, producing, gathering, storing, processing, refining,

transferring, distributing, using or consuming oil or oil products located at the facility.

12. The facility is a non-transportation-related facility within the meaning of 40 CFR § 112.2 Appendix A, as incorporated by reference within 40 CFR § 112.2.

13. The facility is an offshore facility within the meaning of Section 311(a)(10) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(a)(11), 40 CFR § 112.2, and 40 CFR § 112 Appendix B.

14. The facility is therefore a non-transportation-related offshore facility which, due to its location, could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to a navigable water of the United States or its adjoining shorelines in a harmful quantity ("an SPCC-regulated facility").

15. Pursuant to Section 311(j)(1)(C) of the Act, E.O. 12777, and 40 CFR § 112.1 Respondent, as the owner of an SPCC-regulated facility, is subject to the SPCC regulations.

16. The facility began operating on or prior to November 10, 2011.

#### Allegations

17. 40 CFR § 112.3 requires that the owner or operator of an SPCC-regulated facility must prepare a SPCC plan in writing, and implement that plan in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7 and any other applicable section of 40 CFR Part 112.

18. On February 27, 2013 EPA inspected the facility and found that Respondent had failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility. Respondent failed to fully implement such an SPCC plan for the facility as follows:

- a. Facility failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).

- b. Facility failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2).
- c. Facility failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(i).
- d. Facility failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(d)
- e. Facility failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(g).
- f. Facility failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(i).
- g. Facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(j).
- h. Facility failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during workover operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(k).
- i. Facility failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

with 40 CFR § 112.11(o).

- j. Facility failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(p).

19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill.

**Waiver of Rights**

20. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations set forth above and neither admits nor denies the other specific violations alleged above. Respondent waives the right to a hearing under Section 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(B)(i), and to appeal any Final Order in this matter under Section 311(b)(6)(G)(i) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6)(G)(i), and consents to the issuance of a Final Order without further adjudication.

**Penalty**

21. The Complainant proposes, and Respondent consents to, the assessment of a civil penalty of **\$12,100.00**.

**Payment Terms**

Based on the forgoing, the parties, in their own capacity or by their attorneys or authorized representatives, hereby agree that:

21. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Final Order, the Respondent shall pay the amount of **\$12,100.00** by means of a cashier's or certified check, or by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Respondent shall submit this Consent Agreement and Final Order, with original signature, along with documentation of the penalty payment to:

OPA Enforcement Coordinator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6 (6SF-PC)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

- If you are paying by check, pay the check to "Environmental Protection Agency," noting on the check "OSTLF-311" and docket number CWA-06-2013-4815. If you use the U.S. Postal Service, address the payment to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fines & Penalties  
P.O. Box 979077, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

- If you use a private delivery service, address the payment to:

U.S. Bank  
1005 Convention Plaza, Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL  
St. Louis, MO 63101

- The Respondent shall submit copies of the check (or, in the case of an EFT transfer, copies of the EFT confirmation) to the following person:

Lorena Vaughn  
Regional Hearing Clerk (6RC)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

22. Failure by the Respondent to pay the penalty assessed by the Final Order in full by its due date may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalty, plus interest, attorney's fees, costs and an additional quarterly nonpayment penalty pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(H) of the Act, 33 USC §1321(b)(6)(H). In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty agreed to herein shall not be subject to review.

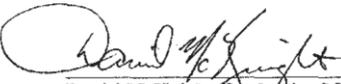
Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

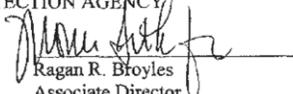
**General Provisions**

23. The Final Order shall be binding upon Respondent and Respondent's officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and successors or assigns.

24. The Final Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension or modification of the requirements of Section 311 of the Act, 33 USC §1321, or any regulations promulgated thereunder, and does not affect the right of the Administrator or the United States to pursue any applicable injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violation of law. Payment of the penalty pursuant to this Consent Agreement resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts stipulated to and alleged herein.

**Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC**

Date: 6/26/13   
Daniel McKnight, Production Manager

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Date: 7/10/2013   
Ragan R. Broyles  
Associate Director  
Prevention & Response Branch  
Superfund Division

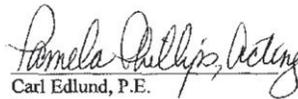
Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

**FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC §1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order.

The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement.

Date: 2/10/13

  
Carl Edlund, P.E.  
Director  
Superfund Division

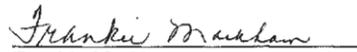
Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

Docket No. CWA-06-2013-4815

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the original and one copy of the foregoing "Consent Agreement and Final Order," issued pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 22.13(b), was filed on 7-10, 2013, with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2733; and that on the same date a copy of the same was sent to the following, in the manner specified below:

NAME: Daniel McKnight  
ADDRESS: 228 St Charle Ave, Suite 912  
New Orleans, LA 70130

  
Frankie Markham  
OPA Enforcement Administrative Assistant

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Dept. of Environmental Protection**  
Commonwealth News Bureau  
Room 308, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg PA., 17120

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
04/15/2010

**CONTACT:**  
Tom Rathbun, Department of Environmental Protection  
717-787-1323

**DEP Takes Aggressive Action Against Cabot Oil & Gas Corp to Enforce Environmental Laws Protect Public in Susquehanna County**  
Suspends Review of Cabot's New Drilling Permit Applications Orders Company to Plug Wells Install Residential Water Systems Pay \$240,000 in Fines

HARRISBURG -- The Department of Environmental Protection today issued a sweeping order requiring Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. to take extensive actions and help the residents of Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, who have been affected by the company's drilling activities.

Under the consent order and agreement, Cabot must plug three wells within 40 days that are believed to be the source of migrating gas that has contaminated groundwater and the drinking water supplies of 14 homes in the region. It must also install permanent treatment systems in those homes within 30 days.

Additionally, DEP Secretary John Hanger said his agency is immediately suspending its review of Cabot's pending permit applications for new drilling activities statewide until it fulfills its obligations under the order issued today. Cabot also is barred from drilling any new wells for at least one year in the Dimock Township area.

Today's action follows Cabot's failure to abide by the terms of a November 2009 consent order and agreement with DEP.

"Cabot had every opportunity to correct these violations, but failed to do so. Instead, it chose to ignore its responsibility to safeguard the citizens of this community and to protect the natural resources there," said Hanger. "I have ordered that all of Cabot's permit applications for further drilling in any region of the state be put on-hold, indefinitely, until the region's homeowners receive their new water treatment systems, the fines are paid, and the wells are plugged.

"Gas migration is a serious issue that can have dire consequences to affected communities and we will not allow Pennsylvania's citizens to be put in harms way by companies that chose not to follow the law."

During recent inspections, DEP identified five additional defective Cabot gas wells and another home water supply that has been affected by gas migration, bringing to 14 the number of impacted water supplies in the Dimock area.

Hanger said DEP also will continue to investigate another 10 Cabot gas wells in the Dimock area over the next 85 days that could be sources of migrating gas and determine whether Cabot should be ordered to plug some or all of those wells.

The original November 2009 consent order and agreement directed Cabot to meet a March 31 deadline to fix defective cement and well casings on certain wells and to prevent the unpermitted natural gas discharge into groundwater that violated the state's Clean Streams Law and the Oil and Gas Act. The company did not meet this deadline, while the migrating gas continues to impact water supplies at homes in a nine-square-mile area near Carter Road.

As part of today's order, Cabot has also paid a \$240,000 fine to the commonwealth, which has been deposited into the state's well-plugging account. It also must pay \$30,000 per month beginning in May until DEP has determined that the company has met its obligations under the 2009 order.

"Companies drilling in the Marcellus Shale have the legal responsibility to design and construct their wells to keep all gas contained within the wells and to prevent gas from moving into fresh groundwater. These standards are not mere suggestions or recommendations," Hanger said. "Oil and gas companies doing business in Pennsylvania will follow the environmental rules and regulations put in place to protect citizens and our natural resources or face aggressive action by this department."

Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. is headquartered in Houston, Texas with a mailing address in Pittsburgh.

For more information on oil and gas wells, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Oil and gas.

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## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division (DEQ/AQD), Herschler Building, 122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002, and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC (Helis), 100 N. 27th Street, Suite 255, Billings, MT 59101, enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) to fully and finally resolve without litigation the alleged violations cited in DEQ Notice of Violation Docket No. 4971-12 (NOV) and an additional alleged violation discussed during settlement negotiations. As more fully set forth below, the NOV alleged that Helis installed and operated a 190-hp Waukesha F817G pumping unit engine without controls or a permit and failed to obtain DEQ/AQD construction permit prior to constructing the Hornbuckle 1-11H production facility (Facility) located in Converse County, Wyoming, thereby violating the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act (Act) and applicable Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR).

Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-901(a)(ii) (West 2011) authorizes stipulated settlement, including payment of a penalty, implementation of compliance schedules or other settlement conditions in lieu of litigation. To that end, Helis and the DEQ/AQD hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Helis is a Louisiana Limited Liability Company that owns and/or operates the Facility.
2. The DEQ/AQD is responsible for enforcing the Act and the WAQSR.
3. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-801(c) provides: “A permit to construct is required before construction or modification of any industrial facility capable of causing or increasing air or water pollution in excess of standards established by the department is commenced.”
4. Chapter 6, Section 2 of the WAQSR prescribes the applicability and procedures for issuing permits to sources under Wyoming’s construction and modification permitting program.
5. Chapter 6, Section 2(a)(i) of the WAQSR provides: “Any person who plans to construct any new facility or source, modify any existing facility or source, or to engage in the use of which may cause the issuance of or an increase in the issuance of air contaminants into the air of this state shall obtain a construction permit from the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality before any actual work is begun on the facility.”
6. The DEQ/AQD issued WAQSR Ch. 6 § 2 permitting guidance for Oil and Gas Production Facilities (“Guidance”) in June 1997, with subsequent revisions in

Settlement Agreement between DEQ/AQD and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
DEQ NOV #4971-12  
June 2012 - 1 of 4

November 1998, January 2000, August 2001, July 2004, August 2007, and March 2010. The Guidance indicates what DEQ/AQD accepts as meeting the intent of Wyoming's regulatory requirement to obtain a construction permit prior to the construction or operation of new air emission sources. The Guidance requires new facilities: "Within 60-days of the First Date of Production (FDOP), flashing emissions containing greater than or equal to 10 TPY VOC shall be controlled by at least 98%."

7. Helis completed construction of the Facility on May 17, 2011 and installed controls on January 3, 2012. Subsequently, DEQ/AQD received a permit application from Helis for the Facility.

8. On March 12, 2012, the DEQ/AQD issued the NOV to Helis alleging that Helis installed and operated a 190-hp Waukesha F817G pumping unit engine without controls or a permit and failed to obtain DEQ/AQD construction permit prior to constructing the Facility violated the Act and the WAQSR.

9. During settlement negotiations, Helis informed the DEQ/AQD that it had installed a 190-hp Waukesha F817GU pumping unit engine and had constructed and operated the Henry Federal 41-15H production facility (Additional Facility) prior to installing controls or obtaining an air quality permit. Helis informed the DEQ/AQD that it had completed construction of the Additional Facility on June 10, 2011 and installed controls on January 10, 2012. The DEQ/AQD alleges that Helis' failure to obtain a DEQ/AQD construction permit prior to constructing and/or operating the 190-hp Waukesha F817GU pumping unit engine and the Additional Facility violated the Act and the WAQSR (Additional Allegation).

10. Without admitting liability, and in lieu of litigation pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-11-901(a)(ii), Helis agrees to pay to the DEQ/AQD the amount of thirty seven thousand nine hundred fifty eight dollars and no cents (\$37,958.00) as a stipulated penalty amount to resolve the violations alleged in the NOV and the Additional Allegation alleged above. Helis shall make full payment by check made payable to the Wyoming DEQ/AQD, within thirty (30) days after Helis has been notified by DEQ/AQD that the final signature has been affixed to this Agreement. Helis shall mail the payment to Nancy Vehr, Sr. Asst. Attorney General, 123 Capitol Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

11. Helis, by entering into this Agreement, does not concede or admit to any liability or fault, and this Agreement constitutes no admission of liability, fault or noncompliance with any allegations, findings, determinations or conclusions contained in this Agreement or in the NOV.

12. Full compliance with this signed Agreement shall constitute full satisfaction for all claims by the DEQ/AQD against Helis based on the NOV and the Additional Allegation and, solely in reliance on this Agreement, the DEQ/AQD will refrain from

Settlement Agreement between DEQ/AQD and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
DEQ NOV #4971-12  
June 2012 - 2 of 4

taking further enforcement action against Helis for these particular violations. By this Settlement Agreement, the Parties intend to resolve all allegations that were asserted in the NOV and the Additional Allegation.

13. In the event that Helis fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement, Helis waives any statute of limitation claims that may apply in an enforcement action by the DEQ/AQD involving the specific matters described in the NOV.

14. This Agreement shall be admissible by either Helis or the DEQ/AQD (hereinafter Helis and the DEQ/AQD may be referred to individually as "Party" and collectively as "Parties") without objection by the other Party only in an action between these Parties relating to the violations alleged herein.

15. Neither Party hereto shall have any claim against the other for attorneys' fees or other costs incurred with the allegations resolved hereby, including costs incurred in the preparation of this Agreement. Each Party shall bear its own attorney fees and costs, if any, incurred through the date this Agreement is signed by both Parties. Each Party assumes the risk of any liability arising from its own conduct. Neither Party agrees to insure, defend or indemnify the other.

16. Any changes, modifications, revisions or amendments to this Agreement that are mutually agreed upon by the Parties shall be incorporated by written instrument, executed and signed by all Parties to this Agreement.

17. The construction, interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wyoming. The Courts of the State of Wyoming shall have jurisdiction over this Agreement and the Parties, and the venue shall be the First Judicial District, Laramie County, Wyoming.

18. This Agreement, consisting of four (4) pages represents the entire and integrated agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and agreements, whether written or oral.

19. The State of Wyoming and the DEQ/AQD do not waive sovereign immunity by entering into this Agreement and specifically retain immunity and all defenses available to them as sovereigns pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-39-104(a) and all other state law.

20. The Parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of third party beneficiary, and this Agreement shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties and obligations contained in this Agreement shall operate only between the Parties to this Agreement and shall inure solely to the benefit of the Parties to this Agreement. The Parties to this Agreement intend and expressly agree that

Settlement Agreement between DEQ/AQD and Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC  
DEQ NOV #4971-12  
June 2012 - 3 of 4

only Parties signatory to this Agreement shall have any legal or equitable right to seek to enforce this Agreement, to seek any remedy arising out of a Party's performance or failure to perform any term or condition of this Agreement, or to bring an action for the breach of this Agreement.

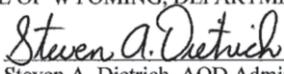
21. Each Party represents that they are authorized to enter into this Agreement and agree to be bound hereby. This Agreement shall become binding upon the Parties once executed by all Parties.

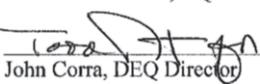
IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties, by their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement on the days and dates set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this Agreement:

HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, LLC, by HELIS ENERGY, LLC, its Manager:

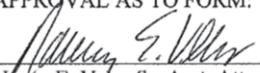
By:  July 5, 2012  
Name: Michael F. Schott Date  
Title: Vice President

STATE OF WYOMING, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

By:  7-13-12  
Steven A. Dietrich, AQD Administrator Date

By:  7-13-12  
John Corra, DEQ Director Date

APPROVAL AS TO FORM:

 6/19/2012  
Nancy E. Vehr, Sr. Asst. Attorney General Date  
Attorney for DEQ/AQD

**From:** Joan Simon [joan154.simon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 11:31 AM  
**To:** Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** 10-14-14 Helis CorpsDEQ Public Notice.pdf

Dear Mr. Wells,

I am writing today to urge you, in no uncertain terms, to deny Helis Oil a permit to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a 30-year resident of this Parish I am horrified at the possibility that my sole source of drinking water may become contaminated because of the interests of a few people – none of whom even live in this Parish.

There are so many studies – nationally and now even in our own state (ie, cattle kill in Caddo Parish and well contamination near Lafayette) – which make it more than apparent that fracking is fraught with danger – to our water, of course, but also to our land and air. Consider the high levels of methane in drinking water related to the Barnett Shale Trend fracking in Parker County, Texas; Alberta, Canada; Pavillion, Wyoming; Dimrock, Pennsylvania; Utica Shale Trend in upstate New York and the Marcellus Shale Trend near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Add to this studies which show that 5 percent of new wells fail immediately and that as many as 50 percent will fail over time. Once spoiled with contamination, there is no turning back – no way that Helis could (or would, for that matter, as they have no legal compunction to do so) make matters right. The Parish does not have the money to fix things and the state does not have the resources to even monitor these wells.

With constant dangers of flooding from hurricanes or even heavy rain, I shudder to think what would happen should this well (and of course one well means hundreds more, perhaps thousands) be allowed to happen.

Most important also: In reviewing this permit please do not ignore our zoning laws. St. Tammany is NOT an industrially zoned Parish and there is no provision for oil or gas extraction in our home rule charter.

I have heard that this is simply a request to drill one well – minimal at best. Once allowed, the recent history of fracking shows us that it is not a profitable venture until many more wells are drilled. In the meantime, what about the risk to our wetlands, ground contamination from so many dangerous, cancer-causing chemicals, methane (unseen) poisoning our airspace? This is such a life-altering decision, I would think an environmental impact study, at the very least, should be undertaken before it is made. Until demonstrated that hydraulic fracturing benefits outweigh the risks to human health, to wetlands, and to habitat... the permit should be denied.

St. Tammany is a beautiful and peaceful community that will be forever changed –in the worst possible way– should Helis Oil be allowed a permit. The health and welfare of our residents will be, without question, jeopardized if you say yes. My request to you is this: please say NO!

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Sincerely yours,

Joan Simon  
154 Belle Terre Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433

[http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-12-14-1Alouisiana14\\_CV\\_N.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-12-14-1Alouisiana14_CV_N.htm)  
SHREVEPORT STORY OF NEGATIVE IMPACTS

<http://barnettshalehell.wordpress.com/2012/01/18/emails-on-another-cattle-kill-story-near-mineral-wells-tx-june-2010/>

Another series of articles on cattle ingesting toxic fluids

<http://www.newsinferno.com/louisiana-fracking-operations-suspect-in-cow-deaths/>  
Caddo cow deaths

<http://www.magnumoiltools.com/assets/files/SPE%20162852%20final.pdf>

Because fracking casing failures are so common, this link is from an industry offering corrective measures to expected failures-failures more prevalent in horizontal fracturing in high temperature regions

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

October 14, 2014

United States Army  
Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Regulatory Branch  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Water Quality Certification  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2041 FAX (504) 862-2117  
robert.m.tewis2@usace.army.mil  
Project Manager  
Robert Tewis  
Permit Application Number  
MVN-2013-02952-ETT

(225) 219-3225;  
Fax (225) 219-3156  
Project Manager  
Elizabeth Johnson  
WQC Application Number  
WQC-140328-02

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New Orleans District (CEMVN) pursuant to:  Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or  Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **CONSTRUCT WELL PAD FOR A SINGLE VERTICAL EXPLORATORY WELL, IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, (Helis), Attention: Mike Barham, 228 St. Charles Avenue, Ste. 192, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** North of Interstate-12, east of LA Highway 1088, abutting the west side of Log Cabin Road, at Latitude: 30.38778, Longitude -89.97861, within the Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncta River Watershed (HUC # 08090201) of the Lake Pontchartrain Drainage Basin in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

**BRIEF FILE SUMMARY:** On April 14, 2014, CEMVN published a public notice for a proposed ±10.55 acre well pad that would accommodate an oil and gas exploration well and up to 10 subsurface hydraulic fracturing production wells. Two time extensions to the comment period were granted and the comment period ended June 16, 2014. On July 29, 2014, a geological review meeting (GR) coordinated by CEMVN and facilitated by the Louisiana Geological Survey was held to discuss geological aspects associated with the proposal. The GR was attended by the applicant and their consultants along with other state and federal resource agencies representatives. The focus of discussion was on the viability of the proposed location as a production site for fossil fuels to be extracted from the Tuscaloosa Shale Play.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT 33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-CO-R.			OMB APPROVAL NO. 0710-0003 EXPIRES: 28 FEBRUARY 2013		
Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters, Executive Services and Communications Directorate, Information Management Division and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0710-0003). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. Please DO NOT RETURN your form to either of those addresses. Completed applications must be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity.					
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT					
Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.					
(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)					
1. APPLICATION NO.		2. FIELD OFFICE CODE		3. DATE RECEIVED	
				4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE	
(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)					
5. APPLICANT'S NAME			8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (agent is not required)		
First - Mike Middle - Last - Barham			First - Middle - Last -		
Company - Helis Oil & Gas Company, L.L.C.			Company -		
E-mail Address - mbarham@helisoil.com			E-mail Address -		
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:			9. AGENT'S ADDRESS:		
Address- 228 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 912			Address-		
City - New Orleans State - LA Zip - 70130 Country -			City - State - Zip - Country -		
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOS. w/AREA CODE			10. AGENTS PHONE NOS. w/AREA CODE		
a. Residence b. Business c. Fax (504) 681-3316 (504) 522-6486			a. Residence b. Business c. Fax		
STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION					
11. I hereby authorize, _____ to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.					
_____ SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT			_____ DATE		
NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY					
12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructions) Proposed Drillsite and Structures for Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well					
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if applicable) N/A			14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable) Address		
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT Latitude: -N 30°23'16" Longitude: -W 89°58'43"			City - State - Zip-		
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions) State Tax Parcel ID Municipality Section - 34 Township - T7S Range - 12E					

<p>17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE  The proposed project includes: (1) a well pad to be located west of Log Cabin Road, between Interstate 12 and Louisiana Highway 1088; (2) three bypasses and a guard shack to be located adjacent to Log Cabin Road between the proposed drill pad and Louisiana Highway 1088; and (3) a turning apron to be located at the intersection of Log Cabin Road and Louisiana Highway 1088; as more specifically delineated in Sheets 1-8 of 8.</p>								
<p>18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)  Please see Addendum A.</p>								
<p>19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)  The purpose of Phase 1 of the Helis Project is to install an environmentally secure drill site with associated access road improvements to support the drilling and installation of a vertical well; the proposed installation of up gradient and down gradient monitor wells to assess and monitor the quality of groundwater in the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of that vertical well; and provide storm water drainage, collection and management features necessary for the management, and controlled discharge of uncontaminated storm water generated within the drill site during active drilling operations. Helis anticipates construction of the drill site and access road improvements will commence within approximately 30 days of USACE permit approval and be completed within approximately 30 days of construction commencement subject to potential delays caused by inclement weather.</p>								
<p><b>USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED</b></p>								
<p>20. Reason(s) for Discharge  Helis is drilling the vertical well to obtain geologic data to confirm the production potential of a very specific subsurface geologic zone which Helis has identified as a potentially significant source of previously undeveloped mineral resources. The construction of the 3.21 acre drill site is required for the drilling and installation of the vertical well; the proposed installation of up gradient and down gradient monitor wells ("sentinel wells") to assess and monitor the quality of groundwater in the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of the vertical well; and to provide storm water drainage and collection features required for the management and controlled discharge of uncontaminated storm water generated within the drill site during active drilling operations. The improvements to the access road are required to allow use of this existing road for the drilling operations thereby eliminating the need for construction of a new access road and all of the increased wetland impacts that might be associated with a new access road.</p>								
<p>21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Type Amount in Cubic Yards</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Type Amount in Cubic Yards</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Type Amount in Cubic Yards</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Non-Native-1,731 yd<sup>3</sup> access improvements</td> <td>Non-Native - 10,766 yds<sup>3</sup> - drill pad</td> <td>Native - 492 yds<sup>3</sup> - ring levee</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Non-Native-1,731 yd <sup>3</sup> access improvements	Non-Native - 10,766 yds <sup>3</sup> - drill pad	Native - 492 yds <sup>3</sup> - ring levee
Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards	Type Amount in Cubic Yards						
Non-Native-1,731 yd <sup>3</sup> access improvements	Non-Native - 10,766 yds <sup>3</sup> - drill pad	Native - 492 yds <sup>3</sup> - ring levee						
<p>22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)  Acres 0.32 acres for access improvements, 2.81 acres for drill site. Total impact=3.13 acres  or  Linear Feet</p>								
<p>23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)  Please see Addendum A.</p>								

24. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete?  Yes  No IF YES, DESCRIBE THE COMPLETED WORK

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25. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, Etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

a. Address- P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., c/o Edward B. Poitevent II, One Lakeway, 3900 North Causeway Blvd., Suite 1200  
City - Metairie State - Louisiana Zip - 70002

b. Address- St. Tammany Land Co. L.L.C., Mr. William Rudolf, One Galleria Boulevard, Suite 902  
City - Metairie State - Louisiana Zip - 70001

c. Address- PF Monroe Properties, L.L.C., c/o J. Edgar Monroe Foundation, 3939 N. Causeway Boulevard, Suite 200  
City - Metairie State - Louisiana Zip - 70002

d. Address- Markle Interests, L.L.C., 701 South Olive Avenue, #2101  
City - West Palm Beach State - Florida Zip - 33401

e. Address-  
City - State - Zip -

---

26. List of Other Certificates or Approvals/Denials received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application.

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED

\* Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits

27. Application is hereby made for permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that this information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

Michael R. Bah      10/3/14  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT      DATE      SIGNATURE OF AGENT      DATE

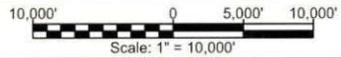
The Application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.



NOTE:  
THE CONTENTS OF THESE PLANS ARE INTENDED  
EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PERMITS

VICINITY MAP



**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**

PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES

*Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well*

Section 34, T7S-R12E

St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana



Lafayette New Orleans Houston  
135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508  
Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-232-3299  
[www.fenstermaker.com](http://www.fenstermaker.com)

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REVISED: 3/14/2014

DATE: 1/15/2014

PROJ. MGR: RLL

08/28/2014

SHEET 1 OF 8 SHEETS

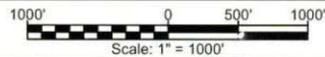
09/05/2014

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PROJECT PLAN VIEW



**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
**PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES**  
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 Section 34, T7S-R12E  
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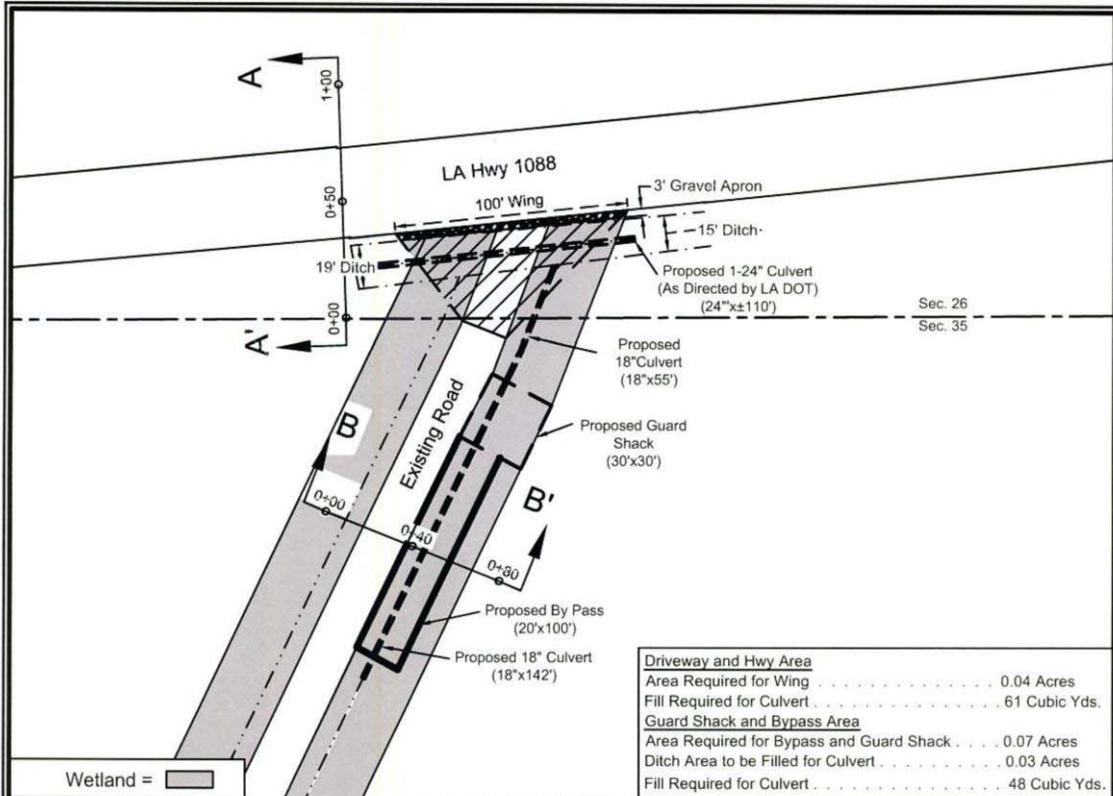
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PROJ. MGR.: RLL

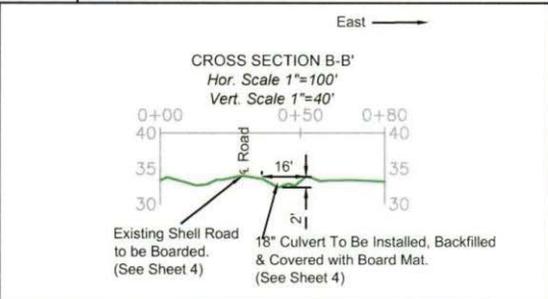
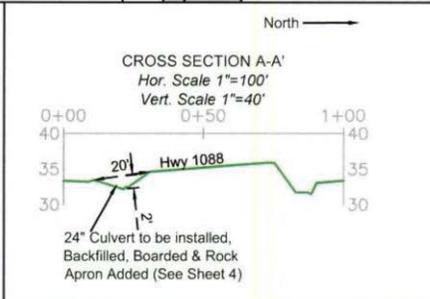
08/28/2014

SHEET 2 OF 8 SHEETS

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<b>Driveway and Hwy Area</b>	
Area Required for Wing	0.04 Acres
Fill Required for Culvert	61 Cubic Yds.
<b>Guard Shack and Bypass Area</b>	
Area Required for Bypass and Guard Shack	0.07 Acres
Ditch Area to be Filled for Culvert	0.03 Acres
Fill Required for Culvert	48 Cubic Yds.



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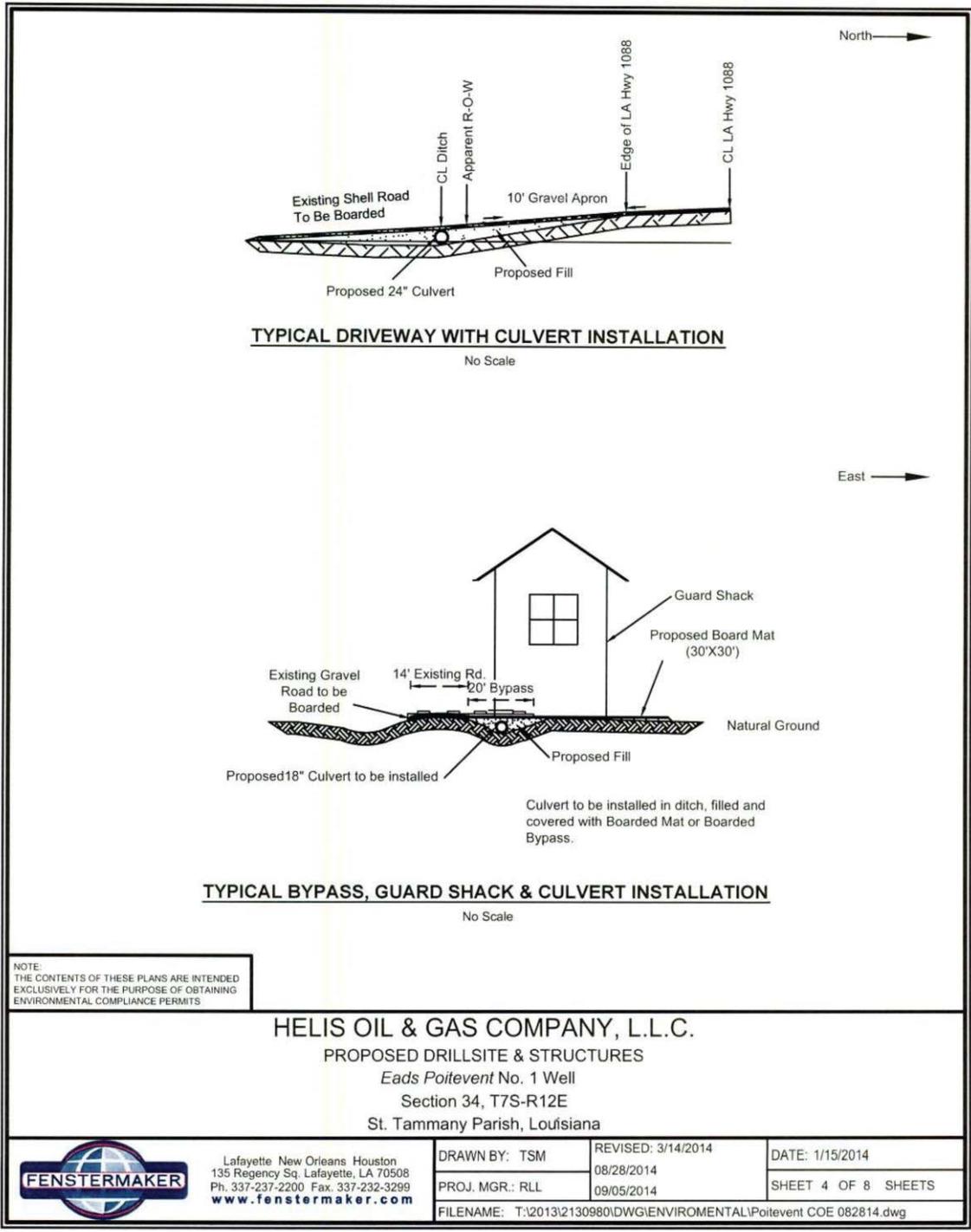
PLAN VIEW DRIVEWAY, GUARD SHACK & BYPASS

**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
 PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES  
*Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well*  
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PROJ. MGR.: RLL	08/28/2014	SHEET 3 OF 8 SHEETS
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**TYPICAL DRIVEWAY WITH CULVERT INSTALLATION**

No Scale

**TYPICAL BYPASS, GUARD SHACK & CULVERT INSTALLATION**

No Scale

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**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**

PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES

*Eads Poitevent* No. 1 Well

Section 34, T7S-R12E

St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana



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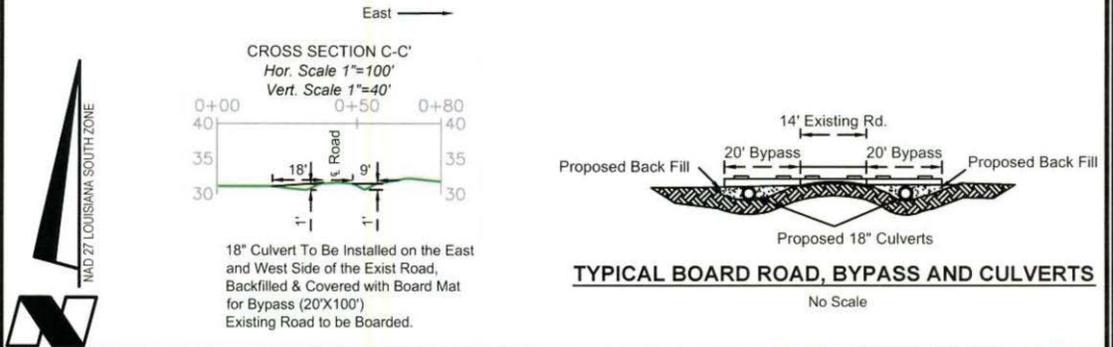
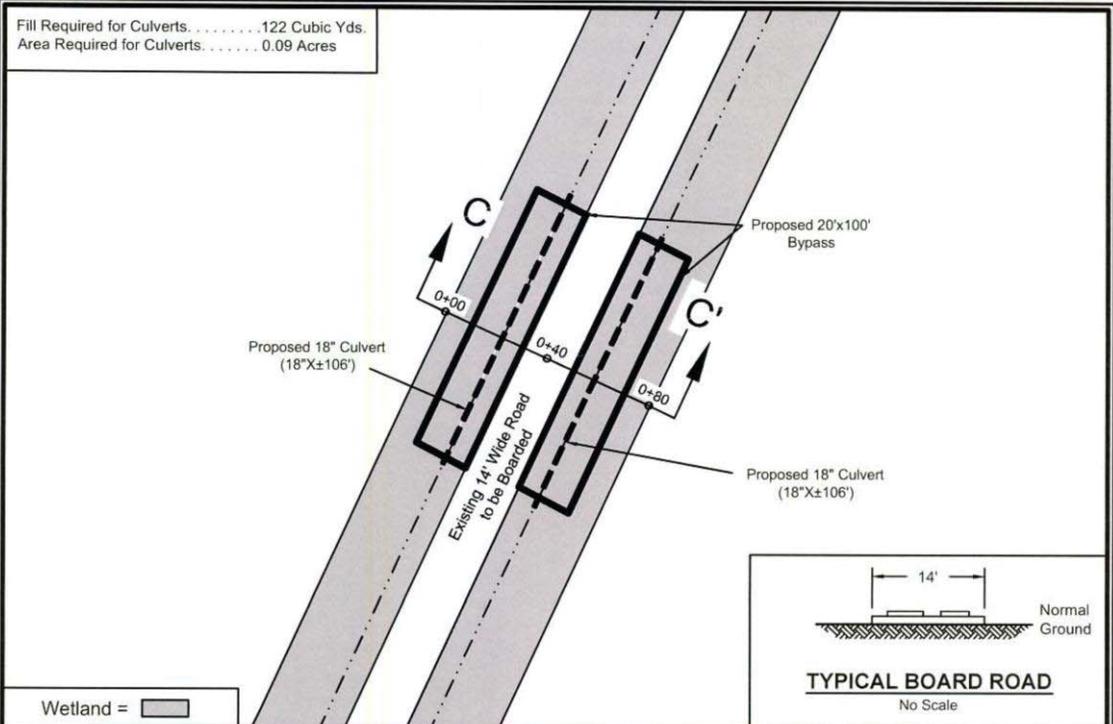
PROJ. MGR.: RLL

08/28/2014

SHEET 4 OF 8 SHEETS

FILENAME: T:\2013\2130980\DWG\ENVIRONMENTAL\Poitevent COE 082814.dwg

Fill Required for Culverts: ..... 122 Cubic Yds.  
 Area Required for Culverts: ..... 0.09 Acres



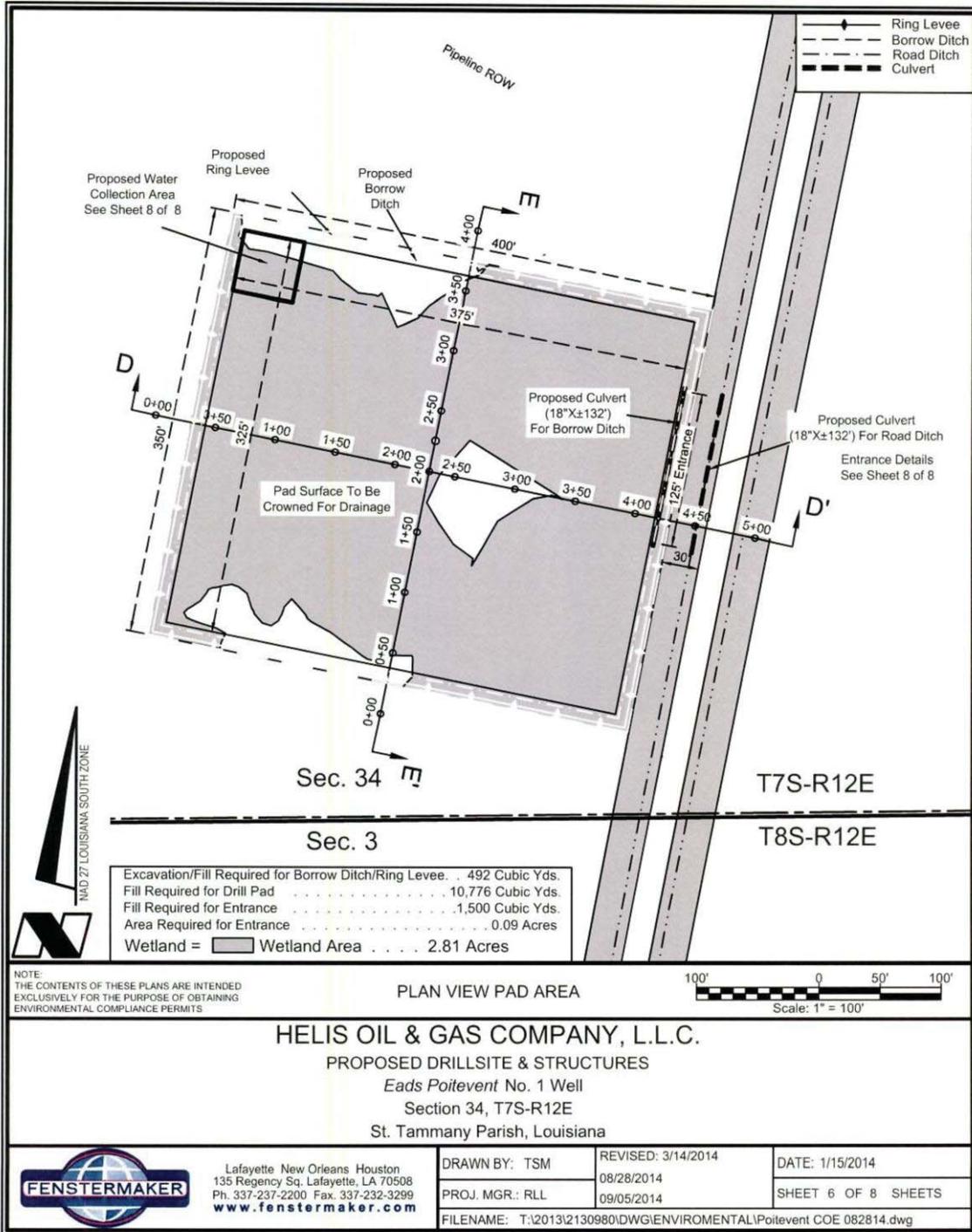
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PLAN VIEW BYPASS

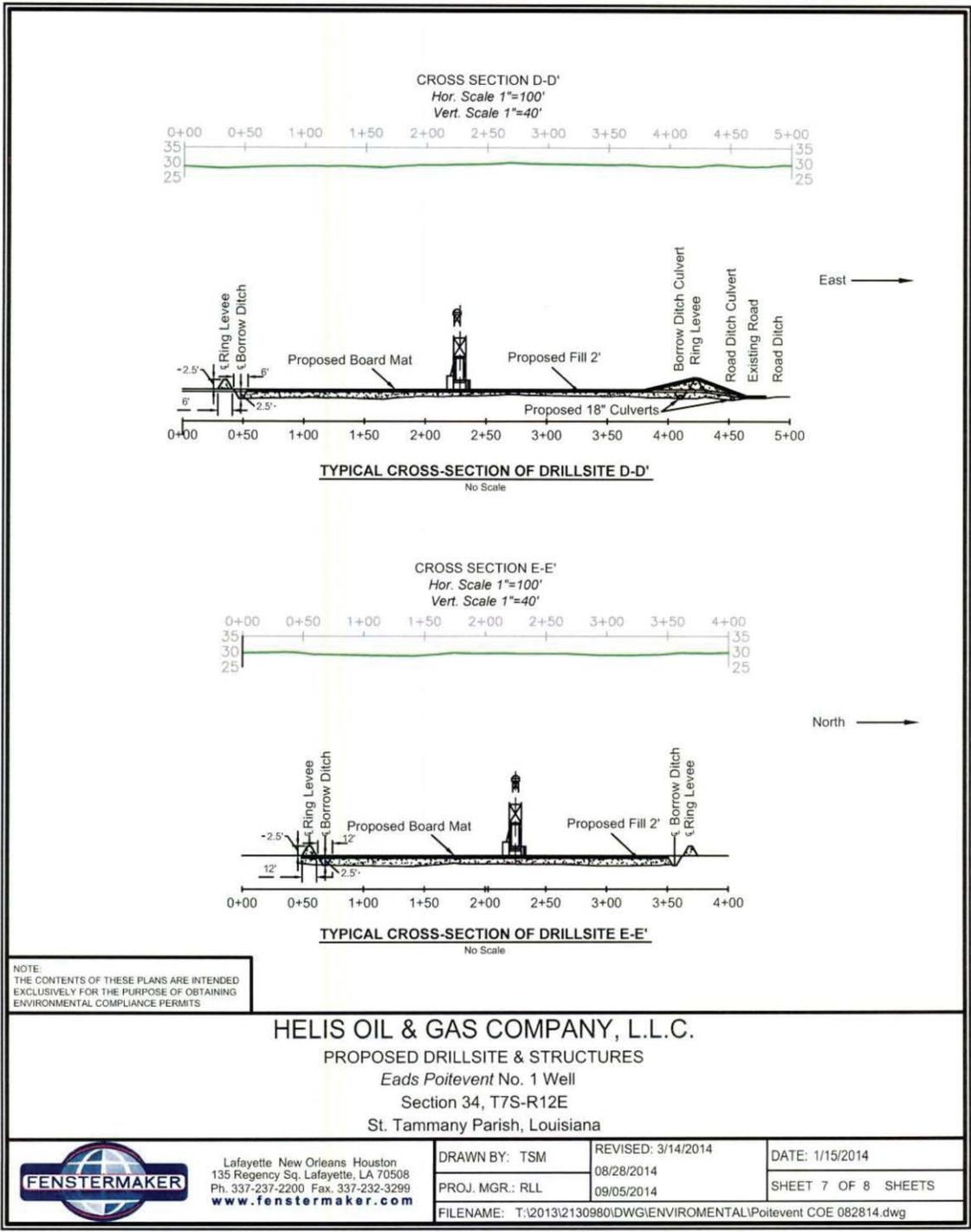
Scale: 1" = 50'

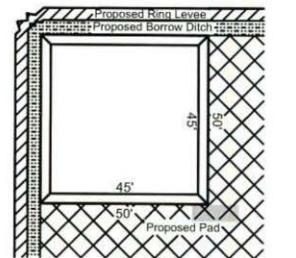
HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.  
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	Lafayette New Orleans Houston 135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508 Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-232-3299 <a href="http://www.fenstermaker.com">www.fenstermaker.com</a>	DRAWN BY: TSM PROJ. MGR.: RLL	REVISED: 3/14/2014 08/28/2014 09/05/2014	DATE: 1/15/2014 SHEET 5 OF 8 SHEETS
	FILENAME: T:\2013\2130980\DWG\ENVIRONMENTAL\Poitevent COE 082814.dwg			

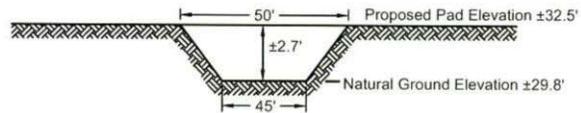


**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

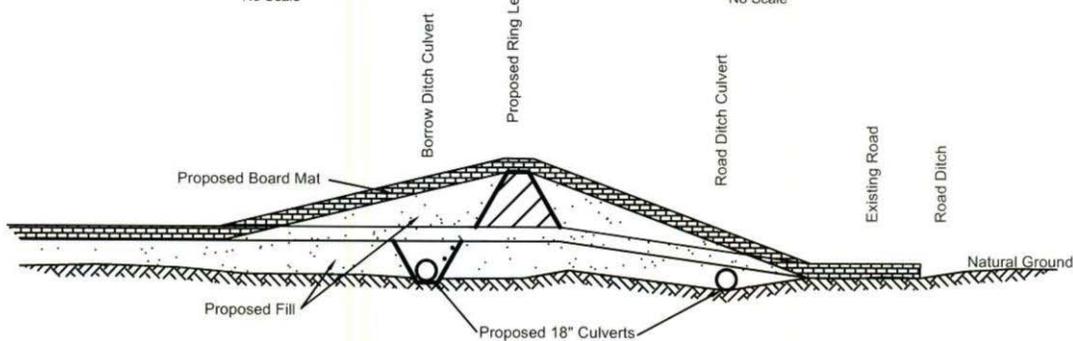




**PLAN VIEW OF TYPICAL WATER COLLECTION AREA**  
No Scale



**PROFILE OF TYPICAL WATER COLLECTION AREA**  
No Scale



**PROFILE OF TYPICAL PAD ENTRANCE**  
No Scale

**NOTES:**

1. Material for drillsite levees will be taken from within the leveed perimeter.
2. Closure procedures, including onshore land treatment and/or offsite disposal of mud pit contents and other drilling residues, shall be conducted in accordance with appropriate Federal and State Regulations.
3. In order to ensure the safety of all parties, the permittee shall contact the Louisiana ONE CALL System (1-800-272-3020), a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of any excavation (Digging, Dredging, Jetting, etc.) or demolition activity.

**NOTES - DRY HOLE SCENARIO**

1. The boards will be removed from the access road and drill pad.
2. The drill site and ring levees will be degraded within 90 days following abandonment. The levee material will be deposited, to the maximum extent practicable, into the borrow areas from which the material was excavated and the area will be leveled to as near pre-project conditions as practicable.
3. The drill pad site will be allowed to naturally re-vegetate.

DISCLAIMER: At this time, C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC has not performed nor was asked to perform any type of engineering, hydrological modeling, flood plain, or "No Rise" certification analyses, including but not limited to determining whether the project will impact flood hazards in connection with federal/FEMA, state, and/or local laws, ordinances and regulations. Accordingly, Fenstermaker makes no warranty or representation of any kind as to the foregoing issues, and persons or entities using this information shall do so at their own risk.

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**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES  
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08/28/2014

SHEET 8 OF 8 SHEETS

09/05/2014

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## ADDENDUM A

### 18. Nature of Activity (Description of Project, include all features)

Helis has proposed an exploration and production project (the "Helis Project") that will be conducted in two, separate phases (referred to hereafter as "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" respectively). Phase 1 will include the development of a drill site for the drilling of a vertical well from which geologic information will be obtained to confirm the production potential of a sub-surface geologic formation over two miles below the land surface from which Helis seeks to extract oil and/or gas. Helis will design and construct the vertical well to accommodate production, so if, as Helis anticipates, the geologic data collected from the vertical well confirms the potential for economically viable mineral production from this deep formation, Helis intends to implement Phase 2 which will consist of the development of the drill site to support the drilling, development and production of minerals from a horizontal well to be advanced from the vertical well drilled in Phase 1 into the aforementioned deep sub-surface geologic formation.

However, in order to comply with the recommendation issued by the consulting geologist who oversaw the July 29, 2014 geological review ("Geological Review") of the Helis project, that the initial Helis 404 permit application be limited to Phase 1 of the Helis Project (i.e., the drilling of the vertical well) only, **Helis is limiting the scope of this amended 404 permit application to encompass the surface development required for Phase 1 only.** Any additional authorization from the USACE that may be required for implementation of Phase 2 of the Helis Project will be addressed as necessary in a separate, subsequent permit filing with the USACE.

Phase 1 of the Helis project which is the subject of this clarified and amended application will involve the installation of a well pad area with associated access road improvements to support the drilling of a vertical well using mechanized excavation and grading of surface materials. The proposed activity will include the following:

- (1) Installation of minor improvements to the existing access road (Log Cabin Road) that will encompass approximately 0.32 acre of jurisdictional wetlands including:
  - Three separate 20' x 100' bypasses to be placed over existing roadside ditches. Each bypass will be constructed by the placement of an appropriately sized drainage culvert into the existing ditch to maintain pre-existing drainage patterns, the backfilling of the ditch around the drainage culvert to grade using off-site fill and the placement of board mats over the fill. (See Sheets 2-5 of 8 for bypass detail)
  - A 30' x 30' guard shack to be placed over the existing roadside ditch and constructed in the same manner as the bypasses described above. (See Sheets 3 and 4 of 8 for guard shack detail)
  - Turning apron of approximately 0.04 acre at the intersection of Log Cabin Road and State Highway 1088 that will extend over portions of the roadside ditches adjoining the existing access road and state highway and which are to be constructed in the same manner as the bypasses described above. (See Sheets 3 and 4 of 8 for turning apron detail)

- (2) Development of a 3.21 acre drill site/pad area (which includes 2.81 acres of jurisdictional wetlands) required for the drilling of the proposed vertical well and the associated environmentally protective features to be employed by Helis in connection with the drilling of the vertical well including:
- The excavation of a borrow ditch around the full perimeter of the 3.21 acre drill site (with the exception of a raised and sloped 125' section adjacent to the access road which will be used for the construction of an entrance way connecting the drill site to the access road). The borrow ditch will be used to collect, convey and manage storm water generated within the drill site and to supply native soils for the construction of the ring levee described below. (See Sheets 6 and 7 of 8 for borrow ditch detail)
  - The construction of a ring levee around the full perimeter of the 3.21 acre drill site (with the exception of the 125' section adjacent to the access road which will be used for the construction of an entrance way connecting the drill site to the access road). (See Sheets 6-8 of 8 for ring levee detail)
  - The construction of a partially elevated 3.21 acre drill site to be constructed by differential filling using off-site fill material and overlain by board mats in all areas except for a small 50'x50' storm water collection area in the northwest corner of the site and the borrow ditches. The pad area will be designed and utilized: to support the drilling and installation of the vertical well and the proposed installation of up gradient and down gradient monitor wells to assess and monitor the quality of groundwater in the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of the vertical well; and to provide storm water drainage and collection features required for the management and controlled discharge of uncontaminated storm water generated within the drill site during active drilling operations. The drill site will be grubbed to remove vegetation before the placement of fill and all grubbed material will be sent off-site for disposal. (See Sheets 6-8 of 8 for drill site detail)
- (3) A raised and sloped 125' wide entrance way connecting the 3.21 acre drill site to Log Cabin Road. The entrance way will be constructed by the placement of an appropriately sized drainage culvert into the existing roadside ditch between the drill site and the access road to maintain pre-existing drainage patterns, the backfilling of the ditch around the drainage culvert to grade using off-site fill and the placement of board matts over the fill. The entrance way will encompass 0.09 acre of jurisdictional wetlands. (See Sheets 6-8 of 8 for entrance way detail)

23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)

Helis will use the proposed vertical well to obtain geologic data to confirm the production potential of a very specific subsurface geologic zone. Although not officially classified as a wildcat well, the Helis well will be drilled in an unproven area with no appreciable historical oil and gas production. Because the area Helis seeks to drill remains largely unexplored and subsurface geologic information from the area is relatively sparse, Helis sought to locate its proposed well site in an area where the limited existing subsurface geologic information would be of the most benefit. The most critical information regarding the subsurface geology in the area is the geologic

information obtained from several previously drilled wells on the edge of the prospect (the “control wells”). One of the factors Helis used in selecting the proposed drill site was its proximity to the control wells; the utility of the control well data in identifying the presence and location of the targeted geologic zone decreases as distance from the control wells increases so the well site must be in reasonably close proximity to the control wells (hereafter the “control well area”). The location of the control wells in relation to the proposed drill site is identified in Attachment 1 hereto.

Because the control well area is so interspersed with jurisdictional wetlands Helis could not identify a suitable drill site location within this area that did not encompass wetlands. Helis has therefore sought to select and configure a site that would minimize the number of wetland acres impacted and that would meet other of Helis’ site selection criteria. First, because the control well area south of the I-12 corridor consists of a much greater proportion of jurisdictional wetlands than the control area to the north of the I-12, Helis elected to locate its proposed well site to the north of the I-12 corridor to reduce wetland impacts.

Second, also to reduce the number of wetland acres impacted, Helis considered potential well sites located adjacent to existing access to the area/Log Cabin Road which can accommodate anticipated vehicular traffic to occur with well operations, without disturbing extensive wetland acreage for construction of new access.

Third, Helis selected a site location that would also meet sound planning criteria, including sufficient distance from: (a) public thoroughfares (Interstate 12 and Louisiana Highway 1088); (b) populated areas (e.g., City of Mandeville and Lakeshore High School); and (c) utility rights of way (e.g., existing underground pipelines and electrical transmission line corridors). Since selection of the proposed well site, Helis has confirmed that the site avoids recently-designated critical habitat for the Dusky Gopher Frog located to the northeast.

In selecting its proposed well location, Helis considered multiple alternative drill sites within the control well area during the pre-application scoping process. Using infrared and LIDAR data from the selected geographic area, and field inspections of the alternative well pad locations within the control well area, Helis chose a well site that contained isolated pockets of uplands which serve to reduce the total number of wetland acres impacted by the well pad.

In addition, Helis’ revised plan adopts the recommendations from the Geological Review to reduce the footprint of the well pad. As originally proposed, Helis’ site plan encompassed both Phase 1 (vertical well) and Phase 2 (horizontal well) on a **10.35 acre drill site** which included a surface water pond to accommodate both phases of the project as well as a proposed method of storm water management for the site. Based on the Geological Review, Helis has amended its application to encompass the surface development required for Phase 1 only – the drilling of the vertical well. Helis has **reduced the well pad size by approximately 70% to 3.21 acres** - the absolute minimum required for the Phase 1 drilling of the vertical well while maintaining effective surface water management.

Helis will also manage its activities at the selected well site location to minimize potential impact to area wetlands:

- Helis will manage site operations to ensure that contaminants are not discharged from the site into surrounding surface waters/wetlands:
  - Helis will use a self-contained, closed loop mud system to drill the vertical well; no reserve or production pits will be used in the drilling of the vertical well.
  - Deck drainage will be collected in the rig basement and transported off-site for disposal in accordance with all applicable regulations.
  - Sanitary waste water will be collected in portable facilities and transported off-site for disposal in accordance with all applicable regulations.
  - Helis will implement best management practices and structural controls to ensure that only uncontaminated storm water is discharged from the site. Such practices and controls include but are not limited to: (1) implementation of a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan; (2) use of structural controls (where appropriate) to retard the entrainment of sediment/constituents in site generated storm water; (3) filtration and sampling of site generated storm water to confirm its quality prior to controlled discharge from the site.
- Helis will seek authorization from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to install ground water monitor wells (i.e., “sentinel wells”) both up gradient and down gradient from the proposed vertical well to assess and monitor the quality of groundwater in the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of the vertical well. The sentinel wells will be used solely for monitoring purposes; they will not supply water for any drilling activities to be conducted on the site.

Importantly, Helis’ proposal has undergone Geological Review and the State Geologist has concluded that there are “No less damaging feasible alternatives” to the proposed Helis well site.

Finally, Helis intends to provide compensatory mitigation for any unavoidable wetland impacts resulting from its proposed activities by the reservation and acquisition of mitigation acreage from a suitable mitigation bank.

**EXHIBIT C: Response to USACE 6/20/14 Request for Information**  
(Responses limited to requests that pertain to the Phase 1 drilling of the vertical well only)

**COE Request:** Many St. Tammany Parish residents expressed concerns regarding local traffic with respect to congestion and safety on the roads, of this area of the parish, due to the anticipated increase in number of large trucks and other equipment that would travel back and forth from the proposed site. Please address this issue detailing the logistics of planned/anticipated large pump trucks, storage tanks, trailer equipment, pickup trucks etc. Please respond to these concerns and describe the type of vehicles, an estimate of the number of vehicles and equipment anticipated for this proposal; the length of days, weeks or months the increased road traffic for this proposal is expected to last.

*Helis Response:* Helis anticipates that the truck traffic will reach the well site by using Interstate 12, then taking the State Highway 1088 exit off of I-12. Once on State Highway 1088 the trucks will travel 2 miles east until they get to Log Cabin Road which will take the trucks to the well site. Log Cabin Road is a privately owned road. The road has been in place for years and is normally used in the Weyerhaeuser timber business. Along the 2 miles of State Highway 1088 going east from I-12 there are no residences and no businesses. The only thing on the State Highway 1088 in our area is a public high school. The turn off for Lakeshore High School is located about 300' past where we will turn off State Highway 1088 onto Log Cabin Road. During Phase 1, Helis anticipates an average traffic volume of 4-5 large 18-wheel type trucks and 10-20 pickup truck type vehicles per drilling day (a drilling day is 24 hours; so 5 large trucks per drilling day equals roughly 1 truck per every 5 hours). If the drilling rig is running casing or cementing casing we could have more truck traffic and would have pump trucks moving on those days. Helis has spoken to Parish President Pat Brister and members of the Parish School Board and has proposed the following: Helis will keep all large trucks off of State Highway 1088 during the 2 hours in the morning that Lakeshore High School students and faculty will be arriving to school. Helis will also keep all large trucks off of State Highway 1088 during the 2 hours in the afternoon when the high school is releasing students. Helis will also have security at the turn in from State Highway 1088 onto Log Cabin Road. Helis plans to coordinate its activity with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Department. If available, Helis will hire and deploy off-duty Sheriff Deputies at the Log Cabin Road entrance 24 hours per day. If a traffic situation develops the deputies will be on-site to respond and to call the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Department if additional assistance is required. Phase 1 will cover the mobilization of the drilling rig onto the site, the

*drilling of a 13,000' vertical hole and moving the drilling rig off location. This phase will take +/- 30 days. Helis will then have no activity at the well site for 3-4 months as it evaluates the data gathered from the drilling, coring and logging of the vertical pilot hole.*

**COE Request:** From development through end of production, what would the estimated water use for a single wellbore be? Please indicate what water resources are intended to be used for the water required during the full development and production phases of this project. Please describe what measures you have taken to coordinate the proposed water usage, of this project, with state and/or local water utility authorities.

*Helis Response: Helis estimates that the water requirements for the Phase 1 drilling of the vertical well to be +/- 800,000 gallons. Helis has committed to the State of Louisiana and to the St. Tammany Parish government that it will not use water from the aquifer system for its drilling operations. Helis will also not use water from streams or bayous that might be in its area of operations. Water will be obtained from private ponds in the area.*

**COE Request:** Will the proposed activity involve underground injection of diesel fluids for hydraulic fracturing and if it will, has an application for a UIC permit been submitted to the EPA?

*Helis Response: This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Frac Fluid Migration - Pathway 1 – Migration of Fluids Through a Faulty Injection Well Casing:**

*Helis Response: This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Frac Fluid Migration - Pathway 2 – Migration of Fluids Through the Annulus Located Between the Casing and the Well Bore:**

*Helis Response: This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Frac Fluid Migration - Pathway 3 – Migration of Fluids from an Injection Zone Through the Confining Strata:**

*Helis Response: This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Frac Fluid Migration - Pathway 4 – Vertical Migration of Fluids Through Improperly Abandoned and Improperly Completed Wells:**

*Helis Response:* *This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Frac Fluid Migration - Pathway 5 – Lateral Migration of Fluids from Within an Injection Zone into a Protected Portion of that Stratum:**

*Helis Response:* *This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Frac Fluid Migration - Pathway 6 – Direct Injection of Fluids into or above an Underground Source of Drinking Water:**

*Helis Response:* *This Request does not pertain to Phase 1 of the Helis Project which is the subject of the clarified and amended 404 permit application.*

**COE Request:** **Please describe what measures have been taken or will be taken, for this proposal to comply with the EPCRA requirements? If Helis intends to use diesel fluids injection for underground fracturing please describe what measures will be taken to mitigate the six potential pathways of contamination migration to the St. Tammany USDW? If diesel fuels will not be used for hydraulic fracturing procedures, in the public interest, please describe what measures / BMPs will be used to reduce the risk of entry of contamination, into the parish's USDW.**

*Helis Response:* *While this request pertains principally to Phase 2 of the Helis Project, Helis notes that in its commitment to safety of the community and emergency response organizations within the parish, Helis has setup at our own expense a training program to meet the requirements of LAC 33 Part V Section 10107 and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPRCA) standards 40 CFR Parts 350-372. Helis will provide this training to all personnel identified by St. Tammany Parish. This one day program will provide St. Tammany Parish 1st Responders with information on:*

- *Contents of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) which has been prepared for the drill site (copies will be filed with the Emergency Response Commission via the Louisiana State Police and the Local Emergency Planning Committee in compliance with LAC 33 Part V Section 10107)*
- *Response procedures in the unlikely event of a well control incident*
- *Chemicals to be used and stored on site (MSDS)*

- *Emergency communication protocols and contacts information found in the EAP*
- *Command and Control procedures Helis will utilize in the unlikely event of an incident requiring parish emergency response resources*
- *Introduction to Wild Well Control and corresponding training of 1<sup>st</sup> Responders*

*Once the drill site is established and before commencement of drilling operations Helis will contact the St. Tammany Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to coordinate a walk through of the facility to familiarize 1st Responders with specifics of the drill site:*

- *Access route to drill site*
- *Layout of drill site*
- *Emergency Shut Down procedures*
- *Location of chemical stores*
- *Location of critical equipment*
- *Review Emergency Notification Procedures*
- *Location and anticipated duration of the drilling operations*
- *Name and telephone numbers of facility personnel to contact in the case of an emergency; and*

*During operations, copies of the MSDS shall be maintained on the drill site, accessible to all crew members, and will be reviewed in safety meetings prior to a chemical's use onsite. Safety meetings will be documented and copies maintained onsite, in contractor's office, and a copy forwarded to the designated Helis representative. This requirement will be included in the HazCom section of the Safe Work Practices Plan (SWPP) for each contractor.*

*Helis will install surface casing in the vertical well and if the geologic data collected from the well confirms potential productivity sufficient for Helis to proceed with Phase 2, Helis will install a second well casing in the vertical well prior to the completion of Phase 1.*

*Additional safety procedures related to hydraulic fracturing will be addressed in connection with any future application required for Phase 2 operations.*

**COE Request:**

**The Corps of Engineers attached to its request for a response to a letter of objection from St. Tammany Parish Councilman, Jacob B. Groby III, and specifically described Mr. Groby's discussion of the zoning which he asserts is applicable to the lands covered by our**

**application. Mr. Groby contends that its zoning ordinances would preclude the oil and gas operations contemplated by this application.**

*Helis Response:*

*Under established Louisiana law, St. Tammany Parish does not have the statutory power preclude the drilling of oil and gas wells within the Parish, as Louisiana law vests the Commissioner of Conservation with the sole authority regarding drilling operations for oil and gas in Louisiana. La. R.S. 30:28(f) expressly states that “No other agency or political subdivision of the state has the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals” under a permit issued by the Commissioner of Conservation. This clear, far reaching principle has been consistently upheld by the Courts. See for example, Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport (“Energy Management”), 397 F. 3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005), *aff’d* and remanded by 467 F. 3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006). The Fifth Circuit noted that the statute “reflects a desire for state uniformity and addresses the danger of conflict between the state program and enforcement of local laws.” [397 F. 3d 297, at 303-304]. If the Corps of Engineers were to allow the zoning ordinances cited by Mr. Groby to preclude the operations contemplated by Helis, it would destroy such uniformity and the balance the Louisiana Legislature sought to create in enacting that statute.*

*The Fifth Circuit’s decision in Energy Management is also relevant to the other concern raised by Mr. Groby, the protection of the Southern Hills aquifer. As the Court in Energy Management noted, Louisiana law “gives the Commissioner the authority to issue regulations and orders to ‘ensure ground water aquifer safety.’” [397 F. 3d 297, at 304]*

*Prior to commencing drilling operations, Helis must obtain a drilling permit from the Commissioner of Conservation. The Commissioner would consider the safety of the ground water in the course of considering the permit application. That is the venue in which the arguments that Mr. Groby raises are to be addressed. If the permit is denied, no drilling operations will take place. If however the permit is granted, then under the clear provisions of Louisiana law, as followed by the Fifth Circuit in Energy Management, the St. Tammany Parish zoning ordinances cannot prohibit or interfere with the operations to take place pursuant to such permit. For this reason, such zoning ordinances are simply not relevant to the application filed by Helis here.*

*Finally, Mr. Groby makes a relatively brief reference to the issue of mitigation for the usage of wetlands contemplated by our application. Helis’s efforts to avoid, minimize and ultimately mitigate the impact of its project on wetlands have been documented in Helis’s clarified and amended 404 permit application submitted in conjunction with this*

*Response and as concluded in the recommendations issued by the geological review, there are "no less damaging feasible alternatives" to the drill site location selected by Helis.*

Upon reviewing the information presented by Helis, the consulting geologist at the GR recommended that a single exploratory well be constructed for the purpose of obtaining more data to better assess the site's viability as an oil and gas production site. CEMVN concurred with that recommendation concluding that the site's viability for production of fossil fuels, at this juncture, is speculative and that processing an application for a production site would not be in accordance with the Corps Regulatory Guidance requirements stipulating avoidance and minimization procedures to be followed for proposed wetland impacts nor would it be in the public interest. CEMVN requested Helis to submit revised plans proposing a single exploratory well for the purpose of obtaining the additional data/information necessary for CEMVN to evaluate whether the site is the less environmentally damaging alternative, in the public interest and for the applicant's desired goal of producing fossil fuels in this geographical area.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Clear, grade, excavate, and fill to construct a well pad and make access road improvements to install and service a single drill rig for the purpose of obtaining geological data from this area of the Tuscaloosa Shale Play. The proposed well pad site is 3.21 acres, of which 2.81 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. Access road improvements and the construction of a guard shack would result in an additional 0.32 acre of wetland impacts for a total of 3.13 acres of wetlands to be directly impacted by the proposed work. The site plans have incorporated a ditch and ring levee abutting and circumventing the drill pad and would be contiguous with a planned 125 ft elevated entrance driveway. The drill pad surface has been designed with sloping features to drain stormwater to a 2,500 sq ft drainage sump within the drill site and abutting the perimeter ditch. The design is for the purpose of managing stormwater runoff within the drill pad site for containment, use and proper disposal. The applicant states that ±800,000 gallons of water would be required for this single vertical well operation and that it would be obtained from private ponds. The drill rig deck design incorporates a basement/sump underneath the rig to capture drill deck drainage for collection, transport and proper offsite disposal. The applicant proposes to install so called "sentinel wells" up-gradient and down-gradient of the well site to assess and monitor water quality of the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of the well site. The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts by purchasing the appropriate credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **30 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above. In accordance with the Corps Regulatory Policies found within 33 CFR Part 325, Paragraph 325.2 (d) (2), this comment period is not to exceed 30 days from the date of this joint public notice.

### Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

The Corps is unaware of any species or designated critical habitat, listed by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which may be directly affected by the proposed activity. Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any ESA listed species nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species. CEMVN's final determination, relative to project affecting any ESA listed species or any designated critical habitat, is subject to review by and coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would result in temporary adverse impacts to N/A acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. CEMVN's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Michael V. Farabee  
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Attachments



**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**

PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES

*Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well*

Section 34, T7S-R12E

St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana



Lafayette New Orleans Houston  
135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508  
Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-232-3299  
[www.fenstermaker.com](http://www.fenstermaker.com)

DRAWN BY: TSM

REVISED: 3/14/2014

DATE: 1/15/2014

PROJ. MGR: RLL

08/28/2014

SHEET 1 OF 8 SHEETS

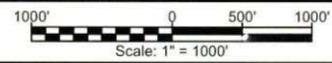
09/05/2014

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NOTE:  
 THE CONTENTS OF THESE PLANS ARE INTENDED  
 EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING  
 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PERMITS

PROJECT PLAN VIEW



**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
 PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES  
 Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well  
 Section 34, T7S-R12E  
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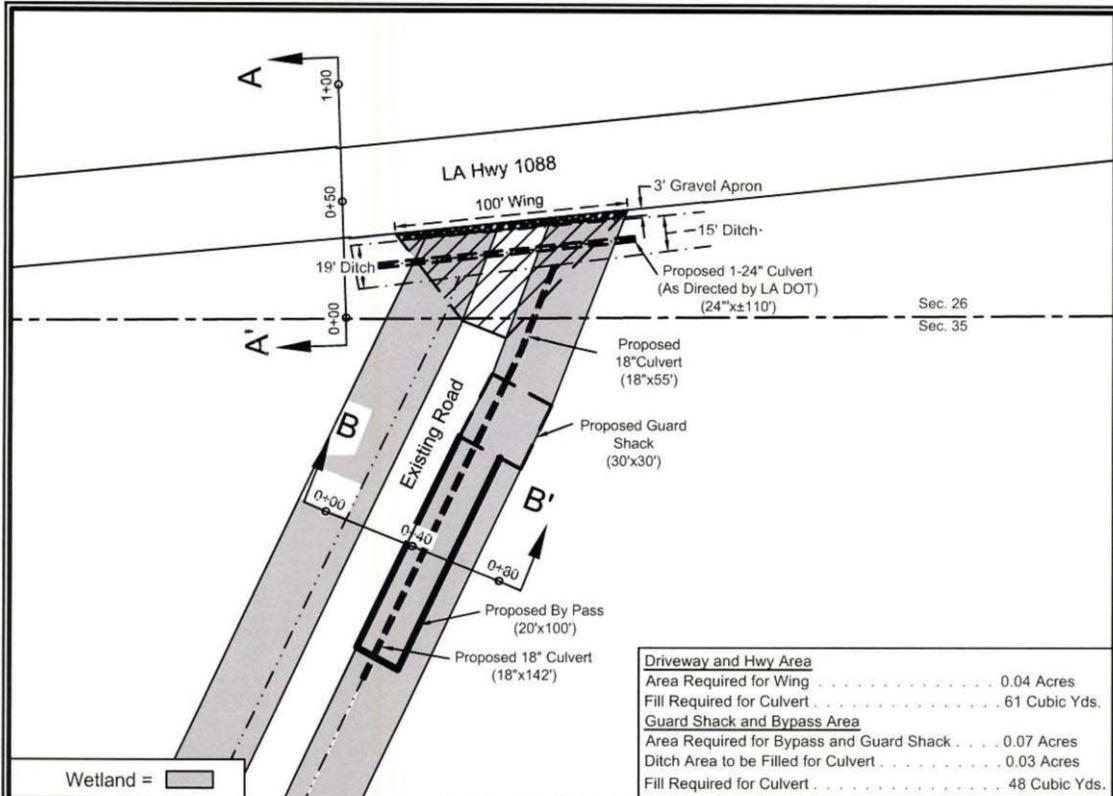
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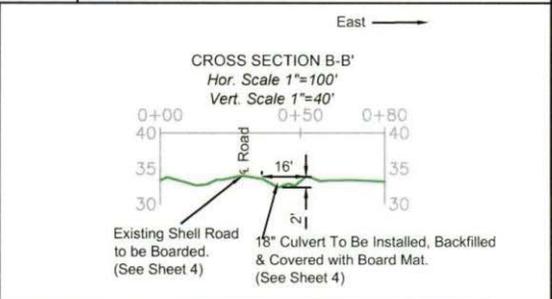
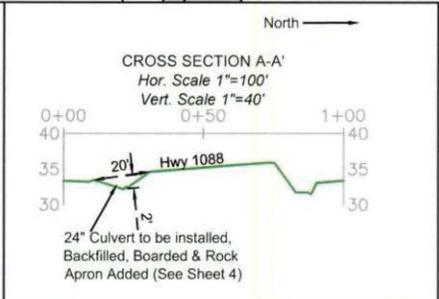
08/28/2014

SHEET 2 OF 8 SHEETS

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<b>Driveway and Hwy Area</b>	
Area Required for Wing	0.04 Acres
Fill Required for Culvert	61 Cubic Yds.
<b>Guard Shack and Bypass Area</b>	
Area Required for Bypass and Guard Shack	0.07 Acres
Ditch Area to be Filled for Culvert	0.03 Acres
Fill Required for Culvert	48 Cubic Yds.



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PLAN VIEW DRIVEWAY, GUARD SHACK & BYPASS

**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
 PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES  
*Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well*  
 Section 34, T7S-R12E  
 St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana



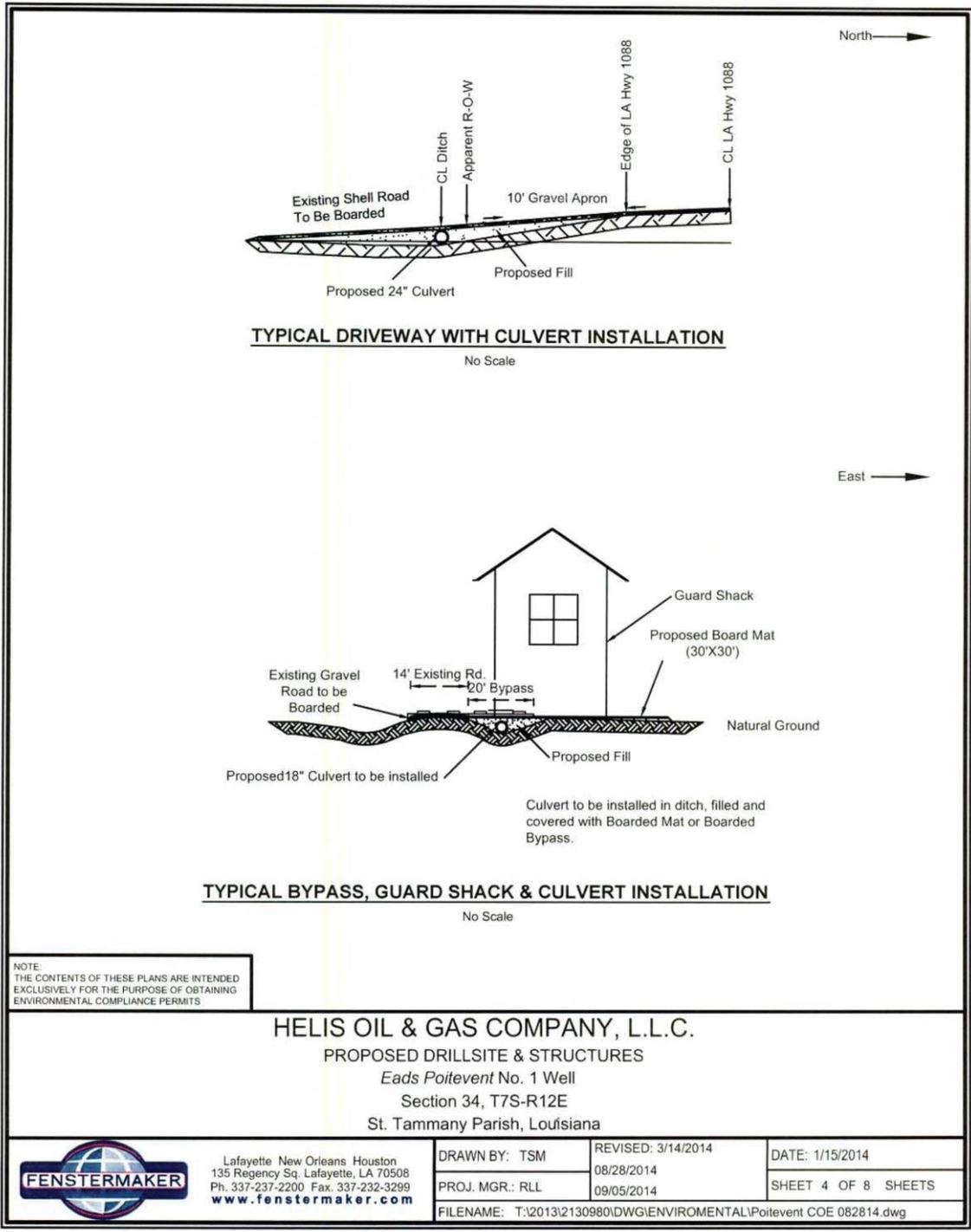
Lafayette New Orleans Houston  
 135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508  
 Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-232-3299  
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REVISED: 3/14/2014  
 08/28/2014  
 09/05/2014

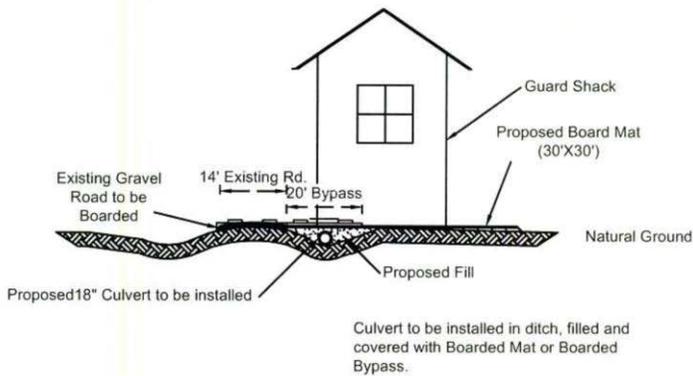
DATE: 1/15/2014  
 SHEET 3 OF 8 SHEETS

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**TYPICAL DRIVEWAY WITH CULVERT INSTALLATION**

No Scale



**TYPICAL BYPASS, GUARD SHACK & CULVERT INSTALLATION**

No Scale

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**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
 PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES  
*Eads Poitevent* No. 1 Well  
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REVISED: 3/14/2014

08/28/2014

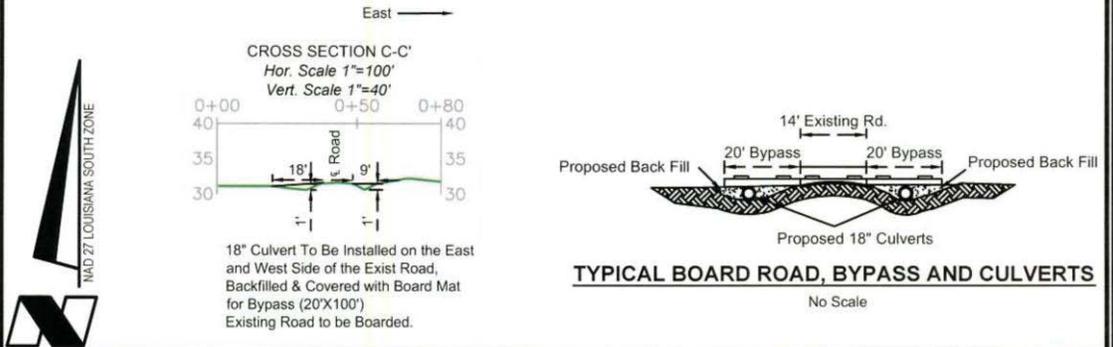
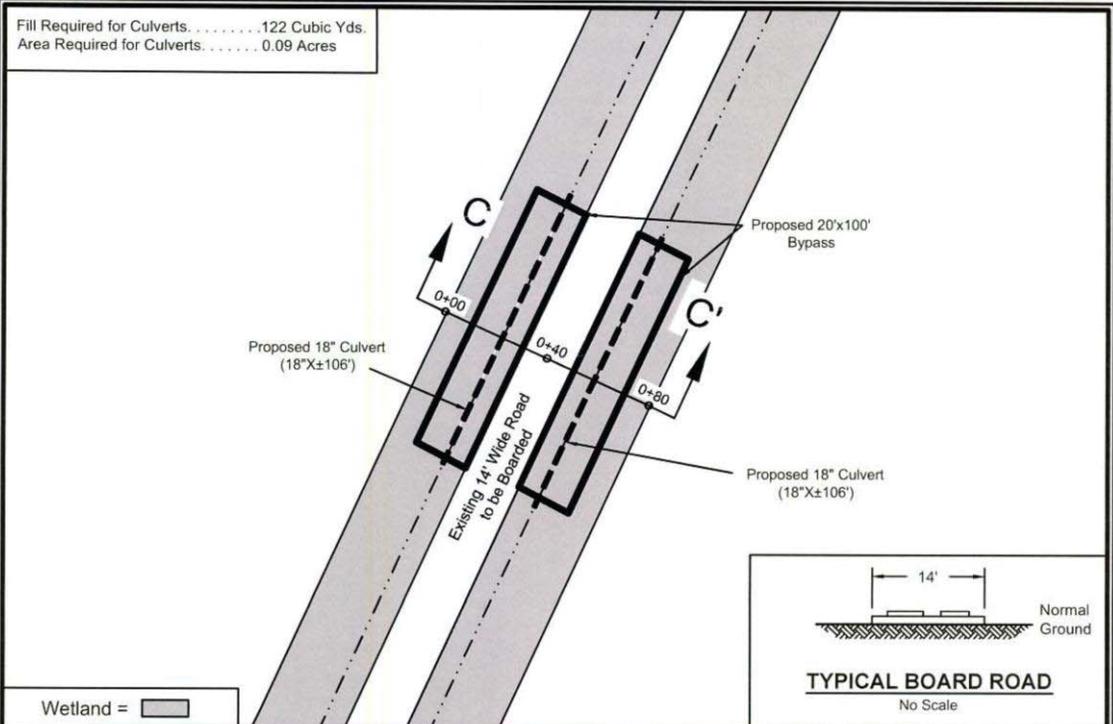
09/05/2014

DATE: 1/15/2014

SHEET 4 OF 8 SHEETS

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Fill Required for Culverts: ..... 122 Cubic Yds.  
 Area Required for Culverts: ..... 0.09 Acres



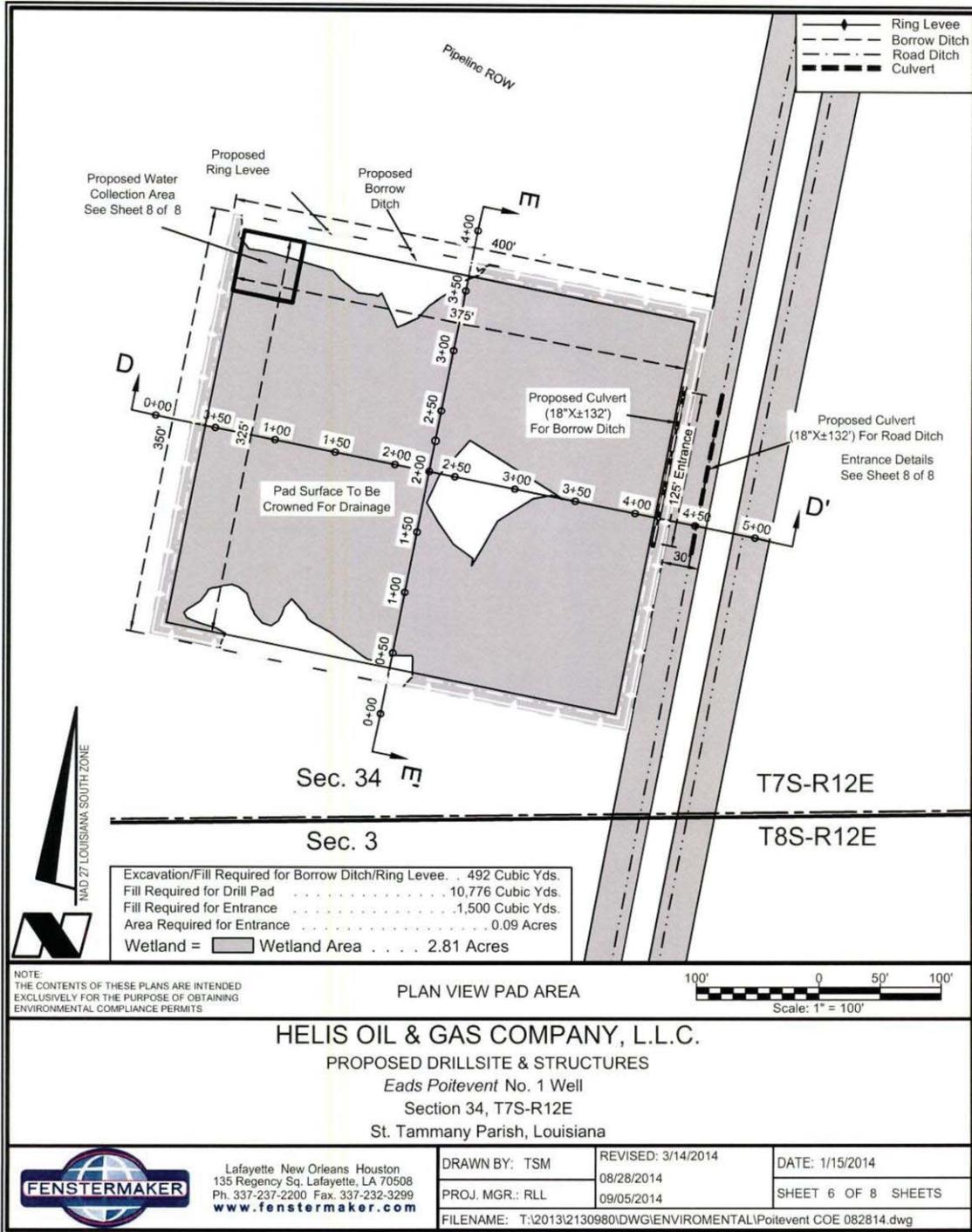
NOTE: THE CONTENTS OF THESE PLANS ARE INTENDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PERMITS.

PLAN VIEW BYPASS

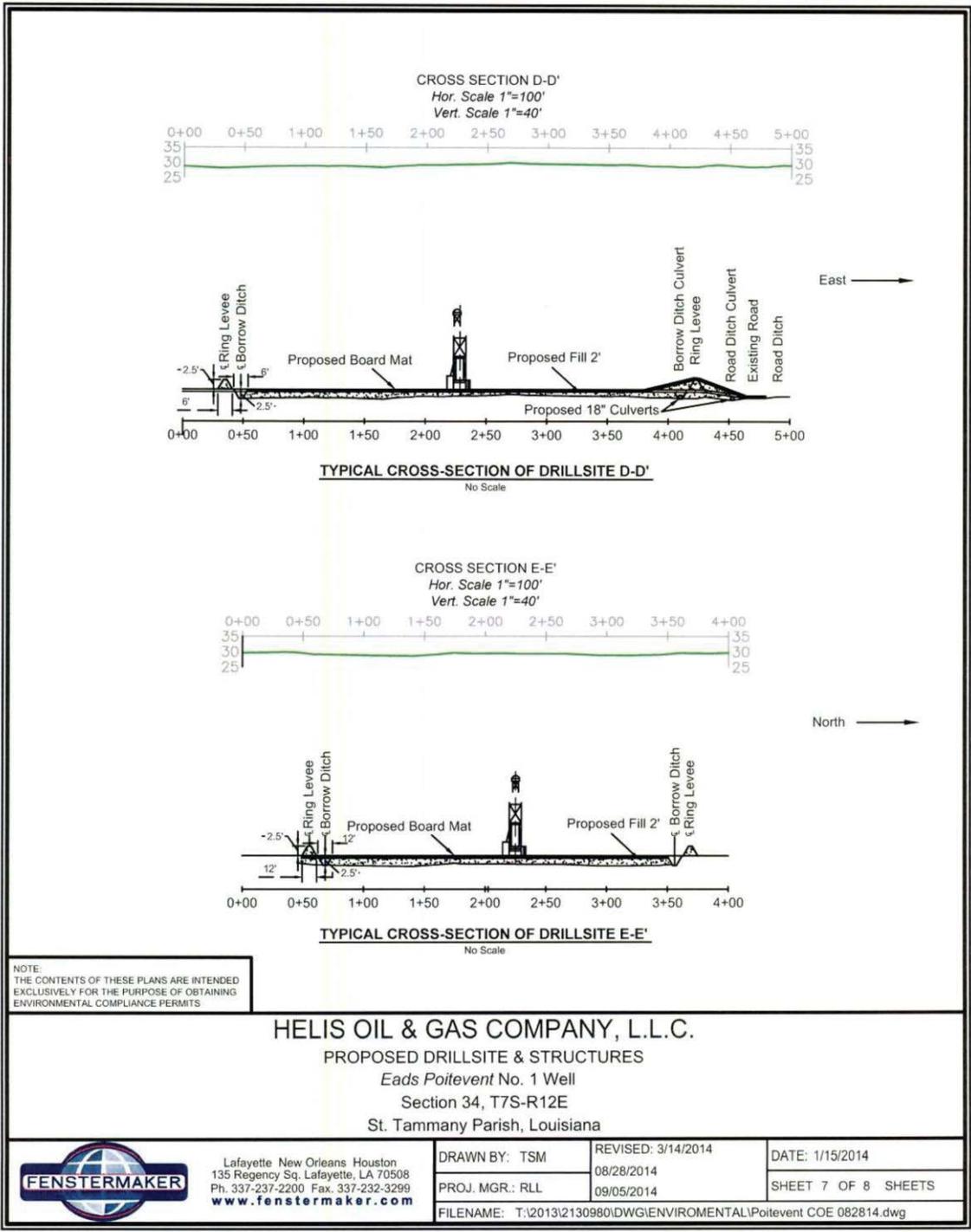
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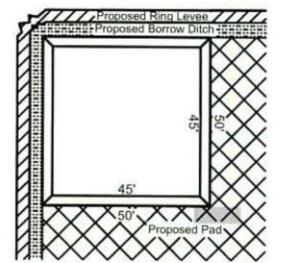
HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.  
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	Lafayette New Orleans Houston 135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508 Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-232-3299 <a href="http://www.fenstermaker.com">www.fenstermaker.com</a>	DRAWN BY: TSM PROJ. MGR.: RLL	REVISED: 3/14/2014 08/28/2014 09/05/2014	DATE: 1/15/2014 SHEET 5 OF 8 SHEETS
	FILENAME: T:\2013\2130980\DWG\ENVIRONMENTAL\Poitevent COE 082814.dwg			

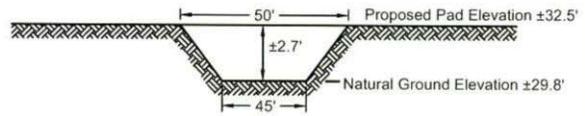


**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

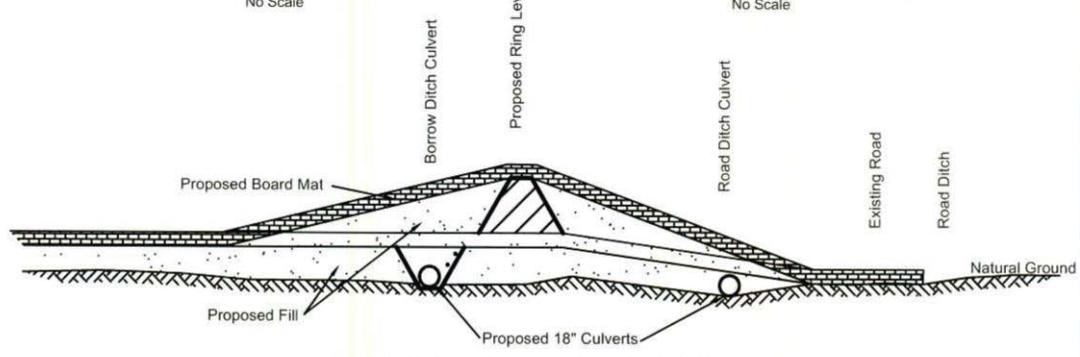




**PLAN VIEW OF TYPICAL WATER COLLECTION AREA**  
No Scale



**PROFILE OF TYPICAL WATER COLLECTION AREA**  
No Scale



**PROFILE OF TYPICAL PAD ENTRANCE**  
No Scale

**NOTES:**

1. Material for drillsite levees will be taken from within the leveed perimeter.
2. Closure procedures, including onshore land treatment and/or offsite disposal of mud pit contents and other drilling residues, shall be conducted in accordance with appropriate Federal and State Regulations.
3. In order to ensure the safety of all parties, the permittee shall contact the Louisiana ONE CALL System (1-800-272-3020), a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of any excavation (Digging, Dredging, Jetting, etc.) or demolition activity.

**NOTES - DRY HOLE SCENARIO**

1. The boards will be removed from the access road and drill pad.
2. The drill site and ring levees will be degraded within 90 days following abandonment. The levee material will be deposited, to the maximum extent practicable, into the borrow areas from which the material was excavated and the area will be leveled to as near pre-project conditions as practicable.
3. The drill pad site will be allowed to naturally re-vegetate.

**DISCLAIMER:** At this time, C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC has not performed nor was asked to perform any type of engineering, hydrological modeling, flood plain, or "No Rise" certification analyses, including but not limited to determining whether the project will impact flood hazards in connection with federal/FEMA, state, and/or local laws, ordinances and regulations. Accordingly, Fenstermaker makes no warranty or representation of any kind as to the foregoing issues, and persons or entities using this information shall do so at their own risk.

**NOTE:**  
THE CONTENTS OF THESE PLANS ARE INTENDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PERMITS

**HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, L.L.C.**  
PROPOSED DRILLSITE & STRUCTURES  
Eads Poitevent No. 1 Well  
Section 34, T7S-R12E  
St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana



Lafayette New Orleans Houston  
135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508  
Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-232-3299  
[www.fenstermaker.com](http://www.fenstermaker.com)

DRAWN BY: TSM	REVISED: 3/14/2014	DATE: 1/15/2014
PROJ. MGR.: RLL	08/28/2014	SHEET 8 OF 8 SHEETS
09/05/2014		
FILENAME: T:\2013\2130980\DWG\ENVIRONMENTAL\Poitevent COE 082814.dwg		

**From:** Jan Jumonville [jjjumonville@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2014 12:05 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells; Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV  
**Subject:** Emailing: 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Helis' Application for Permits. Jan Jumonville  
**Attachments:** 10-25-14 JJ Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

*Jan P. Jumonville*

*24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, Louisiana 70435  
Email: [jjjumonville@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjjumonville@bellsouth.net)  
Office/Fax (985) 892-8191*

**PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS EMAIL AND WERE ABLE TO OPEN THE ATTACHED FILE.**

October 25, 2014

Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Email: [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welch and Mr. Wells,

Attached is my letter addressed to you which I would appreciate your reviewing and your consideration regarding the above applications for permits by Helis Oil.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville

CC: Mr. Patrick Courreges, Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

*Jan P. Jumonville*

24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, LA 70435

Telephone (985) 892-8191  
Email: [jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)

October 25, 2014

**Email:** [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Hellis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In [Science Daily](#) the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells."

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 2 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 3 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).
2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2).

**Email: dnrinfo.la.gov**  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 4 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

3. Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(I).
4. Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).
5. Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11 (G).
6. Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).
7. Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11(G).
8. Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).
9. Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.1 I(O).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 5 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

10. Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated its lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poiteviant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj  
cc: Mr. Patrick Courreges, [Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV)

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 1:03 PM

**To:** chipmaught@gmail.com; Peggy Maught; Tom Himes; Gordon Cain; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Daniel Henry; David Acquistapace (david551973@yahoo.com);

garrett acquistapace; Pete McEnery; martha.mcenery@gmail.com; Hy McEnery; Larry Ringham

**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

Greater New Orleans Inc. has just announced its formal support of Helis' fracking project. GNO Inc.'s support is very important and a huge endorsement of Helis. It is **THE** umbrella economic development group covering the entire NO region.

[http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/10/gno\\_inc\\_comes\\_out\\_in\\_support\\_o.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/10/gno_inc_comes_out_in_support_o.html#incart_river)

**Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC

One Lakeway

3900 North Causeway Blvd.

Suite 1200

Metairie, LA 70002

Direct: 504-648-4109

Cell: 713-540-8577

E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)

[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

---

**From:** Edward Poitevent

**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 4:48 PM

**To:** 'chipmaught@gmail.com'; 'Peggy Maught'; 'Tom Himes'; Gordon Cain; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Daniel Henry; David Acquistapace (david551973@yahoo.com); 'garrett acquistapace'; Pete McEnery; 'martha.mcenery@gmail.com'; Hy McEnery; Larry Ringham

**Cc:** Larry Rase; 'Bruce Wainer' (bruce@wainerco.com)

**Subject:** FW: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

See below. Very important regional business support for Helis announced this afternoon by every business group in the area, beginning with the Northshore Business Council and all of the following business groups in the region:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

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**Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council  
In Support of Energy Industry**

*Businesses Support Safe Exploration in Louisiana*

**NEW ORLEANS** -- The undersigned organizations endorse the Northshore Business Council's position of support for the oil and gas industry. Our organizations are in favor of energy production in Greater New Orleans and Louisiana, done in a safe and responsible manner and are confident that strong state and local oversight can ensure the industry meets its responsibilities to the community.

The importance of the energy industry to our state cannot be overstated. The oil and gas

supports over 300,000 jobs and \$20.5 billion in household earnings in Louisiana industry paid nearly \$1.5 billion in Louisiana taxes- 15% of the total taxes collected in Louisiana is leading America's energy boom, but we risk turning this boom into one that does not support safe and responsible exploration and production.

You can read the Northshore Business Council's [statement of support here](#).

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

###

365 Canal Street, Suite 2300, New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: 504.527.6900 Fax: 504.527.6970 [www.gnoinc.org](http://www.gnoinc.org)

### **Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 9:17 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** St. Tammany fracking opponents not open to discussion: James Varney

**St. Tammany fracking opponents not open to discussion: James Varney**

Standing outside the door to the Lakeshore High School gym in St. Tammany Wednesday evening was a gentleman in a sweatshirt that read, "Fracking Equals Death." Whispering feverishly in his ear was another mustachioed gentleman insisting that some unnamed cabal wants to poison the national water sup...

[Read More...](#)



James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:16 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626

**Importance:** High

[Read this one](#)

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626  
**Importance:** High

[Read this request](#)

**From:** Sandra Slifer [<mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket #14-626

Eads Poitevent Well No. 1  
Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch,  
I am writing to ask that you extend the comment period on Docket #14-626 for an additional thirty days. We deserve a chance to review the information that Helis presented at the meeting held in Mandeville on November 12. It was very difficult to hear. Please post the information presented online and give us time to review it.

Thank you,

**Sandra Slifer**  
*President, League of Women Voters of Louisiana*

[sandraslifer@gmail.com](mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com)

116 Tulip Drive, Covington, LA 70434  
985-875-9388 985-285-3552 - text please!

League of Women Voters of Louisiana, President, <http://lwvofla.org>

League of Women Voters of St. Tammany, Voter Services Chair, <http://lwvofst.org>

Association of Associations (AOA),

Convener, <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofAssociations>

Women of Infinite Possibilities, <http://womenofwip.org>

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626

**Importance:** High

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources  
LA Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500 (O)  
(225)342-3705 (F)

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626  
**Importance:** High

[Read this request](#)

**From:** Sandra Slifer [<mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket #14-626

Eads Poitevent Well No. 1  
Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch,  
I am writing to ask that you extend the comment period on Docket #14-626 for an additional thirty days. We deserve a chance to review the information that Helis presented at the meeting held in Mandeville on November 12. It was very difficult to hear. Please post the information presented online and give us time to review it.

Thank you,

**Sandra Slifer**  
**President, League of Women Voters of Louisiana**

[sandraslifer@gmail.com](mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com)

116 Tulip Drive, Covington, LA 70434  
985-875-9388 985-285-3552 - text please!

League of Women Voters of Louisiana, President, <http://lwvofla.org>

League of Women Voters of St. Tammany, Voter Services Chair, <http://lwvofst.org>

Association of Associations (AOA),  
Convener, <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofAssociations>  
Women of Infinite Possibilities, <http://womenofwip.org>

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:15 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

FYI – another request for extension based on Helis presentation

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

**From:** Serena [<mailto:itsg2bq@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:13 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

Commissioner Welch, Please extend the time we have to submit comments for thirty additional days. We need time to review the new information Helis submitted last night at the DNR hearing in Mandeville.

Thank You.  
Serena Westberry, John Gonzales, Stephen Kaup, Sarah Kaup  
Covington, LA 70433

--

"The definition of quality: Doing the right thing, and only the right thing, at the right time, all the time".

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:45 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: No Fracking!

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

-----Original Message-----

From: Phyllis Darensbourg On Behalf Of LDNR Public Information  
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 10:45 AM  
To: Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
Subject: FW: No Fracking!

-----Original Message-----

From: Cathy Reams [<mailto:mclyle4@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 8:01 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: No Fracking!

(Please send an email to [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov) today. Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626. Commissioner Welch,) Please extend the time we have to submit comments for thirty additional days. We need time to review the new information Helis submitted last night at the DNR hearing in Mandeville. Thank You.

Cathy Reams

---

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: Request extension for public hearing

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Request extension for public hearing

**From:** Lucy Tierney [mailto:lucywtierney@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:42 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Request extension for public hearing

I request a 30 day extension for docket #14-626. At the fracking hearing last night in Mandeville (Lakeshore High School) I waited 4 1/2 hours for my name to be called so I could give a statement. I heard hours of technical speakers but then I had to leave because of work the next day. Citizens like me deserve a chance to be heard, also.

--

*Lucy Tierney*

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**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:45 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Fracking Permit - Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Fracking Permit - Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

---

**From:** Jamie Foster [<mailto:jamie@solidwebservice.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 7:24 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** St. Tammany Fracking Permit - Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch,

THANK YOU for attending the permit hearing at Lakeshore High School. I too was there.

After hearing the bumbling and muttering from the Helis people, I have SERIOUS concerns about their plans and potentially empty promises.

PLEASE EXTEND THE TIME WE HAVE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS. I need time to review the new information Helis submitted at the hearing. This is not looking like a good thing for my community.

Sincerely,

Jamie Foster  
71540 St. Charles Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420  
(985)875-9820

---

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privileged and is intended only for the use of the intended recipients identified above. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized review, use, dissemination, distribution, downloading, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Sandra Slifer [sandraslifer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Docket #14-626

Thanks for letting me know, Daniel. We'll get our comments in before the deadline.  
Sandra

*Sandra Slifer*

[sandraslifer@gmail.com](mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com)

116 Tulip Drive, Covington, LA 70434

985-875-9388 985-285-3552 - text please!

League of Women Voters of Louisiana, President, <http://lwvofla.org>

League of Women Voters of St. Tammany, Voter Services Chair, <http://lwvofst.org>

Association of Associations (AOA),

Convener, <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofAssociations>

Women of Infinite Possibilities, <http://womenofwip.org>

On Fri, Nov 14, 2014 at 3:58 PM, Daniel Henry <[Daniel.Henry@la.gov](mailto:Daniel.Henry@la.gov)> wrote:

Ms. Slifer,

Again, very nice seeing you again on Wednesday.

Please find the Commissioner's response to the request for extension attached.

Also, please note that the presentations have been put up on our website.

Have a great weekend.

Daniel

Daniel D. Henry, Jr., Attorney  
LDNR / Office of Conservation  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

---

**From:** Jim Welsh  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626  
**Importance:** High

FYI.

**James H. "Jim" Welsh**

**Commissioner of Conservation**

LA Dept. of Natural Resources

LA Office of Conservation

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

[\(225\)342-5500 \(O\)](tel:(225)342-5500)

[\(225\)342-3705 \(F\)](tel:(225)342-3705)

---

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg **On Behalf Of** LDNR Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626  
**Importance:** High

[Read this request](#)

**From:** Sandra Slifer [<mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket #14-626

Eads Poitevent Well No. 1

Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch,

I am writing to ask that you extend the comment period on Docket #14-626 for an additional thirty days. We deserve a chance to review the information that Helis presented at the meeting held in Mandeville on November 12. It was very difficult to hear. Please post the information presented online and give us time to review it.

Thank you,

*Sandra Slifer*

*President, League of Women Voters of Louisiana*

[sandraslifer@gmail.com](mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com)

116 Tulip Drive, Covington, LA 70434

[985-875-9388](tel:985-875-9388) [985-285-3552](tel:985-285-3552) - text please!

League of Women Voters of Louisiana, President, <http://lwvofla.org>

League of Women Voters of St. Tammany, Voter Services Chair, <http://lwvofst.org>

Association of Associations (AOA),  
Convener, <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofAssociations>

Women of Infinite Possibilities, <http://womenofwip.org>

---

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**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:51 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID ".  
**Attachments:** AB05F7CE.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID ".  
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11/18/2014 5:49:56 PM Transmission Record  
Received from remote ID:  
Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 2  
Elapsed time: 00:52 on channel 0

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

DATE: November 17, 2014

**PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:**

NAME: *TO Whom It May Concern*  
COMPANY : *LA Office of Conservation, Engineering Division*  
FAX NUMBER: *1-225-242-3428*

\*\*\*\*\*

FROM: Olivia Philipp

TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, PLEASE CALL: (985) 807-4308

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 92475  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

November 17, 2014

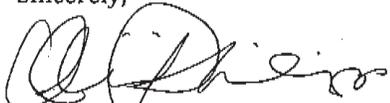
RE: Engineering Docket NO. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please do not grant a permit to Helis Oil and Gas for the well they wish to drill in St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Olivia W. Phillpp

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:13 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID "  
**Attachments:** AB05F991.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID "

-----  
11/19/2014 3:12:02 PM Transmission Record  
Received from remote ID:  
Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 3  
Elapsed time: 01:01 on channel 0

# FAX

TO: Commissioner Welsh, Office of Conservation

FROM: Kevin Charles Drews

FAX: 504-799-3036

DATE: 11/19/14 PAGES: 3 (including cover)

RE: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

November 19, 2014

**Regarding: Presentations/Exhibits and other materials related to Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil and Gas Permit Application and Public Hearing**

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Thank you for accepting my letter. My personal opinion is that I strongly prefer Helis – nor any other company eager to employ the fracturing method – *never* be granted a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), please. While the scientific data and popular consensus is that the actual physical process of drilling into the ground and extracting oil using the fracking method can be safe, there are many other practical considerations that are incumbent on your department and others to consider.

I have been intimately involved in the debate collecting data and public opinion since July. I have attended town hall meetings, parish council meetings, and various hearings, including last week's important hearing at Lakeshore High School. From that data collected I inherently understand fracking to be a net negative when considering the environmental impacts and its affects on the natural resources of water, soil, and air. Of course I understand that there is this need for cheap, dirty, non-sustainable energy too. So the debate lies in the details of where it is appropriate to frack and where it should not be allowed.

As the Department of Natural Resources, the following are concerns of mine and others and seem they could be subject to your jurisdiction and consideration. According to your own Office of Conservation, your other declared responsibilities are "to *protect public safety* and the *environment* from oilfield waste, including regulation of underground injection and *disposal practices*." Due to the aforementioned charge the DNR should *deny* the permit for the following reasons:

- The sole-source aquifer is too precious a commodity to risk in any way, no matter what guarantees (although never committing to a legally enforceable document) Helis gives.
- The actual chemicals involved in the drilling and the subsequent construction of the casing. The chemicals will be entering the aquifer during the drilling process. The casing was never guaranteed by Helis to be capable of withstanding the particular geologic makeup of our wetlands and the well-documented potential for surface breakage and spills.
- The small levee Helis intends to build around the perimeter of the potential site may not handle the large downpours of rain during particular months throughout the year, rendering the cesspools of chemical water stored in the middle of these wetlands possible of drainage into the general water cycle.
- The unnamed and largely unaccountable amounts of water they will be sucking out of the sole-source aquifer. Helis representatives never explained or promised anything regarding all of the sources of water they would be obtaining for their operation.
- The trucking of the toxic chemicals across a densely populated parish and the real risk of spill near schools, hospitals, elderly homes, or farmland.
- A proliferation of industrial clear-cutting for the subsequent wells inevitably to follow. This would forever alter the landscape of St. Tammany's natural resources. The logical expectation would be for a proliferation of fracking wells to spread like a parasite throughout the parish if oil were

discovered. This proliferation has already been clearly demonstrated throughout the country. This would also come at a price to various sectors of our local economy.

I urge you to deny this request. I understand the concepts of free market and private property. However, I am concerned that in St. Tammany Parish – a population of almost 240,000 people – fracking and the industrialization that it brings will have dire consequences to the beauty and bounty of our natural resources like fresh water, soil, and air. Only few people stand to gain economically from this endeavor while hundreds of thousands will have nothing but poisoned water to show for it. Finally, the fact that the landowners, Helis, and the DNR can effectively change the zoning of this particular tract of land simply for the profit of a few sets a dangerous precedent in St. Tammany that seeks to avoid a similar fate already well-established around the state and other parts of the country being – profits for the few over the good will and tranquility of the people. To allow this without a VOTE is UNDEMOCRATIC. The logical conclusion for this debate is to deny the permit to allow for a democratic vote to be taken by the people of St. Tammany to allow our citizens to determine our own particular destiny regarding the poisoning of our water. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Charles Drews, B.A. History  
15407 Tchefuncte Dr.  
Covington, LA 70433

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:40 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID '985 875 0902 '  
**Attachments:** AB05F83D.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID '985 875 0902 '.

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11/19/2014 10:34:48 AM Transmission Record  
Received from remote ID: 985 875 0902  
Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 5  
Elapsed time: 02:24 on channel 14



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# Fax Cover Sheet

Date 11/19/2014

Number of pages 5 (including cover page)

### To:

Name Office of Conservation

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 225-242-3428

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

### From:

Name Pave Easley

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 985-893-5709

Comments Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Posteventata No 1 Well



7 90363 00711 1  
Fax - Local Send



7 90363 00714 2  
Fax - Domestic Send



7 90363 00720 3  
Fax - International Send

fedex.com 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339

Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Email: [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P. O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
 70804-9275

Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P. O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
 70804-9275

**RE: Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well.**

Hi, again. Thanks for coming to Lakeshore High School! Please confirm that you've received my emails and entered them into the record as speaking against the issuance of this permit. Though I've written you two previous emails during this comment period, now that we've had the hearing, the latter part of which we did get to hear, I want to comment on some matters that came up in the hearing and some that may not have been discussed thoroughly enough. (By the way, I'm really embarrassed that I made the microphones squeal for you. I think I really did make a slight improvement in audibility for a second or two but, when I tried to get the level just a little bit higher the squealing got out of hand for which I sincerely apologize.)

I can't remember all the speaker's names but there was a particular fellow wearing white shrimp boots. One of his memorable comments was to the effect that the vast majority of attendees, (clearly and resoundingly against fracking in St. Tammany Parish) was made up of kool-aid drinkers. I actually try to avoid sugary, artificially flavored beverages and prefer pure, un-contaminated water but the argument that was entered into the record by his speaking it which I'd like to address now is the assertion that car drivers and energy consumers who are against fracking are hypocrites. So, let me talk about the oil dependence aspect.

A motor vehicle is, for most people who reside in communities without highly sophisticated mass-transit, a necessity. If people want to participate in society they must go to work, and buy groceries. Many carry the tools or instruments of their trades in cars or trucks. For most people vehicular transportation is the second biggest investment of their lives after their homes. Some small, all-electric cars are gradually moving into an affordable price-range. A person without too many trees shading his house can act individually on energy issues by installing solar panels and using that electricity to charge an electric vehicle but many cannot afford to act individually and these people, if they wish to move away from oil dependence, must do so at the pace of the society they live in. However, they still have the right, in a democratic society, to attempt to influence the direction of that societal movement. When the Rockefellers decide to divest from oil and re-invest in renewables it's time to stand and take notice. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29310475>

It doesn't escape me that, just as having Helix monitor its own pollution is a bit of the fox guarding the hen-house, when citizens asked you to consider the Legislative Performance Audit of Regulation of Oil and Gas Wells and Management of Orphaned Wells with its inspections once every three years, they were asking you to take a good look at your own over-crowded hen house. But are you the fox or the farmer? Doesn't the farmer also eat chickens and take eggs just like the fox? Many opposed to the drilling have the opinion that, whichever car they drive, this is a zoning issue, a state vs. parish issue, a Louisiana Constitution, article IX section I issue. I agree with all that. But the kool-aid man's comment brings to mind that there are some amongst us who would prefer that your jobs not exist, that there were no oil fields to regulate, drilling permits

to approve and that you very competent gentlemen could find lucrative employment elsewhere. Upton Sinclair ran for Governor of California, was beaten by big money and name-calling. (If our shrimp boot friend had been there he would have called him a cool-aid drinker.) and wrote a book about the experience in which appeared the famous quote, "it is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding."

In light of the fact that some can afford to go totally "off grid" while some, taking the best current science into account, would very much like to but can't, and in light of the fact that the most of the people who do go off grid would prefer that the rest of society follow them off grid, the shrimp-boot-Kool-aid-man's comment brings us to the whole area of anthropomorphic global warming, arctic ice-melt and the plausibility of moving, on a large scale, to solar, wind and alternative fuels. Here, for the record, is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences paper on anthropomorphic global warming consensus:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/107/27/12107.full>

and also a paper on the Arctic ice melt:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=wVVEAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA100&lpg=PA100&dq=PNAS+arctic+ice+melt&source=bl&ots=FOLuQy619w&sig=zssdONBkaEwHeTiNkOuJsDg-sPU&hl=en&sa=X&ei=exNIVPPaHouwyATdm4Jl&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=PNAS%20arctic%20ice%20melt&f=false>

and one on how Arctic ice melt contributes to global warming because water is more absorptive as opposed to ice which is more reflective:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/9/3322.full.pdf>

and one on the "tipping point", how water that was formerly ice, and methane released from thawing permafrost are liable to bring us to a point of no return in irreversible global warming:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/6/1786.full>

Now here's wikipedia on helio-static power: (mirrors reflecting sunlight, creating very high temperatures in a central tower, driving a turbine to generate massive commercial amounts of electricity as opposed to photovoltaic power production such as what you see on rooftops)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_power\\_tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_power_tower)

and a list of solar thermal power stations:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_solar\\_thermal\\_power\\_stations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_solar_thermal_power_stations)

Here's a 2005 chart from the Energy Information Administration: (in 7 out of the ten countries listed the onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than what was consumed in 2005. In all ten countries the combined offshore and onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than 2005 consumption. And this is just wind, not solar.)

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933/T1.expansion.html>

Those nations in the chart are the ten biggest energy consuming countries in the world. It's clear that with two kinds of solar, and on-shore and off-shore wind there is plenty enough potential to not have to use dangerous, methane-emitting methods to extract hydro-carbons. here's the accompanying paper for the above chart:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933.full.pdf.html>

and here's a paper on the net energy of ethanol from switchgrass:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/2/464.full.pdf+html>

As you can see, another very promising source of energy.

Though it's not affordable for everyone on an individual basis, it could be very possible to, as a society, move much more quickly towards an all renewables energy economy if we can possibly escape the grasp of Big Money that buys campaigns, controls the flow of information (The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences is not as popular as FOX News or CNN) and owns politicians. The Rockefellers have seen the

writing on the wall. It's possible other Big Money will follow. I didn't foresee that I would get so far into this topic in this comment period. I'm thankful to my outspoken fellow citizen for leading me into this area of discussion that does pertain to a fallacious motive for drilling, that our society necessarily needs oil. Just as having two presidential candidates, one of whom is elected, doesn't mean that anyone really likes either one, having a choice between oil, gas and coal doesn't necessarily mean that anyone likes any of them. It may just mean that bought and paid for politicians and possibly their appointed bureaucrats are controlled by oil, gas and coal.

I couldn't possibly do a better job than Tulane Mathematician, Maurice Dupre and the guys who brought up the 1994 horizontal severance tax exemption of highlighting the ignorance of the position stated jointly by the Northshore Business Association and Greater New Orleans Inc. So, if you have all that in the record, I stand with Professor Dupre.

We heard in Concerned Citizen's of St. Tammany's expert testimony about the inevitable flow-back of the highly pressurized drilling fluids with the various chemical mixtures. In John A. Connor's testimony he admitted to the possibility of a spill and described the berm that would contain any such spill as being a few feet high motioning with his hand on a level that looked to be less than waist-high. John looked to be an average sized man.... Well, I guess hurricanes don't make it up as far as Stanford University very often. (Though, with global warming, we've now had a major hurricane in New York and New Jersey.) But this is Louisiana and this berm is woefully inadequate!

Perhaps due to the fact that you guys and all the very busy professionals who made up the crowd can't afford the time to come to a hearing on every one of the thousands of wells that the oil men want to drill in St. Tammany, you did hear testimony on possible future wells. But I couldn't help noticing that John A. Connor attempted to feign ignorance of any other possible future area wells besides this one. Six hundred people in the room knew that this well, if successful, is intended to be the first of many. But Helis's own expert environmental witness claimed ignorance on that matter. This sort of selective knowledge should strike a person as devious and I would think would cause one to doubt the sincerity of John's testimony, testimony such as, "I care about protecting the water" and "best available technology" or that they will do their best to "minimize impacts". Add that to the fact that, as one speaker pointed out, John carefully selected his knowledge of Helis's operations to ~~exclude~~ the very serious blowout in the Gulf, the blowout of which I managed to recall the exact date, July 13, 2001 off of the top of my head. And I didn't go to Stanford and don't claim to be anyone's expert witness. But check it out for yourself. As the speaker pointed out, it was in drilling in sand that they had the problem. No disagreement on sand in St Tammany. Both sides agreed, we have a lot of sand underground here. (conclusions on pages 15 and 16).

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062.pdf](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062.pdf)

When someone's teaching a little kid how to hit a baseball he says, "Ok, you missed that one but try swinging at this one. I'm gonna throw it nice and easy." When you're a company of grown men asking to drill through a single source aquifer, you've had problems before which resulted in a confusing, panicked, escape situation that resulted in death, and your expert paid witness skips over that trifling matter, thinking we won't notice, the safest answer is, "Sorry, no dice." (couldn't resist the gambling metaphor!)

The very last speaker from the community expressed the idea that a man should be able to do whatever he wants on his own property. This brings me to zoning restrictions, public annoyance, and public endangerment. Funny to think that one of the speakers, architect, Terri Lewis Stevens, would have a much harder time getting a permit to build a clothing store at the Helis site than such comparatively minor red tape as what a driller goes through on most wells. As many have said already, thanks for this hearing and comment period!

It's widely known that the area is zoned residential. There's been a lot of people speaking very effectively on public annoyance. Let's talk a little more about public endangerment. Though air didn't get discussed nearly as much as water I've already sent you info available to the public about dangerously high levels of carcinogens in the air around fracking sites. I don't know if you've seen this study yet from the Colorado School of Health and Brown University linking high rates of birth defects to fracking.

**(Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale), the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out," So we know that industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are**

expecting a high gas content in this play.)

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/1/ehp.1306722.pdf>

Airborne carcinogens and high rates of birth defects = public endangerment and, in a truly civilized world, if you know about the danger, you stop the activity that causes the danger.

Considering the DNR's stated mission, "to preserve and enhance the nonrenewable natural resources of the state, consisting of land, water, oil, gas, and other minerals, through conservation, regulation, management and development to ensure that the state of Louisiana realizes appropriate economic benefit from its asset

base." it seems like the main question here is, is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that endangers other natural resources and the health of its inhabitants? In the 3 emails I've sent during this comment period you've been informed about dangerous levels of airborne carcinogens and alarmingly high rates of birth defects near fracking sites. I've already sent you the link to the PNAS noble gasses paper that proved the contamination through faulty fracking equipment of several aquifers. In many other comments from people I know you've been informed of many other dangers to water and to human and animal health. You've been informed about global warming and arctic ice melt. We need to talk about methane emissions at fracking sites, the heat trapping properties of methane, rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that contributes to the shrinking of it's own coastline?

Here, for the record, is an article from OilPrice.com about higher than expected methane emissions from fracking sites.

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/New-Study-Finds-Higher-Methane-Emissions-from-Fracking.html>

and one from the EPA on the heat trapping properties of methane, 20 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100 year period.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/ch4.html>

here's National Geographic on global warming caused sea level rise and the dangers to low-lying areas.

<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-sea-level-rise/>

It wasn't just in Upton Sinclair's time that Big Money usually would win. The same way they spin things around in the courtroom they spin them in the media they own. They buy the politicians. They can convince you that up is down and down is up. They might have you convinced. What do you think killed all those cows in North Louisiana?

<http://www.propublica.org/article/16-cattle-drop-dead-near-mysterious-fluid-at-gas-drilling-site-430>

Why was this man burned over 30 to 50% of his body?

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/10/25/guernsey-fracking-site-explosion.html>

Gentlemen, please deny this permit!

Can you please direct me to the transcript of the proceedings?

Thank you!

Dave Easley  
310 E. 35th Ave  
Covington LA 70433

**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:08 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID '985 809 7172'.  
**Attachments:** AB05F988.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID '985 809 7172'.

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11/19/2014 2:06:43 PM Transmission Record  
Received from remote ID: 985 809 7172  
Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 2  
Elapsed time: 00:40 on channel 0

# EndoCenter, LLC

◆◆◆  
131-A Cherokee Rose Lane, Covington, LA 70433  
Tel. (985) 809-8066 Fax (985) 809-7172

## FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE	11-19-14
TIME	2:00

DNR	TO	FROM
COMPANY NAME		
ATTENTION		
FAX NUMBER	225-242-3428	
SUBJECT		
COMMENTS		

Number of pages transmitted: 2 (including transmittal form).  
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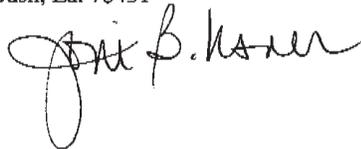
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November 19, 2014

To: Jeff Wells, Jim Welch, Patrick Courreges

Subject: Helis Oil and Gas Application Docket 14-626

Dear Gentlemen, I am writing this with a heavy heart. Hopefully it is not too late for you to consider all of the ramifications involved in this most important decision regarding the application for a drilling permit for Helis Oil and Gas to hydrofrack on the wetlands in Mandeville, La. St. Tammany Parish is one of the fastest growing parishes in our state. We boast about our abundance of natural resources. What WE mean when we say "natural resources" is our air, water, soil and the fish, fowl and wildlife that are abundant because of it. We are not talking about natural gas and oil thousands of feet under our soil although I realize that is your focus. The fact is though, YOUR decision to allow hydrofracking on our wetlands will eventually effect our way of life. We welcome new residents and businesses to our parish. We know that without new businesses and growth and support of established businesses we would stagnate. The difference, I believe in the business proposition is the risk involved both long and short term. Keep in mind that you are not only granting a permit here. You are opening the door for potential poisoning of our water, air and soil and the residents of this parish. This is opposite of what you are tasked with protecting. I realize that Helis has assured everyone that the utmost care will be taken in the drilling process, but I also know we are dealing with humans, and humans make errors and machinery and equipment fail. There have been numerous failings of this "safe" process worldwide. There is no easy cleanup for the spills and pollution, or the poisoning of the groundwater, aquifers and waterways, not to mention the soil contamination. My son's only source of income is his organic farm. I'd hate to think he could be unemployed one day because of this contamination. What we will be left with, potentially, is a parish dotted with fracking pads, wells, container holding poisons, pollutants burning from stacks and constant traffic from large trucks on our small highways. Our once pristine community will no longer be a place where people want to raise their families or retire to. Gentleman, is this what you want your legacy to be? This is not JUST another wetlands permit that you are granting to an oil company. This is a permit to destroy our way of life, our air, our water, and our soil and the fish, fowl and wildlife that inhabit our land. Please DENY this permit to drill on our wetlands and any other place in ST Tammany Parish that can potentially contaminate our aquifer. Thank you for your consideration, Joni User 80181 Bob Baxter Rd. Bush, La. 70431



**From:** RightFax E-mail Gateway [RFAX@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 7:00 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** A fax has arrived from remote ID '9858458704 '  
**Attachments:** AB05F7FA.TIF

A fax has arrived from remote ID '9858458704 '.

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11/19/2014 6:58:56 AM Transmission Record  
Received from remote ID: 9858458704  
Inbound user ID DANIELH, routing code 3428  
Result: (0/352;0/0) Successful Send  
Page record: 1 - 1  
Elapsed time: 00:35 on channel 0

TO: OFFICE OF CONSERVATION,  
 ENGINNERING DIVISION  
 RE: EXCHANGING DOCKET NO. 14-626,  
 EADS POTWENT ETAL. KP. 1 WELL  
 WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO REFUSE  
 TO PERMIT HELS OIL COMPANY TO DRILL  
 EVEN AN EXPLORATORY "FRACKING"  
 WELL ON THE EADS POTWENT TRACT  
 IN ST. TAMMAYD PARISH. EVEN THE  
 EXPLORATORY WELLS START WILL  
 PERMEATE OUR DRINKING WATER  
 SUPPLY SOURCE. THERE ARE NO  
 GUARANTEES THAT THE AQUIFER WHICH  
 SUPPLIES DRINKING WATER FOR ALL  
 OF ST. TAMMAYD PARISH AND PARTS OF  
 MISSISSIPPI WILL NOT BE DAMAGED,  
 POLLUTED, DESTROYED. THAT IS OUR  
 MAIN CONCERN BECAUSE NO OIL  
 COMPANY HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE A  
 CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE OR OF THE  
 ENVIRONMENT. HELS ASSURANCES  
 OF USING "BEST PRACTICES" RING-  
 HOLLOW. WE LIVE HERE. WATER IS  
 LIFE.  
 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
 NORMAN D. AND HARRIET L. STAFFORD,  
 MADISONVILLE, LA.

**From:** Tyler Gray [tyler.gray@lmoga.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Jim Welsh; Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Helis Permit Application Comments  
**Attachments:** Helis Permit Application Comments (11-19-2014).pdf

Please find attached LMOGA's comments on Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Original to follow by U.S. Mail.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Tyler Patrick Gray  
General Counsel  
La. Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
www.lmoga.com  
730 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Office: (225) 387-3205  
Cell: (225) 505-3459  
Fax: (225) 344-5502

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November 19, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Public Comment on Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC's  
Drilling Permit Application**

Commissioner Welsh:

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (“LMOGA”) respectfully submits the following comments to the Office of Conservation (“OOC”) in support of the Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC’s (“Helis”) permit application. These comments are submitted in response to the OOC’s September 30, 2014, public notice inviting comments following the public hearing held on November 12, 2014.

LMOGA supports the approval of Helis’ permit application for the following reasons:

- 1) The application satisfactorily complies with Louisiana law governing permit application approval
- 2) The hydraulic fracturing method proposed in the application for permit does not pose any additional proven environmental risks
- 3) The project will substantially improve economic development for the parish and the state

LMOGA offers the following comments discussing each of these reasons below.

**1) The Helis Application Complies with Governing Louisiana Law**

Pursuant to the Louisiana Revised Statutes, “the commissioner has jurisdiction and authority over all persons and property necessary to enforce effectively the provisions . . . and all other laws relating to the conservation of oil and gas.”<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, LMOGA recognizes and understands that the Commissioner of Conservation possesses the sole authority and jurisdiction to approve or disprove applications for drilling permits. Using this authority, the Commissioner must evaluate applications to determine their compliance under current Louisiana law.

Here, the Helis permit application complies with all laws; thus, the Commissioner has no legally sound reason to deny the permit application. The opposition’s concerns go beyond the scope of the Commissioner’s criteria used in evaluating whether to grant permit applications, as outlined in all applicable revised statutes and the Louisiana Administrative Code. Therefore, LMOGA fully supports the granting of the permit application.

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<sup>1</sup> La. Rev. Stat. 30:4(A).

Next, many critics of the Helis permit application are not located or do not have an interest in the proposed drilling unit. Since those in opposition have failed to make, nor have they been required to make, any claim justifying their legal standing or proprietary interest related to this issue. LMOGA must assume these opposing parties have no proprietary interest in the proposed well. For example, Abita Springs is over seven miles away from the drill site and never established their legal interest in the proposed well. Thus, LMOGA cautions the OOC in considering these comments and creating an expectation for all future drilling permit procedure.

Additionally, some critics and those in opposition of the approval of the Helis permit cite the Louisiana Supreme Court decision in *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Env'tl. Control Comm'n.* in support of their position, however, LMOGA submits this case is inapplicable to the Helis application. In *Save Ourselves*, the Court held the Louisiana Constitution requires a balance between environmental protection consistent with the "health, safety, and welfare of the people" and "economic, social, and other factors."<sup>2</sup> The court further reasoned that the legislative intent of this provision "was to implement and perpetuate the constitutional rule of reasonableness."<sup>3</sup> Here, Helis is distinguishable from the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves*. For example, the Helis application fully complies with the OOC's standards, company representatives have publicly commented on the environmental soundness of the proposed well, and the proposed well is designed to meet and exceed applicable regulatory standards unlike the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves* who failed to provide testimony or evidence that their project would avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the OOC should approve the Helis permit application because it complies with all governing statutes, rules, and regulations and because Helis has provided information to the OOC and public as to how it plans to minimize adverse environmental effects in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

## 2) Hydraulic Fracturing

Much of the opposition to the Helis permit application comes from parties concerned with the environmental risks, specifically the risk to drinking water contamination as a result of hydraulic fracturing. However, while this topic has become very contentious for those in opposition, to date, there is no reliable scientific data or research linking hydraulic fracturing to the contamination of drinking sources.

Furthermore, there have been wells successfully and responsibly drilled through freshwater zones in St. Tammany's neighboring parishes, Tangipahoa and Washington. Additionally, several hydraulically fractured wells have been drilled and completed in freshwater zones, similar to Helis' proposed well, in Mississippi. There is no evidence these wells caused any damage to the freshwater zones. Given the close proximity to St. Tammany and the similarity of Helis' project to the wells in Mississippi, LMOGA supports the approval of the Helis permit.

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<sup>2</sup> *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Env'tl. Control Comm'n.*, 452 So. 2d 1152, 1156-57 (La. 1984) (citing La. Const. art. IX § 1).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1157.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1160.

### 3) The Helis Permit Application Benefits the State and Parish Economy

Louisiana's oil and gas industry is a driving force for Louisiana's statewide economy as well as oil and gas producing parishes' local economy. On the state level, leading economists have observed the correlation of Louisiana's economy and the future of the oil and gas industry. The oil and gas industry generates over \$20 billion annually in household income in Louisiana as well as a positive economic impact of approximately \$73 billion annually.<sup>5</sup>

All parishes reap the benefit from collection of severance taxes, local property taxes, and significant direct and indirect economic development, such as job creation and increased sales taxes. These resources allow the parish to use them toward essential infrastructure improvements and social services for its citizens. Additionally, St. Tammany already has many oil and gas operations within its boundaries. Based on these proven economic benefits and resources the oil and gas industry in Louisiana creates for the state and parish governments, this permit should be approved.

In conclusion, LMOGA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Helis application permit. The OOC has gone above and beyond what is required under the rules and regulations to take additional comments at a second, unnecessary and unprecedented, off-site public hearing. Because of the economic benefits the proposed project would bring to the state and parish, the application's compliance with state law, and the lack of proven environmental risks, LMOGA fully supports the approval of Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Respectfully,

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association



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Tyler Gray  
General Counsel

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<sup>5</sup> See, Loren Scott, Ph.D., "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" (2014).

**From:** Louis Buatt [LBUatt@liskow.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Comments from St. Tammany Land Co., LLC  
**Attachments:** DNR Comment Letter.pdf

Please find attached comments on behalf of St. Tammany Land Co. L.L.C. concerning the Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket 14-626. Also the comments are reproduced below in the body of this email.

November 19, 2014  
4082

Writer's Name

Direct: (504) 556-

Buatt

[lbuatt@liskow.com](mailto:lbuatt@liskow.com)

Louis

**VIA Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE: Comments**  
**Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

Please be advised that I represent St. Tammany Land Co., L.L.C. ("STLCO") and am submitting this letter on its behalf. By letter dated September 10, 2014, Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") submitted an application for a drilling permit authorizing it to drill a vertical well in order to test the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval in its proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well, in the Lacombe Bayou Field, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Thereafter, by letter dated September 15, 2014, the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of the Town of Abita Springs and the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany ("CCST") requested a public notice and comment period regarding Helis' referenced application for drilling permit. Tulane Environmental Law Clinic also requested a public hearing.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the Office of Conservation that STLCO supports issuance of the requested drilling permit and provides the following comments and information in support of Helis's permit application.

STLCO is an owner of the location where Helis proposes to drill the well and an owner of the minerals. STLCO and its predecessors have ties to St. Tammany Parish dating back to the

1870's. We have been contributing to the economy of St. Tammany Parish for nearly 150 years through cultivation of timber, operation of a timber mill, the responsible development of property and other activities. From the late 1800's to the 1930's our predecessors were one of the largest employers in St. Tammany Parish, operating a timber mill and cultivating timber. STLCO has and continues to pay substantial taxes, which are used by St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana to fund important public infrastructure projects and services, such as, building and maintaining roads and bridges and to pay for education and health care within the Parish. Throughout the years we have also been responsible for making land available in St. Tammany Parish for public use. One significant example is our conveyance of close to 16,000 acres of property to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the establishment of the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. This conveyance dates back nearly 45 years and has provided a vast area on which the citizens of St. Tammany Parish have been able use for public recreation. Additionally, we have provided property to Recreational Districts and the School Board for parks, recreational facilities, and schools.

We have and continue to be good stewards of the land. In fact, in the mineral lease, Helis is restricted to areas where it can locate a well and other structures in support of those activities. These contractual restrictions are imposed to minimize any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and also to allow for future responsible development of the property and surrounding properties. STLCO is also an owner of the area around the proposed well site. The site where Helis proposes to drill the well is remotely located and is on property that has been in timber cultivation for more than 150 years. In addition, the property surrounding the proposed well site has likewise been in timber cultivation. The nearest structure to the proposed drill site is located more than a mile away. There are no residences within a mile of the location. Interstate 12 is located approximately 1,837 feet away from the proposed drill site. Lakeshore High School is located more than a mile away. The town of Abita Springs is in excess of 7 miles away. There are no registered water wells within a 1 mile radius of the proposed drill site. Accordingly, we are confident the proposed location of this well minimizes any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and will not adversely impact the responsible future development of this or any of the surrounding properties.

In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increasing energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world. Energy production ties into societal benefits, such as comfort, transportation, lifestyle, and jobs. Energy production benefits the state from collection of severance taxes, from manufacturing and other economic development based on reliable supplies of affordable domestic energy with a growing population base. There are specific benefits to the parish including severances taxes, local taxes, and significant economic development. The increase in economic development will result in more jobs, increased sales taxes and additional local property taxes. All of which provides substantial additional resources to the parish that can be used to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the parish.

There is no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is a vital public interest. There is also no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is dependent on and will continue to require additional energy resources. As such, the demand for energy will continue to increase. There is also no dispute that the public is dependent on crude oil resources to fuel its transportation system and that a robust transportation system is vital to the nation's economic recovery as well as to the public's way of life. Projects such as the one Helis is proposing could potentially provide a significant amount of crude oil to support the nation's economic recovery and to provide reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

A recent study by Dr. David Dismukes, professor and executive director for the LSU Center for Energy Studies, titled "Unconventional Resources and Louisiana's Manufacturing Development Renaissance" (January 11, 2013), provides an economic overview of the Louisiana manufacturing sector, examines the importance of available and affordable energy to this sector, and show how the emergence of unconventional resources has resulted in a manufacturing investment renaissance in Louisiana. As of the date of the report some \$62.3 billion in new capital investments have been announced in Louisiana and are likely to be developed between the next five to eight years. Since the report several other significant announcements have been made for additional projects, so the dollars for new capital is even higher than that reported.

Dr. Dismukes reports statewide impacts as follows:

- Potential for in-state capital investment in Louisiana to total \$20.2 billion (out of the total of \$62.3 billion) over the next nine years;
- More than \$29.7 billion in economic output over a nine-year period;
- A cumulative increase of some 214,670 job-years; and
- \$9.3 billion increase in wages over a nine-year construction period.

He also reports regional impacts to South Louisiana as follows:

- Over \$22.5 billion in output;
- 160,000 in job-years; and
- \$7.4 billion in wages.

Based on a study conducted by Professor Ladd for the Journal of Rural Social Sciences, other parishes in Louisiana with development of oil and gas from resource formations have benefitted as outlined below (See 28(2), 2013, pages 56-89):

- Improved local economy/buffered recession;
- Increased local/state tax revenues;
- Created new job opportunities;
- Created new businesses/restaurants;
- Increased income/wealth for people with mineral leases;
- Improved local services/schools/libraries;
- Benefited chemical/energy/water services industry;
- Increased population/housing/property values;

- Increased U.S. energy production/security;
- Created new markets/uses for energy resources;
- Reduced energy prices;
- Created new R&D programs for state universities;
- Benefited local charities/nonprofits; and
- Improved community race relations.

Accordingly, based on the forgoing studies and other information available, the development of energy resources from resource formations, such as the project proposed by Helis, is necessary for the nation and state to achieve energy and economic security and provides significant economic benefits to the state, region and parish that are necessary to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the state, region and parish. These projects, including the project proposed by Helis, are vitally important to the public interest, including but not limited to, supporting the economic recovery of the nation and supplying the reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

Many of the comments referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic in its request for a public hearing relate to hydraulic fracturing. We would note that this application for a drilling permit does not request authorization to conduct hydraulic fracturing. At any rate, the comments and concerns referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic that relate to hydraulic fracturing are unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, shortly after Helis made its request for unitization, the public was provided misinformation concerning the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing. In fact, there has been no credible information, data or scientific studies presented that support the notion that hydraulic fracturing presents any significant risk of impacts to freshwater supplies or the environment.<sup>[1]</sup> It appears Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's comments related to hydraulic fracturing are based on unsubstantiated claims and conclusions by those who oppose development of conventional energy resources that hydraulic fracturing somehow and in some way could contaminate drinking water resources. The purpose of this misinformation campaign clearly appears to be designed to simply instill fear in the public to achieve goals that restricts the development of conventional energy resources, thereby decreasing the availability and increasing the costs of conventional energy resources in an effort to artificially make alternative energy resources more competitive. Such policies and goals are misguided and would in fact be detrimental to the energy and economic security opportunities for the country, region and state, as such, would be detrimental to the public welfare. We would point out that EPA has been evaluating the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing for years now and has been unable to draw any conclusions that hydraulic fracturing has impacted drinking water resources.<sup>[2]</sup> Moreover, as set forth below, the scientific

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<sup>[1]</sup> See Council of Canadian Academics (2014) *Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada* (Report from the Expert Panel of Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction) pg. 66; *Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process*, 2014; and *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing"*, 2013.

<sup>[2]</sup> EPA's [Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources: Progress Report](#) (December 2012), where EPA states the current report "cannot be used to draw conclusions about potential impacts

studies, data and information support that hydraulic fracturing has and can continue to be conducted without posing a threat to drinking water resources.

During the public hearing concerning this matter held on November 12, 2014, no evidence was presented that this proposed project presented any unreasonable risks of harm to the environment or public welfare, including adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. The only witness presented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic was Mark Quarles, a registered professional geologist. Mr. Quarles' testimony only discussed the "possibility" of the potential for leaks of drilling and hydraulic fracturing fluids to get into an aquifer. He never presented any testimony or evidence that he assessed or in any way attempted to quantify any risks of probability of such fluids entering any aquifers or any probability of any adverse impacts to any aquifers. In fact his testimony was largely outside of his professed area of expertise, where he testified about the "possibility" of fluids leaking from various components of the well. During his testimony and on cross examination, it was made clear that Mr. Quarles is not a petroleum or civil engineer and is not registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. In addition, his testimony and on cross examination demonstrated he has no education, training or experience that would qualify him to testify as an expert concerning the design of a well and the potential for failure of any well component. In fact, overall he demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of the regulatory requirements for such a well and the design of the well Helis is proposing. We would also point out that Statewide Order 29-B requires that certain information in applications to drill be certified by an engineer with a Professional Engineering registration.<sup>[3]</sup> Lastly, his testimony concerning the possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing harmful chemicals was completely speculative, where he testified that it was "possible" that such fluids could "possibly" contain petroleum distillates and that benzene could "possibly" be one of those constituents. He never presented any evidence, facts or basis to support any such claims. In fact a recent study by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder published in the journal "Analytical Chemistry" found that fracking fluids in five states were no more toxic than substances commonly found in homes. The study found that the chemicals found in fluid samples were also commonly found in everyday products, from toothpaste to laxatives to detergent to ice cream. Accordingly, his testimony should be disregarded or alternatively given very little weight.

The testimony of the Helis experts during the public hearing clearly demonstrated how the proposed project would be protective of the environment, including groundwater and surface water resources. They specifically testified concerning the design of the well<sup>[4]</sup> and the geology in the area and how the proposed well would be protective of groundwater resources. They also testified concerning the design of the well and the operational plan,

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to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing...[and]EPA has not made any judgment about the extent of exposure to these [fracking] chemicals...or their potential impact on drinking water resources".

<sup>[3]</sup> This is a requirement where an engineer is providing these services to a third party.

<sup>[4]</sup> Unlike Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Helis presented testimony related to the design of the well by a registered Professional Engineer with 45 years of experience, Adam T. Bourgoyne, Jr. P.E..

including the use and management of water for hydraulic fracturing, demonstrating how surface water resources would be protected.

Freshwater zones would be protected by multiple strings of casing cemented in place providing multiple and redundant levels of protection. When complete, the well design with multiple and redundant permanent layers of protection, that exceed regulatory standards, will eliminate any probability of damage to the aquifers initially and through the life of the well. According to the *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing, 2013"* (AWWA White Paper) wells that are properly designed and operated pose no significant threat to ground water resources, since it would take the simultaneous failure of multiple safeguards for such fluids or hydrocarbons to escape and migrate to drinking water resources.<sup>[5]</sup> In addition, the geology of the area in which the pad site is located is particularly suitable for the proposed project for two reasons; 1) the distance between the lowest fresh water zone and the zone which may be hydraulically fractured; 2) the lack of natural faulting. If hydraulic fracturing were to take place, the zone that would be hydraulically fractured is approximately 9,400 feet or 1.8 miles below the base of the deepest freshwater zone. There are many impermeable shale and clay units between the zone that may be hydraulically fractured and any freshwater zone. There is also no faulting present in the area to act as a potential pathway for migration.<sup>[6]</sup> And according to the AWWA White Paper, where hydraulic fracturing takes places hundreds to thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it is unlikely that fissures could be created extending into freshwater zones. Based on a study by *King, La Vergne Bryan, & Clark, 2012* fractures induced from hydraulic fracturing will only extend vertically approximately 100 meters and laterally 200-300 meters due to lithologic pressure.<sup>[7]</sup> If hydraulic fracturing were to take place related to this project, it would not only be thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it would be almost two miles below the deepest freshwater zone, making the proposed project area very suitable to safely conduct hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas production. Consequently, based on the well design and the geology of this project area, the project does not pose a threat to drinking water resources.

We would also point out that hydraulic fracturing associated with oil and gas developments are exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In the 2005 Energy Policy Act Congress specifically exempted such hydraulic fracturing unless diesel fuel was used as a fracturing fluid.<sup>[8]</sup> Accordingly, Congress has determined that such hydraulic fracturing conducted under state regulatory programs are protective of drinking water resources and the environment.

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<sup>[5]</sup> Also see GWPC et al. 2009 and Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process, 2014.

<sup>[6]</sup> In addition to the information provided by Helis an independent geologist with more than 25 years of experience has reviewed the site geology and confirmed no evidence of faulting.

<sup>[7]</sup> We understand based on Helis' hydraulic fracture design fractures are estimated to only extend out 200 feet.

<sup>[8]</sup> SDWA § 1421(d) states that "the term 'underground injection' excludes ... the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities."

It is also important to note this would not be the first well to be drilled through the freshwater zones in this area. Dating back many decades, we have granted many Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases covering our property in St. Tammany Parish including the subject tract. The Office of Conservation should take this fact into account when evaluating this permit application. Based upon a review of the data contained in DNR's SONRIS database, a total of at least 73 oil and gas wells have been drilled in St. Tammany Parish alone, and many of these wells were drilled much closer to locations of local water wells than Helis' proposed well site. In addition, there has been another 124 oil and gas wells drilled through the same freshwater zones in the neighboring parishes of Washington and Tangipahoa. We also understand there have been several wells recently drilled and completed, which were hydraulically fractured, just across the state line in Mississippi. These wells in Mississippi that were hydraulically fractured were drilled through freshwater zones with no evidence of damage to the freshwater zones. Considering the previous and current substantial oil and gas activities that have been conducted over many decades and the lack of impacts to the freshwater aquifers in the area, there is no reasonable basis to believe the proposed well will adversely impact the drinking water resources in the area.

The right to own, possess and use property for our benefit is a fundamental right we all have in this country, and when government regulation goes too far it effects a taking of property requiring compensation. Under the circumstances here, a denial of the referenced permit would constitute a regulatory taking, requiring compensation. As a mineral servitude owner, STLCO has a reasonable expectation to be able to develop the oil and gas resources that are subject to its mineral servitude. There is long standing precedent in this state that allows mineral servitude owners the right and ability to develop these oil and gas resources. This long standing precedent allowing the development of oil and gas resources exist even where local governments have attempted to prevent such development by imposing their own requirements.<sup>[9]</sup> As such, STLCO has always had a reasonable expectation that it would be able to develop these oil and gas resources where the regulatory requirements are met, even where opponents to the issuance of the permit allege that issuance of the permit would be in violation of local zoning ordinances and/or requirements. Accordingly, denial of the referenced permit would not only result in usurping landowner rights, it would constitute a regulatory taking requiring compensation. In addition, to the extent the application of these zoning ordinances and/or requirements are deemed valid and would now prevent the development of the oil and gas resources subject to STLCO's mineral servitude, such as application of the ordinances and/or requirements under the circumstances would likewise constitute a regulatory taking by St. Tammany Parish, requiring compensation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. In sum, we support issuance of the permit for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,

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<sup>[9]</sup> See *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 967 F.3d 297 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Cir. 2013); *Hunt v. Batchelor*, 644 So.2d 191 (La. 1994); *Greater New Orleans Expressway Com. Traver Oil Co.*, 494 So.2d 1204 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1986); La. R.S. 30:28(A),(D), & (F); and La. Atty. Gen Op. Nos 82-1021, 88-418, and 89-416.



Louis E. Buatt

LEB/shb

**Louis E. Buatt**

(504) 556-4082 Direct  
(504) 556-4108 Fax  
(225) 223-9600 Cell  
[lbuatt@liskow.com](mailto:lbuatt@liskow.com) E-mail

**LISKOW & LEWIS**  
New Orleans | Lafayette | Houston

One Shell Square  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, LA 70139  
[www.liskow.com](http://www.liskow.com)

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**LISKOW & LEWIS**  
A Professional Law Corporation

822 Harding Street  
Post Office Box 52008  
Lafayette, LA 70505  
(337) 232-7424 Main  
(337) 267-2399 Fax

1001 Fannin Street, Suite 1800  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 651-2900 Main  
(713) 651-2980 Fax

One Shell Square  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 581-7979 Main  
(504) 556-4108 Fax

[www.Liskow.com](http://www.Liskow.com)

November 19, 2014

**Writer's Name**  
Louis Buatt

Direct: (504) 556-4082  
[lbuatt@Liskow.com](mailto:lbuatt@Liskow.com)

**VIA Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE: Comments**  
**Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

Please be advised that I represent St. Tammany Land Co., L.L.C. ("STLCO") and am submitting this letter on its behalf. By letter dated September 10, 2014, Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") submitted an application for a drilling permit authorizing it to drill a vertical well in order to test the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval in its proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well, in the Lacombe Bayou Field, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Thereafter, by letter dated September 15, 2014, the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of the Town of Abita Springs and the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany ("CCST") requested a public notice and comment period regarding Helis' referenced application for drilling permit. Tulane Environmental Law Clinic also requested a public hearing.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the Office of Conservation that STLCO supports issuance of the requested drilling permit and provides the following comments and information in support of Helis's permit application.

STLCO is an owner of the location where Helis proposes to drill the well and an owner of the minerals. STLCO and its predecessors have ties to St. Tammany Parish dating back to the 1870's. We have been contributing to the economy of St. Tammany Parish for nearly 150 years through cultivation of timber, operation of a timber mill, the responsible development of property and other activities. From the late 1800's to the 1930's our predecessors were one of the largest employers in St. Tammany Parish, operating a timber mill and cultivating timber. STLCO has and continues to pay substantial taxes, which are used by St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana to fund important public infrastructure projects and services, such as, building and maintaining roads and bridges and to pay for education and health care within the Parish. Throughout the years we have also been responsible for making land available in St. Tammany Parish for public use. One significant example is our conveyance of close to 16,000 acres of property to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the establishment of

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. This conveyance dates back nearly 45 years and has provided a vast area on which the citizens of St. Tammany Parish have been able use for public recreation. Additionally, we have provided property to Recreational Districts and the School Board for parks, recreational facilities, and schools.

We have and continue to be good stewards of the land. In fact, in the mineral lease, Helis is restricted to areas where it can locate a well and other structures in support of those activities. These contractual restrictions are imposed to minimize any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and also to allow for future responsible development of the property and surrounding properties. STLCO is also an owner of the area around the proposed well site. The site where Helis proposes to drill the well is remotely located and is on property that has been in timber cultivation for more than 150 years. In addition, the property surrounding the proposed well site has likewise been in timber cultivation. The nearest structure to the proposed drill site is located more than a mile away. There are no residences within a mile of the location. Interstate 12 is located approximately 1,837 feet away from the proposed drill site. Lakeshore High School is located more than a mile away. The town of Abita Springs is in excess of 7 miles away. There are no registered water wells within a 1 mile radius of the proposed drill site. Accordingly, we are confident the proposed location of this well minimizes any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and will not adversely impact the responsible future development of this or any of the surrounding properties.

In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increasing energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world. Energy production ties into societal benefits, such as comfort, transportation, lifestyle, and jobs. Energy production benefits the state from collection of severance taxes, from manufacturing and other economic development based on reliable supplies of affordable domestic energy with a growing population base. There are specific benefits to the parish including severances taxes, local taxes, and significant economic development. The increase in economic development will result in more jobs, increased sales taxes and additional local property taxes. All of which provides substantial additional resources to the parish that can be used to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the parish.

There is no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is a vital public interest. There is also no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is dependent on and will continue to require additional energy resources. As such, the demand for energy will continue to increase. There is also no dispute that the public is dependent on crude oil resources to fuel its transportation system and that a robust transportation system is vital to the nation's economic recovery as well as to the public's way of life. Projects such as the one Helis is proposing could potentially provide a significant amount of crude oil to support the nation's economic recovery and to provide reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

A recent study by Dr. David Dismukes, professor and executive director for the LSU Center for Energy Studies, titled "Unconventional Resources and Louisiana's Manufacturing

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Development Renaissance” (January 11, 2013), provides an economic overview of the Louisiana manufacturing sector, examines the importance of available and affordable energy to this sector, and show how the emergence of unconventional resources has resulted in a manufacturing investment renaissance in Louisiana. As of the date of the report some \$62.3 billion in new capital investments have been announced in Louisiana and are likely to be developed between the next five to eight years. Since the report several other significant announcements have been made for additional projects, so the dollars for new capital is even higher than that reported.

Dr. Dismukes reports statewide impacts as follows:

- Potential for in-state capital investment in Louisiana to total \$20.2 billion (out of the total of \$62.3 billion) over the next nine years;
- More than \$29.7 billion in economic output over a nine-year period;
- A cumulative increase of some 214,670 job-years; and
- \$9.3 billion increase in wages over a nine-year construction period.

He also reports regional impacts to South Louisiana as follows:

- Over \$22.5 billion in output;
- 160,000 in job-years; and
- \$7.4 billion in wages.

Based on a study conducted by Professor Ladd for the Journal of Rural Social Sciences, other parishes in Louisiana with development of oil and gas from resource formations have benefitted as outlined below (See 28(2), 2013, pages 56-89):

- Improved local economy/buffered recession;
- Increased local/state tax revenues;
- Created new job opportunities;
- Created new businesses/restaurants;
- Increased income/wealth for people with mineral leases;
- Improved local services/schools/libraries;
- Benefited chemical/energy/water services industry;
- Increased population/housing/property values;
- Increased U.S. energy production/security;
- Created new markets/uses for energy resources;
- Reduced energy prices;
- Created new R&D programs for state universities;
- Benefited local charities/nonprofits; and
- Improved community race relations.

Accordingly, based on the forgoing studies and other information available, the development of energy resources from resource formations, such as the project proposed by Helis, is necessary for the nation and state to achieve energy and economic security and provides significant economic benefits to the state, region and parish that are necessary to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the state, region and parish. These projects, including the project

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proposed by Helis, are vitally important to the public interest, including but not limited to, supporting the economic recovery of the nation and supplying the reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

Many of the comments referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic in its request for a public hearing relate to hydraulic fracturing. We would note that this application for a drilling permit does not request authorization to conduct hydraulic fracturing. At any rate, the comments and concerns referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic that relate to hydraulic fracturing are unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, shortly after Helis made its request for unitization, the public was provided misinformation concerning the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing. In fact, there has been no credible information, data or scientific studies presented that support the notion that hydraulic fracturing presents any significant risk of impacts to freshwater supplies or the environment.<sup>1</sup> It appears Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's comments related to hydraulic fracturing are based on unsubstantiated claims and conclusions by those who oppose development of conventional energy resources that hydraulic fracturing somehow and in some way could contaminate drinking water resources. The purpose of this misinformation campaign clearly appears to be designed to simply instill fear in the public to achieve goals that restricts the development of conventional energy resources, thereby decreasing the availability and increasing the costs of conventional energy resources in an effort to artificially make alternative energy resources more competitive. Such policies and goals are misguided and would in fact be detrimental to the energy and economic security opportunities for the country, region and state, as such, would be detrimental to the public welfare. We would point out that EPA has been evaluating the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing for years now and has been unable to draw any conclusions that hydraulic fracturing has impacted drinking water resources.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, as set forth below, the scientific studies, data and information support that hydraulic fracturing has and can continue to be conducted without posing a threat to drinking water resources.

During the public hearing concerning this matter held on November 12, 2014, no evidence was presented that this proposed project presented any unreasonable risks of harm to the environment or public welfare, including adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. The only witness presented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic was Mark Quarles, a registered professional geologist. Mr. Quarles' testimony only discussed the "possibility" of the potential for leaks of drilling and hydraulic fracturing fluids to get into an aquifer. He never presented any testimony or evidence that he assessed or in any way attempted to quantify any risks of probability of such fluids entering any aquifers or any probability of any adverse impacts to any aquifers. In fact his testimony was largely outside of his professed area of expertise, where he testified about the "possibility" of fluids leaking from various components

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<sup>2</sup> EPA's *Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources: Progress Report* (December 2012), where EPA states the current report "cannot be used to draw conclusions about potential impacts to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing...[and]EPA has not made any judgment about the extent of exposure to these [fracking] chemicals...or their potential impact on drinking water resources".

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of the well. During his testimony and on cross examination, it was made clear that Mr. Quarles is not a petroleum or civil engineer and is not registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. In addition, his testimony and on cross examination demonstrated he has no education, training or experience that would qualify him to testify as an expert concerning the design of a well and the potential for failure of any well component. In fact, overall he demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of the regulatory requirements for such a well and the design of the well Helis is proposing. We would also point out that Statewide Order 29-B requires that certain information in applications to drill be certified by an engineer with a Professional Engineering registration.<sup>3</sup> Lastly, his testimony concerning the possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing harmful chemicals was completely speculative, where he testified that it was “possible” that such fluids could “possibly” contain petroleum distillates and that benzene could “possibly” be one of those constituents. He never presented any evidence, facts or basis to support any such claims. In fact a recent study by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder published in the journal “Analytical Chemistry” found that fracking fluids in five states were no more toxic than substances commonly found in homes. The study found that the chemicals found in fluid samples were also commonly found in everyday products, from toothpaste to laxatives to detergent to ice cream. Accordingly, his testimony should be disregarded or alternatively given very little weight.

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Freshwater zones would be protected by multiple strings of casing cemented in place providing multiple and redundant levels of protection. When complete, the well design with multiple and redundant permanent layers of protection, that exceed regulatory standards, will eliminate any probability of damage to the aquifers initially and through the life of the well. According to the *American Water Works Association’s White Paper “Water and Hydraulic Fracturing, 2013”* (AWWA White Paper) wells that are properly designed and operated pose no significant threat to ground water resources, since it would take the simultaneous failure of multiple safeguards for such fluids or hydrocarbons to escape and migrate to drinking water resources.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the geology of the area in which the pad site is located is particularly suitable for the proposed project for two reasons; 1) the distance between the lowest fresh water zone and the zone which may be hydraulically fractured; 2) the lack of natural faulting. If hydraulic fracturing were to take place, the zone that would be hydraulically fractured is approximately 9,400 feet or 1.8 miles below the base of the deepest freshwater zone. There are many impermeable shale and clay units between the zone that may be hydraulically fractured and

<sup>3</sup> This is a requirement where an engineer is providing these services to a third party.

<sup>4</sup> Unlike Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Helis presented testimony related to the design of the well by a registered Professional Engineer with 45 years of experience, Adam T. Bourgoyne, Jr. P.E..

<sup>5</sup> Also see GWPC et al. 2009 and Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process, 2014.

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any freshwater zone. There is also no faulting present in the area to act as a potential pathway for migration.<sup>6</sup> And according to the AWWA White Paper, where hydraulic fracturing takes places hundreds to thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it is unlikely that fissures could be created extending into freshwater zones. Based on a study by *King, La Vergne Bryan, & Clark, 2012* fractures induced from hydraulic fracturing will only extend vertically approximately 100 meters and laterally 200-300 meters due to lithologic pressure.<sup>7</sup> If hydraulic fracturing were to take place related to this project, it would not only be thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it would be almost two miles below the deepest freshwater zone, making the proposed project area very suitable to safely conduct hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas production. Consequently, based on the well design and the geology of this project area, the project does not pose a threat to drinking water resources.

We would also point out that hydraulic fracturing associated with oil and gas developments are exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In the 2005 Energy Policy Act Congress specifically exempted such hydraulic fracturing unless diesel fuel was used as a fracturing fluid.<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, Congress has determined that such hydraulic fracturing conducted under state regulatory programs are protective of drinking water resources and the environment.

It is also important to note this would not be the first well to be drilled through the freshwater zones in this area. Dating back many decades, we have granted many Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases covering our property in St. Tammany Parish including the subject tract. The Office of Conservation should take this fact into account when evaluating this permit application. Based upon a review of the data contained in DNR's SONRIS database, a total of at least 73 oil and gas wells have been drilled in St. Tammany Parish alone, and many of these wells were drilled much closer to locations of local water wells than Helis' proposed well site. In addition, there has been another 124 oil and gas wells drilled through the same freshwater zones in the neighboring parishes of Washington and Tangipahoa. We also understand there have been several wells recently drilled and completed, which were hydraulically fractured, just across the state line in Mississippi. These wells in Mississippi that were hydraulically fractured were drilled through freshwater zones with no evidence of damage to the freshwater zones. Considering the previous and current substantial oil and gas activities that have been conducted over many decades and the lack of impacts to the freshwater aquifers in the area, there is no reasonable basis to believe the proposed well will adversely impact the drinking water resources in the area.

The right to own, possess and use property for our benefit is a fundamental right we all have in this country, and when government regulation goes too far it effects a taking of property requiring compensation. Under the circumstances here, a denial of the referenced permit would constitute a regulatory taking, requiring compensation. As a mineral servitude owner, STLCO

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<sup>6</sup> In addition to the information provided by Helis an independent geologist with more than 25 years of experience has reviewed the site geology and confirmed no evidence of faulting.

<sup>7</sup> We understand based on Helis' hydraulic fracture design fractures are estimated to only extend out 200 feet.

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November 19, 2014

has a reasonable expectation to be able to develop the oil and gas resources that are subject to its mineral servitude. There is long standing precedent in this state that allows mineral servitude owners the right and ability to develop these oil and gas resources. This long standing precedent allowing the development of oil and gas resources exist even where local governments have attempted to prevent such development by imposing their own requirements.<sup>9</sup> As such, STLCO has always had a reasonable expectation that it would be able to develop these oil and gas resources where the regulatory requirements are met, even where opponents to the issuance of the permit allege that issuance of the permit would be in violation of local zoning ordinances and/or requirements. Accordingly, denial of the referenced permit would not only result in usurping landowner rights, it would constitute a regulatory taking requiring compensation. In addition, to the extent the application of these zoning ordinances and/or requirements are deemed valid and would now prevent the development of the oil and gas resources subject to STLCO's mineral servitude, such as application of the ordinances and/or requirements under the circumstances would likewise constitute a regulatory taking by St. Tammany Parish, requiring compensation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. In sum, we support issuance of the permit for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,



Louis E. Buatt

LEB/shb

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<sup>9</sup> See *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 967 F.3d 297 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Cir. 2013); *Hunt v. Batchelor*, 644 So.2d 191 (La. 1994); *Greater New Orleans Expressway Com. Traver Oil Co.*, 494 So.2d 1204 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1986); La. R.S. 30:28(A),(D), & (F); and La. Atty. Gen Op. Nos 82-1021, 88-418, and 89-416.

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:26 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** PHM letter in support.pdf

Daniel,

Daniel,

I know you have my letter to the Commissioner supporting the issuance of Helis' drilling permit but I want to make sure to call your attention to this letter from Pat Martin supporting issuance of Helis' drilling permit as it is so significant. You probably studied under Pat at LSU, if you went there're.

Pat is a renowned mineral law expert and is uniquely qualified to speak in support of the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis as he was the Commissioner of Conservation from 1982-1984. His support lends great weight to issuance of the permit to Helis.

Regards,

Edward B. Poitevent, II

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com  
www.poiteventlaw.com

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PATRICK H. MARTIN

*Attorney at Law*  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: mart139@bellsouth.net

By email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov).

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patrick H. Martin*

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Daniel Henry; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Tom Himes; Gordon Cain; David Kerstein <dkerstein@helisoil.com>; Virginia Miller; greg Beuerman (gbeuerman@e-bmf.com); Donna Roebke; Robin M. Rockwell \*\*\* Rockwell Properties & Technologies; Mike Barham (mbarham@helisoil.com); Charlotte Batson  
**Subject:** Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** 11-18-14 Ltr to LOC re Helis permit.pdf

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I represent P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C. (collectively, the "Landowners"). Together, the Landowners own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit as noted in the captioned Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully submit that it be issued forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in the attached letter which they hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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EDWARD B. POITEVENT, A PLC

One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
(504) 648-4109

[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Via email to [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Re: Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This firm represents P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C., (collectively, the "Landowners"), which together own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands they have leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance forthwith of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully for the following reasons:

## **Helis Has An Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of outstanding safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest oil and gas industry standards and legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including the following:

- (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record;
- (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; and
- (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has drilled and fracked some 60 wells similar to the one it proposes to drill here and has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.<sup>1</sup>

## **Helis' Operations Will Be Conducted in a Safe and Environmentally Sound Manner**

Helis has publicly committed that its drilling and fracking operations in St. Tammany Parish will be conducted in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office and Helis' outstanding track record, prove that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and

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<sup>1</sup>See the detailed information on Helis' website for its well and its You Tube video at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

production operation by Helis.<sup>2</sup>

One significant way in which Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is its agreement to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis’ St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a significant additional sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, as noted on its website and You Tube video referenced in footnotes 1 and 2, Helis has agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. This means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections.

Thus, Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Helis has carefully designed its wellsite in an environmentally sound and secure way, with the following features being prominently used to assure that this happens<sup>3</sup>:

1. Helis’ well pad and access road improvements consists of a total of 3.21 acres, yet only 2.81 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. Access road improvements and the construction of a guard shack will result in only an additional 0.32 acre of wetland impacts for a total of only 3.13 acres of wetlands to be directly impacted by Helis’ well, which is a very minimal impact.
2. Helis’ wellsite plans have incorporated a ditch and ring levee abutting and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

<sup>3</sup> For items 1-9 below, see the Joint Public Notice of the New Orleans District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (the “Corps”) for Helis’ wetlands application number MVN-2013-02952-ETT.

circumventing the drill pad and would be contiguous with a planned 125 ft. elevated entrance driveway. Its drill pad surface has been designed with sloping features to drain stormwater to a 2,500 sq. ft. drainage sump within the drill site and abutting the perimeter ditch. Its design is for the purpose of managing stormwater runoff within the drill pad site for containment, use and proper disposal.

3. The water Helis will use for its vertical well operation will be obtained from private ponds, not from groundwater sources in St Tammany Parish (the Southern Hills Aquifer).
4. Helis' drill rig deck design incorporates a basement/sump underneath the rig to capture drill deck drainage for collection, transport and proper offsite disposal.
5. Helis will install "sentinel wells" up-gradient and down-gradient of its well site to assess and monitor water quality of the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of its well site.
6. Helis will compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts by purchasing the appropriate credits from a mitigation bank approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps").
7. There are no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near Helis' proposed wellsite, or any presently known archeological, scientific, prehistoric, historical sites or data.
8. There are no species or designated critical habitat, listed by the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), which may be directly affected by the proposed activity. Its initial finding was that the proposed work would neither affect any ESA listed species nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species.
9. On July 29, 2014, a geological review meeting ("GR") coordinated by the Corps and facilitated by the Louisiana Geological Survey was held to discuss geological aspects associated with Helis' permit application. The GR was attended by the applicant and their consultants along with other state and federal resource agencies

representatives. The focus of discussion was on the viability of the proposed location as a production site for fossil fuels to be extracted from the Tuscaloosa Shale Play. Upon reviewing the information presented by Helis, the consulting geologist at the GR recommended that a single exploratory well be constructed for the purpose of obtaining more data to better assess the site's viability as an oil and gas production site. The Corps concurred with that recommendation.

Helis' proposed location is approximately 12 miles from the nearest structure, and over 2 miles from the nearest subdivision. Therefore, its work acres will have no impact whatsoever on the residents of St. Tammany Parish. The surface area of the wellsite is uninhabited pine-savannah acreage and the only use thus far has been as a pine tree farm under a long term (90 year) timber lease to a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Corporation. If its well is successful, Helis will drill multiple horizontal wells from one surface location. Therefore, even after full development of this vital resource with multiple well pads, impacts on the surface will be negligible.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Helis' Fracking Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US' reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas,

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<sup>4</sup> While St Tammany Parish zoned the Landowners' lands for future uses several years ago, as of today no such development exists on the surface of the property and any future development other than agricultural and oil and gas is many years away as the current timber lease on the land expires in 2043. Agriculture and mineral development is therefore most appropriate use at this time.

Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have also provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues through bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

There is no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, the Landowners are convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Many of Helis' opponents have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides St. Tammany its drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it is curious that these same opponents ignore the fact that over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the Southern Hills Aquifer over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination. They also ignore the fact that there are many thousands of water wells in St. Tammany that were drilled using many of the same substances that Helis will use in its operations and that these water wells are completely unregulated.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate its borehole from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if any ever occur, will occur many years after Helis' well is placed on production. However, by that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer were to occur, water would flow into the production tubing above the oil, and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, again, no credible evidence exists that their use will harm the Southern Hills Aquifer. In fact, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics

and household cleaners.<sup>5</sup>

### The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success

Production of oil and gas is vital to the economic health of our state and nation. From a national perspective, continued production of shale oil and gas will power a US manufacturing renaissance, fill state and local tax coffers, and power the creation of another 1,000,000 jobs in the US over the next decade, over and above the 9.2 million jobs the US energy industry already has created. See <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>. This report dramatically notes the following:

- The US tracking industry supported 2.1 million jobs in 2012, in every state and will support 3.9 million by 2025.
- In 2012, energy from fracking and related chemical activity contributed almost \$284 billion to GDP while abundant, affordable energy from shale has helped fuel a U.S. manufacturing resurgence.
- For U.S. households, the energy surge made possible by tracking has produced household savings through lower natural gas prices estimated at \$1,200 per US household in 2012.<sup>6</sup>

In Louisiana, fracking has provided numerous jobs and greatly aided its economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically

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<sup>5</sup>See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

<sup>6</sup> Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and President Obama's former White House Chief of Staff, said recently "Cheap energy-the revolution that's going on in America's heartland on energy-is making sure that America now has a manufacturing renaissance." <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>

shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry.

<http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>.

Significantly and specifically, it cannot be ignored that the Northshore Business Council--representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region--strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

In addition, all of the following regional business groups--representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area--also strongly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>7</sup>

If successful, the oil and gas development will generate significant tax revenue and jobs for St. Tammany Parish. Specifically, if full development occurs, severance taxes, ad valorem taxes, and sales taxes will generate tens, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind--business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

for St. Tammany Parish. It will also generate significant income for St. Tammany Parish residents in bonus and royalties from the oil and gas development. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, it is crystal clear that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit and successfully drills and fracks its proposed well, similar benefits will undoubtedly come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

### **THE OPPONENTS' LEGAL OBJECTIONS ARE UTTERLY INCORRECT**

Objections to Helis' application are utterly unfounded in Louisiana law. These objections pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of for the reasons noted below.

The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as the Landowners and thousands of St. Tammany Parish residents, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

Specifically, Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient

authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed strictly to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

Finally, any road use and noise from Helis' drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in St. Tammany. Significantly, all road use by Helis will either be on the federal interstate highway system (I-12) or on State highway 1088, and no parish roads will be used. Moreover, drilling activity is temporary in nature and will be mitigated by Helis and by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It would be grossly unfair and unjust to deny the Landowners and Helis their lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of temporary and minor annoyance or inconvenience to a few in St. Tammany and it would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of property based on such utterly insignificant reasons.

For all of these reasons, the drilling permit application submitted to your office by Helis as captioned should be granted without delay as issuance of the permit is clearly in the public interest of the citizens and State of Louisiana, and particularly the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish (due to, among others, the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other

local governmental agencies), and Helis' operations will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Poitevent, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Edward B. Poitevent, II

Attorney for P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C.,  
PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C.

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:27 PM

**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)

**Subject:** FW: Helis emails

**Attachments:** Public Hearing for Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; FW: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Letter of Support: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Emailing: 11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf. Jan Jumonville, Covington, LA; Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626 ; Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. ; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Attn: Patrick Courreges. ; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; drilling Permit application, Eads Poitevant et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No.14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well; Please DO NOT allow Helis to Build an Exploratory Well in St. Tammany; Ref Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Engineering docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.; I Stand with Helis Oil on Drilling in St. Tammany; 34 hits from Meltwater News; Helis Permit; Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Say no to fracking; FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well; Public Comment RE: Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application ; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Comments from St. Tammany Land Co., LLC; Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Helis Permit Application Comments; Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Helis Oil and Gas Company, LLC, Permit to Drill Eads Poitevent et. al. Well # 001; Engineering Docket 14-626; FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Engineering Docket 14-626; public hearing comment; Public Comment - Engineering Docket No. 14-626 (Helis Oil Application); Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well; Eads Poitevent Well No. 1 Docket #14-626; Engineering Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil; office of conservation; Re: engineering docket 14-626; Engineering Docket 14-626 Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Re: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Hellis Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Patrick Courreges DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.; Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et. al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al. No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Public Hearing for Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; FW: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads

Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Letter of Support: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Emailing: 11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf. Jan Jumonville, Covington, LA; Louisiana Office of Conservation-Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626 ; Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well; Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Patrick Courreges  
Communications Director  
La. Dept. of Natural Resources  
Ofc: 225-342-0510  
Cell: 225-454-8223

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:26 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Helis emails

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**From:** Hy McEnery [hymcenery@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:48 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Public Hearing for Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

**Attachments:** Fracking Letter to LA COC in SUPPORT of HELIS & POITEVENT # 1 Well in ST TAMMANY Engineering Docket No. 14-626. Due 19 Nov 2014.docx

Bonjour Mr. James Welsh,

Please see the attached letter in favor of Helis for the Poitevent well, as I strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626, and respectfully submits that it be forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in this letter which I hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Thanks and God bless,

**Chaplain Hy McEnery**

CH Henry Alfred McEnery III

**LAMB Ministries Inc** [www.lambnola.com](http://www.lambnola.com) **Isaiah 40:31** "...with wings as eagles;"

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5127 Laurel St, New Orleans, LA, 70115, USA, 504-269-5002 / 504-723-9369 Cell

[hymcenery@hotmail.com](mailto:hymcenery@hotmail.com) [libbamcenery@yahoo.com](mailto:libbamcenery@yahoo.com)

"Except ye... become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 18:3** "Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear." **Mark Twain** "For **God so LOVED** the world,

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



**CH Henry Alfred McEnery III**  
5127 Laurel St  
New Orleans LA 70115, USA  
(504) 269-5002 (504) 723-9369 cell (504) 269 5309 Fax  
[hymcenery@hotmail.com](mailto:hymcenery@hotmail.com)

November 17, 2014

Via email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation, Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am a land owner and past resident of St. Tammany Parish, and I am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of **Helis Oil & Gas, LLC** for the drilling of the proposed **Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.**

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the **public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.**

**As a lifelong (63 years) land owner, past resident (28 years), ordained minister by Collins Blvd Baptist Church in St Tammany parish, I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

Before I tell you why I support the permit being issued, I want to remind you that last week was **Veterans' Day**, a day when we honor the brave men and women of this country who have fought and sacrificed for us all. **I am a veteran**, and served in the **Gulf War** and **twice in Afghanistan with U.S. Army Special Forces**, and I was attached to the **Marine Corps as a counter insurgency advisor** on my last tour in **2010**. **As a lessor, investor, and past employee on offshore work over rigs and as a military man**, there are more than a few similarities between **my experience in the oil and gas industry and the military. A brotherhood develops** between guys in the field, mostly because you're watching each other's backs on the job. There's also **patriotism in the oilfield**, unlike any other industry, probably because of all the vets that work with us. As a **vet and a denizen of the oil patch**, it's a great honor to know that I've had the good fortune of being part of both groups. This current oil play in St Tammany will bring many **new jobs** for our greater NOLA area of which **returning vets** are in great need! Returning vets at no fault of their own add new burdens to our currently failing job markets. New petro jobs will certainly help our AO with this **well regulated, safe, and clean industry**. Helis has even set records

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

concerning this. Please see below for the stats on this (pg 3).

**My Reasons for Supporting the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish:**

**The U.S. Shale Revolution and its Implications for America**

**A short five years ago**, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional **gas production declined in the United States**, it seemed that **this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports**. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. **Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East**, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta. **The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States**, where producers have taken advantage of **two newly viable technologies** to unlock resources once deemed commercially non-feasible: **horizontal drilling**, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and **hydraulic fracturing**, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations. The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between **2007 and 2012, U.S. shale gas production rose by over 50 percent each year**, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from **5 percent to 39 percent**. Terminals once intended to bring **foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG)** to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to **export U.S. LNG abroad**. Between 2007 and 2012, **fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone** that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which **grew by 50 percent between 2008 and 2013**. Thanks to these developments, the **U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower**. Last year, we **surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer**, and **by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia** as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required **more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers** with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by **thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company**. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an **industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.** The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has **wide-reaching geopolitical consequences**. **Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets**. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby **diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers** have wielded for decades. **Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out**, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain. The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since **1971, when U.S. oil production peaked**, energy has been construed as a **strategic liability** for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes **necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad**. But **that logic has been upended**, and the **newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world**.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the **U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works** entitled **"Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic**

**Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution",** which I ask be **filed into the record** of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in Louisiana**

The **Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS)** is a **sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region** approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin (Volume 7) of the LSU-Basin Research Institute (BRI), Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Florida Parishes in southeastern Louisiana—which includes St. Tammany Parish-- within an approximate depth range of **11,000 feet to the north to more than 15,000 feet to the south.** It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit from your office. The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons (oil and gas) originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock (TMS) which is now being explored for oil and /or liquid hydrocarbons with advanced (horizontal) drilling and completion (hydraulic fracturing, called fracking).<sup>3</sup>

### **The U.S. Shale Revolution's Implications for St. Tammany**

The highly respected **LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott** just completed a very significant economic report on the **huge economic benefits** that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "**The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy**" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be **filed into the record** of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

**"It is the engine that makes the difference. For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana."**

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following **very significant economic benefits** flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

**Louisiana is the nation's number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas among the 50 states.**

Louisiana ranks **number two among the states in petroleum refining capacity.**

Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry supported **\$73.8 billion in sales** in Louisiana firms, generated over **\$20.5 billion in household earnings** for Louisianans, and supported **287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.**

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/Tuscaloosa%20Marine%20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

The **\$20.5 billion in earnings** represented **11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana**. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level. On average the **job multiplier** for the petroleum industry in Louisiana was **4.4**; that is, for every job created in these sectors **3.4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state**. Louisiana's energy industry directly paid nearly **\$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees** in FY13, or about 14.6 % of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected. Through the \$20.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an **additional \$1,438,000,000 in taxes**, for a total boost to the **state treasury of \$2.9 billion**. A very conservative estimate is that **Louisiana's energy industry directly paid \$410 million in ad valorem taxes** to local governments in the state in 2013---a **37.5% increase over 2009**. In 43 of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 22 parishes the number exceeded \$5 million.

It is important to note that that the **Northshore Business Council**-- representing **60 businesses** and **thousands of employees in the Northshore** region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the **West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce**, which represents **1,000 members and their 30,000 employees**, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. It is also important to note that all of the **following regional business groups** representing **hundreds of thousands of jobs** in this area also sternly **support Helis' drilling permit and plans**:

Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region  
Greater New Orleans, Inc.  
Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District  
Jefferson Business Council  
Jefferson Chamber of Commerce  
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission  
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce  
Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry  
River Region Chamber of Commerce  
St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce  
St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation  
St. Tammany Homebuilders Association  
Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils  
Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation  
Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>5</sup>

Once **Helis is granted the drilling permit**, I am confident that similar **benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish**.

### **Helis' Outstanding Safety and Ecology Track Record**

In the past, **Helis' has drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill**, and these types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. Helis has an outstanding record of more than **80 years of safe and efficient operations** and extensive operations on **private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters**. Also, Helis has years of experience **drilling in sensitive environments**, such as wildlife and always has the highest regard for its surroundings. Well in advance of being required to do so for its offshore

<sup>5</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

operations, Helis voluntarily implemented the now mandatory **Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS")** for all of its operations—offshore and onshore. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

**Full-time, experienced safety inspectors** on drilling and completion operations... **Every employee** and contractor on Helis locations is **properly trained and given full safety briefings**, and every Helis employee and contractor can **stop work on any operation** if he or she deems it unsafe.

**Helis** has received the following **3 commendations** for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells:

>>> **Federal offshore regulators** have nominated Helis for the **National "SAFE" Award** for its safety and environmental performance record.

>>> The **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality** commended Helis' work for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, recognizing that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts.

>>> **The US Coast Guard has commended Helis** for its **environmental protection efforts**. Helis also has received **numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.**<sup>6</sup>

### **Objections to Helis' Permit are Unfounded**

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of, as follows:

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does **not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity** in a community. **Such activity is temporary in nature** and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is **unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity** simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a **terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.**

**Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865** when use was first made of the **Roberts Torpedo**, which was **widely employed** in the **early days** of the industry. Commercial **hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949**, and **hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated** with this process being employed. **Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured** have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have **dramatically expanded domestic production** of oil and natural gas, **diminished the reliance on foreign sources** of supply and **enhanced American security**. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from **bonuses, royalties and severance tax**. Critics can point to **no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.**

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)

Concerning the **law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling**, in the highly regarded publication, "**Pooling and Unitization Treatise**," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "**Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations.**" B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

**Louisiana law** clearly provides as follows:

The **issuance of a permit** by the commissioner of conservation shall be **sufficient authorization** to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and **to drill** in search of minerals thereon. **No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well** or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be **followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government**, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006). The **State of Louisiana** has wisely entrusted a **central agency** of the state for the **protection of the public interest**. That office, the **Louisiana Office of Conservation**, has an **exemplary record of safeguarding the public** while overseeing the **orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana**. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to **relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests** or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also **deny to owners of oil and gas rights**, such as Helis' lessors and **hundreds and thousands of other Louisianans**, the **right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands**.

### **Helis Will Drill and Produce its Well in an Environmentally Safe Way**

Objections to Helis' application based on water pollution are also utterly unfounded for the following reasons:

Helis will also employ **an extra string of casing** so that the aquifer will be protected by **three concentric strings of casing** - one more than the required two strings of casing—along with **three layers of cement**. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)

**Helis' well** will be drilled to a depth of approximately **12,000 feet**. As the **Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet**, Helis' well will be **9,000 feet below the aquifer**, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Thousands of wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, fracking projects through this same aquifer are already taking place in neighboring **Tangipahoa Parish**. There are literally **thousands of fracked wells in Louisiana**—about two thousand seven hundred (2,700) in the Haynesville Shale area in North Louisiana and some thirty-five (35) in Tangipahoa Parish and other areas near to St. Tammany. See <http://videos.loga.la/home>. According to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials in those areas, there are **no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana**. If the issue is **protecting the aquifers**, then it is just **too late**, as we are **completely surrounded by hundreds of fracked wells!** And so... **where is the pollution?**

**Several peer-reviewed scientific studies** have that concluded that **fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers**. See, for example, the report in the *Proceedings* of the **National Academy of Sciences** at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to->

[well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html](#). In some areas outside of Louisiana there are **very rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers** can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented. In areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to oil and gas operations, naturally occurring **shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers**. There are **no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Parish**, as evidenced by **electric logs run in wells previously drilled** in St Tammany and by the fact that **no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water**. However, **thousands of potable water wells** out west and **around the world** and many **sacred pristine springs** (a flame rises up in the middle of the bubbling spring) have gas from low lying pockets of gas in the aquifers! Also, let's not forget the **vulcanization of aquifers** under **volcanic high pressure toxic steam** that pump tens of thousands of some of the **most poisonous chemicals** into those very **fresh water** sources (ie. Yellow Stone's Old Faithful among others is one, and if that giant caldera ever blows, it will more than prove Global Warming to be the ridiculous joke that it is!). If you stand near and downwind to these noxious chemical clouds, you die, and we have these **volcanic eruptions often every year** with the one in **Iceland in 2007**, pumping more pollution into the ground and upper atmosphere than **all of the pollution produced by the human race over the past 300 years! Every year every just one** of these volcanic eruption produces more pollution than all of the cars and factories do over the same entire year. You know, **Mother Nature's way... But not to worry, as Mother Nature has remarkable ways of self healing. She's been at for a very long time now.**

A study by the **University of Colorado at Boulder** published recently in the respected journal **Analytical Chemistry** of components found in fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas **contains chemicals found in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste**. Though the fluid is mostly water and sand, many critics of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, say chemicals added to the fluid contaminate groundwater. The new study suggests that additives found in one component, **surfactants (soap)**, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted, are no more toxic than other common household items like bleach. University researchers collected samples from fracking fluid surfactants in five states — Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Texas. Other chemicals used are commonly found in **hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners**.<sup>7</sup>

The **potential for the casing to leak** has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills Aquifer. Here, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by **three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement**, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and **no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer**.

**Earthquakes** caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is **no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel**. While this may have

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and also see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

occurred near a few waste water disposal wells, Helis has stated that wastewater from the operation of its well will not be disposed of in St Tammany. And, even if it were, the **geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Parish is different from the geology in the areas where the few earthquakes have occurred**, as those that have taken place have occurred in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. **No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana** underlying the well site because the **unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them**.

Much has been made by opponents of Helis' well about the **Southern Hills Aquifer** being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Parish, and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm it. This argument has two major problems: first, the **Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes**. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for thousands of people while at the same time **over 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years, with no resulting contamination**; secondly, the Southern Hills Aquifer may not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub-surface fresh water zone made up of **10-15 separate fresh water sands**. These sands are **separated by impermeable shales** and are therefore **isolated from each other**. This fact makes it **all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole**. Fracking is also not new to this area of Louisiana. Major fracking operations are safely taking place **less than 40 miles away** through the **same aquifer in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish** without any incident at all. Fracking operations will begin soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany Parish.

**I am quite familiar** and have been familiar for over two years with **Helis Oil & Gas, LLC** and with the owners of the proposed site. In fact, I have known and been friends with the **Poitevents** for over 55 years. I know both to be **wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment**. In fact the **Poitevent family were early Huguenot settlers** arriving in St Tammany Parish in a covered wagon **some 200 years ago**.

For all of the **many solid reasons** set forth in this letter and as the **Bible** tells us that **God will bless us with oil riches** out of the ground ("When I washed my steps with butter, and **the rock poured me out rivers of oil**;" **Job 29:6** and "Jacob... He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to **suck** honey out of the rock, and **oil out of the flinty rock**;" Deuteronomy 32:9-13, **sweet crude out of T M Shale?**), I **strongly urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application** as Helis' well is in the **public interest**, and it will **benefit the State of Louisiana** and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish. It will not harm the air, the water, or quality of living of St. Tammany Parish. Take a look at **New Iberia, LA surrounded by oil wells** for decades. It was just voted the **best overall place for quality of living in America!**

To repeat, this landowner strongly supports the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in **Engineering Docket No. 14-626**, and respectfully submits that it be forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in this letter which I hereby **submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations**.

Thanks and God bless,

**Chaplain Hy McEnery**



**From:** Julie Poitevent [jpoitevent@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:04 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, complete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection,

traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis’ well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis’ well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to

fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp->

<content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also

weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia B. Poitevent

**From:** Trevor Theunissen [ttheunissen@coatsrose.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:26 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

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Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor Kade Theunissen

This e-mail and/or attachment is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

**From:** H Elder Brown Jr [ebrown@fidelismarine.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:23 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**CC:** Elder Brown

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I would like to take the opportunity to write to you concerning the captioned Drilling Permit Application in St. Tammany Parish

I am sixty one years old, married with three grown children. My family has lived in this Parish for close to 100 years. We have built businesses, employed hundreds of our fellow citizens here, raised our families here, worshipped and educated our children here, buried family members here and have been a positive influence and contributed to the welfare of our community here continuously throughout the last century. We love St. Tammany, its people and the life we have and will live here for many years to come. Ironically, much of what we enjoy in this and neighboring Parishes are as a direct result of Louisiana's strong oil and gas economy.

I have studied, as a layman, the issue at hand carefully and believe the practices and procedures being used in today's oil and gas exploration on land, especially "fracking" to be safe. I have read that there are over 1,000 wells already drilled in the very aquifer that those few who are opposed to drilling the well that a permit is being sought. I am unaware of a single instance where any of the previously drilled wells have contaminated or polluted any of our aquifers. My family drinks from the very aquifer that this small unruly minority are voicing their opposition. They are not the only people who drink from St. Tammany's water wells. I suspect many of the "few" do not even live in the Parish and perhaps not even in the State of Louisiana.

I also want to make sure that my land owner rights are not taken away from me via those who would, without question, like to steal from my family those land owner's rights which are guaranteed to us via the State's Constitution. I am vehemently opposed to those who would use any means and methods to take those rights from me on the local and State levels where the law is so clearly in the exclusive hands from the State level - not the local level.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

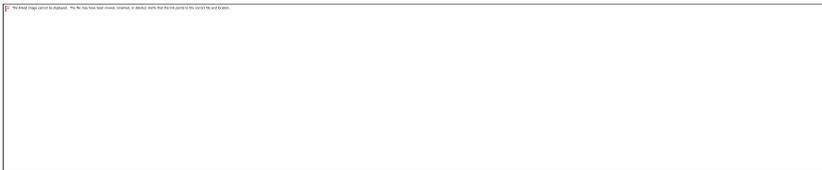
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I respectfully ask that the State of Louisiana grant the permit that is being sought for by the Helis Corporation and which is overseen at the State level exclusively. I am disappointed at the lack of leadership that our local Parish leaders have displayed in this regard and the waste of the Parish tax dollars being spent in the frivolous politically driven patronizing lawsuit which, is not representative of the majority of this Parish’s residents but more for the vocal, rude and incredibly unruly minority who are against most any positive growth opportunities for our area. Some people simply want to oppose anything and everything and in the process, greatly diminish the opportunity for the majority of those who have worked so hard to make St. Tammany home.

Please do not allow these few naysayers to be seen as representative of the majority in this Parish and whose sole purpose is to diminish the value that I and many others have worked so hard to build for our families and colleagues in my Parish. Finally, I would not react to those who attended to the recent meeting held last week in my Parish. They do not speak for the majority. Not every person in this Parish will take the time that I have taken to write to you but I can most assuredly tell you that their silence is not to be mistaken for opposition. People are simply too busy to write and most sane people would not attend meetings such as last week’s where they were mocked and treated so inconsiderately.

Respectfully,

H. Elder Brown, Jr.  
22496 Elderberry Lane  
Bush, LA. 70431



**From:** H Elder Brown Jr [hebrownr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** H Elder Brown Jr  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

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Respectfully,

H. Elder Brown, Jr.  
22496 Elderberry Lane  
Bush, LA. 70431

**From:** Jan Jumonville [jjjumonville@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:34 PM  
**To:** Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Emailing: 11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf. Jan Jumonville, Covington, LA  
**Attachments:** 11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

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*Jan P. Jumonville*

*Attorney at Law & Notary  
24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, Louisiana 70435  
Email: [jjjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)  
Office/Fax (985) 892-8191*

**PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS EMAIL AND WERE ABLE TO OPEN THE ATTACHED FILE(S).**

November 18, 2014

Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)  
Mr. Patrick Courreges and  
Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)  
Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh, Courreges and Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, this message is sent with the following file attachments:

11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Thank you for your service and protection of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj

*Jan P. Jumonville*

24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, LA 70435

Telephone (985) 892-8191  
Email: [jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)

November 18, 2014

**Email:** [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email:** [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Email:** [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Engineering - Regulatory Division

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh, Courreges and Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I emailed to you a letter dated 10/25/2014 and attended the Public hearing on 11/12/2014 at Lakeshore High School.

Please note my presence at the Public meeting on 11/12/2014, my letter dated 10/25/2014 and this letter dated 11/18/2014 as opposition by me, my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al's well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications. Please make my letters a matter of public record as relates to this matter.

I received a copy of a very compelling letter dated 11/15/2014 by Cynthia Brooking sent to you. In furtherance of and adopting Ms. Brooking's letter, I request you deny Helis' drilling for these additional reasons:

First and foremost, you should rule, morally and legally, for the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish's right to health, safety, and welfare under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish's Home Rule Charter, all of which support our right to deny Helis' drilling permit.

1. GRANTING HELIS A PERMIT TO DRILL AND FRACK WILL DESTROY OUR WETLANDS.

During the Public hearing on 11/12/2014, as part of the hearing, Adam T. (Ted) Bourgoyne, Jr., Ph.D. P.E., 1969, Professor Emeritus of Petroleum Engineering, Louisiana State University and Vice-President, Bourgoyne Enterprises Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana stated,

**Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)**

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

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**Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)**

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

"The Economic impact COULD be considerable".

We urge you to focus on and give every consideration against granting Helis a permit to drill where Helis will destroy our wetlands and wildlife.

2. GRANTING HELIS THIS PERMIT WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

Using a conservative estimate of 2,500 trucks per drilled well to carry equipment and supplies to and from the well site. Granting Helis this permit will generate more applications for additional wells from Helis and many more oil companies. Just examine Texas. You would be opening the floodgates to an estimates 6,000 wells in St Tammany Parish would require more than 15 million more 18 wheelers on our roads in St. Tammany Parish.

That's a tremendous increase in traffic congestion, which our every day traffic can not handle. Going to and from work has already caused terrible delays and the increase in the risk of traffic accidents, injuries and death.

In particular, consider the risk of our children and teachers at Lakeshore High School. Drilling across from Lakeshore High School would generate two thousand five hundred(2,500) 18 wheelers on the same parish road upon which our teachers and high school students travel and drive twice a day. Traffic congestion increases the potential for accident by or including 18 wheelers, loaded with numerous toxic chemicals.

Those 2,500 trucks driving to and from the well site across the street will be bringing these chemicals to the site, and removing the frack water which has been polluted with these chemicals. Any kind of leak, traffic accident, or intentional spill of any of these compounds will be hazardous to these children at Lakeshore High School.

Who is most effected by such accidents? Not Helis, the benefactor of these 18 wheelers, but our children, their families, the Lakeshore High School, residents in the area and all citizens who use the parish roads by these 18 wheelers!

3. FRACKING RESULTS IN TOXIC AIR POLLUTION.

Emissions from diesel-fueled engines are composed of thousands of substances including more than 40 air toxins that are known or suspected carcinogens. Diesel, a dirty fuel, is heavier and oilier than gasoline. Diesel exhaust is a complex mixture of carbon, ash, and sulfate particulates, and hydrocarbons. In addition, the engine produces nitrous oxide (NOx) a precursor of smog. One heavy-duty diesel truck can produce as much air pollution as 150 passenger cars.

**Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)**

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

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**Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)**

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Increasing evidence links exposures to these substances with lung cancer, upper respiratory illness, allergies, asthma attacks, and death from heart and respiratory disorders. In fact, recent EPA data indicate that diesel exhaust is likely the main air pollutant contributing to cancer risk in Oregon. On road emissions are particularly dangerous for those who share the road. When cars follow diesel trucks or buses, the levels of soot INSIDE those cars are 6 to 8 times higher than the ambient air outside those cars.

Using figures from a study on diesel pollution in Oregon, 2,500 trucks, needed for Helis' ONE well, going up and down the highway right outside Lakeshore High School will result in the Lakeshore High students, teachers and all school personnel breathing:

1,240,000 lbs Volatile Organic Compounds  
2,717,500 lbs Carbon Monoxide  
32,500 lbs Particulate Matter  
139,645,000 lbs Carbon Dioxide  
3,225,000 lbs Nitrogen Oxides

This is an unacceptable level of toxic air and pollution. When those figures are multiplied by a potential 6,000 wells, our air quality will be heavily toxic and polluted in St Tammany Parish.

#### 4. CLEAN WATER and TOXIC WASTE:

In order to frack, Helis will use a at least two and a half million (2,500,000) gallons of water per well. With a potential of six thousand (6,000) wells, fifteen BILLION(15,000,000,000) gallons of water will be forever full of toxic chemical, lost forever to our eco-system.

Our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded:

"More than one billion people - one in five people- on this planet we live on, lacks access to safe drinking water.

By the year 2050, 40 percent of the world will suffer water shortages.

Less than 3% of the world's water supply is fresh water and much of that is inaccessible." <http://www.savewateramerica.com/index.htm>.

Our State of Louisiana government is giving our water away to hydraulic fracturing projects - even from our scenic rivers! We have already given away 105 million gallons, with more permits pending. In Baton Rouge, our State Capital, major industries are using aquifer water to the tune of millions of gallons per day, when the Mississippi River is right there.

Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

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Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Is this moral and ethical for our State governing bodies to allow our waters to be given away to when it forever removes our water from the eco-system? Oil companies should and can afford to pay for what they take from Louisiana. The real issue here is even more important:

Louisiana should not sell its Citizens' water! We ALL own that water. We ALL need water to survive and it is your soleum duty to protect All of us from the loss of our waters.

5. CHEMICAL USED IN FRACKING ARE TOXIC TO HUMANS.

Between 2005 and 2009 the most widely used chemical in hydraulic fracturing, as measured by the number of compounds containing the chemical, was methanol which was used in 342 hydraulic fracturing products. Methanol is a hazardous air pollutant on the candidate list for potential regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Some of the other most widely used chemicals are isopropyl alcohol (used in 274 products), 2-butoxyethanol (used in 126 products), and ethylene glycol (used in 119 products).

Between 2005 and 2009, the oil and gas service companies used hydraulic fracturing products containing 29 chemicals. These 29 chemicals were components of more than 650 different products used in hydraulic fracturing that are:

- (1) known or possible human carcinogens,
- (2) regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for their risks to human health, or
- (3) listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Fracking itself will release compounds into the air such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and n-hexane; long term exposure to these has been linked to birth defects, neurological problems, blood disorders and cancer.

6. ST. TAMMANY PARISH WILL NOT PROSPER FROM FRACKING.

Louisiana has a severance tax exemption on minerals extracted using directional drilling for 2 years or until the cost of drilling the well is recovered, whichever comes first. After these exemptions are exhausted, the oil company can drill another well and restart the process of another severance tax exemption.

7. OUR STATE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MONITORING OF DRILLING OPERATIONS TO PROTECT US.

The Office of Conservation has also been unable to develop an effective enforcement process to address non-compliance. The State Department of Natural Resources' Office of

**Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)**

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

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**Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)**

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Conservation does not have adequate funds to properly regulate and inspect the state's oil and gas wells, and to properly overseeing a growing number of "orphaned" wells abandoned by private operators, (Legislative Audit June 2014). The Office of Conservation was unable to inspect at least 53% of the 50,960 oil and gas wells in the state at least once every three years between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2013, as required by department rules. That resulted in more than 12,700 wells not being inspected at all during that time.

Add this to the many exemptions for hydraulic fracturing under United States Federal law: the oil and gas industries are exempt or excluded from several of the major federal environmental laws. These laws range from protecting clean water and air, to preventing the release of toxic substances and chemicals into the environment:

- the Clean Air Act,
- the Clean Water Act,
- the Safe Drinking Water Act,
- the National Environmental Policy Act,
- the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,
- the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and
- the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act(Superfund).

We have valid concerns for our health, safety and welfare and you should NOT grant this drilling permit or any other drilling permit using hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany Parish.

Thank you for your service and protection of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Daniel Henry; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Tom Himes; Gordon Cain; David Kerstein <dkerstein@helisoil.com>; Virginia Miller; greg Beuerman (gbeuerman@e-bmf.com); Donna Roebke; Robin M. Rockwell \*\*\* Rockwell Properties & Technologies; Mike Barham (mbarham@helisoil.com); Charlotte Batson  
**Subject:** Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** 11-18-14 Ltr to LOC re Helis permit.pdf

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I represent P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C. (collectively, the "Landowners"). Together, the Landowners own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit as noted in the captioned Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully submit that it be issued forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in the attached letter which they hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

EDWARD B. POITEVENT, A PLC

One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
(504) 648-4109

[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Via email to [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Re: Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This firm represents P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C., (collectively, the "Landowners"), which together own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands they have leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance forthwith of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully for the following reasons:

## **Helis Has An Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of outstanding safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest oil and gas industry standards and legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including the following:

- (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record;
- (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; and
- (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has drilled and fracked some 60 wells similar to the one it proposes to drill here and has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.<sup>1</sup>

## **Helis' Operations Will Be Conducted in a Safe and Environmentally Sound Manner**

Helis has publicly committed that its drilling and fracking operations in St. Tammany Parish will be conducted in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office and Helis' outstanding track record, prove that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and

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<sup>1</sup>See the detailed information on Helis' website for its well and its You Tube video at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

production operation by Helis.<sup>2</sup>

One significant way in which Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is its agreement to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis’ St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a significant additional sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, as noted on its website and You Tube video referenced in footnotes 1 and 2, Helis has agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. This means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections.

Thus, Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Helis has carefully designed its wellsite in an environmentally sound and secure way, with the following features being prominently used to assure that this happens<sup>3</sup>:

1. Helis’ well pad and access road improvements consists of a total of 3.21 acres, yet only 2.81 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. Access road improvements and the construction of a guard shack will result in only an additional 0.32 acre of wetland impacts for a total of only 3.13 acres of wetlands to be directly impacted by Helis’ well, which is a very minimal impact.
2. Helis’ wellsite plans have incorporated a ditch and ring levee abutting and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

<sup>3</sup> For items 1-9 below, see the Joint Public Notice of the New Orleans District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (the “Corps”) for Helis’ wetlands application number MVN-2013-02952-ETT.

circumventing the drill pad and would be contiguous with a planned 125 ft. elevated entrance driveway. Its drill pad surface has been designed with sloping features to drain stormwater to a 2,500 sq. ft. drainage sump within the drill site and abutting the perimeter ditch. Its design is for the purpose of managing stormwater runoff within the drill pad site for containment, use and proper disposal.

3. The water Helis will use for its vertical well operation will be obtained from private ponds, not from groundwater sources in St Tammany Parish (the Southern Hills Aquifer).
4. Helis' drill rig deck design incorporates a basement/sump underneath the rig to capture drill deck drainage for collection, transport and proper offsite disposal.
5. Helis will install "sentinel wells" up-gradient and down-gradient of its well site to assess and monitor water quality of the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of its well site.
6. Helis will compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts by purchasing the appropriate credits from a mitigation bank approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps").
7. There are no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near Helis' proposed wellsite, or any presently known archeological, scientific, prehistoric, historical sites or data.
8. There are no species or designated critical habitat, listed by the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), which may be directly affected by the proposed activity. Its initial finding was that the proposed work would neither affect any ESA listed species nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species.
9. On July 29, 2014, a geological review meeting ("GR") coordinated by the Corps and facilitated by the Louisiana Geological Survey was held to discuss geological aspects associated with Helis' permit application. The GR was attended by the applicant and their consultants along with other state and federal resource agencies

representatives. The focus of discussion was on the viability of the proposed location as a production site for fossil fuels to be extracted from the Tuscaloosa Shale Play. Upon reviewing the information presented by Helis, the consulting geologist at the GR recommended that a single exploratory well be constructed for the purpose of obtaining more data to better assess the site's viability as an oil and gas production site. The Corps concurred with that recommendation.

Helis' proposed location is approximately 12 miles from the nearest structure, and over 2 miles from the nearest subdivision. Therefore, its work acres will have no impact whatsoever on the residents of St. Tammany Parish. The surface area of the wellsite is uninhabited pine-savannah acreage and the only use thus far has been as a pine tree farm under a long term (90 year) timber lease to a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Corporation. If its well is successful, Helis will drill multiple horizontal wells from one surface location. Therefore, even after full development of this vital resource with multiple well pads, impacts on the surface will be negligible.<sup>4</sup>

### **Helis' Fracking Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US' reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas,

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<sup>4</sup> While St Tammany Parish zoned the Landowners' lands for future uses several years ago, as of today no such development exists on the surface of the property and any future development other than agricultural and oil and gas is many years away as the current timber lease on the land expires in 2043. Agriculture and mineral development is therefore most appropriate use at this time.

Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have also provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues through bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

There is no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, the Landowners are convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Many of Helis' opponents have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides St. Tammany its drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it is curious that these same opponents ignore the fact that over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the Southern Hills Aquifer over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination. They also ignore the fact that there are many thousands of water wells in St. Tammany that were drilled using many of the same substances that Helis will use in its operations and that these water wells are completely unregulated.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate its borehole from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if any ever occur, will occur many years after Helis' well is placed on production. However, by that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer were to occur, water would flow into the production tubing above the oil, and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, again, no credible evidence exists that their use will harm the Southern Hills Aquifer. In fact, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics

and household cleaners.<sup>5</sup>

### The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success

Production of oil and gas is vital to the economic health of our state and nation. From a national perspective, continued production of shale oil and gas will power a US manufacturing renaissance, fill state and local tax coffers, and power the creation of another 1,000,000 jobs in the US over the next decade, over and above the 9.2 million jobs the US energy industry already has created. See <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>. This report dramatically notes the following:

- The US tracking industry supported 2.1 million jobs in 2012, in every state and will support 3.9 million by 2025.
- In 2012, energy from fracking and related chemical activity contributed almost \$284 billion to GDP while abundant, affordable energy from shale has helped fuel a U.S. manufacturing resurgence.
- For U.S. households, the energy surge made possible by tracking has produced household savings through lower natural gas prices estimated at \$1,200 per US household in 2012.<sup>6</sup>

In Louisiana, fracking has provided numerous jobs and greatly aided its economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically

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<sup>5</sup>See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

<sup>6</sup> Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and President Obama's former White House Chief of Staff, said recently "Cheap energy-the revolution that's going on in America's heartland on energy-is making sure that America now has a manufacturing renaissance." <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>

shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry.

<http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>.

Significantly and specifically, it cannot be ignored that the Northshore Business Council--representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region--strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

In addition, all of the following regional business groups--representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area--also strongly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>7</sup>

If successful, the oil and gas development will generate significant tax revenue and jobs for St. Tammany Parish. Specifically, if full development occurs, severance taxes, ad valorem taxes, and sales taxes will generate tens, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind--business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

for St. Tammany Parish. It will also generate significant income for St. Tammany Parish residents in bonus and royalties from the oil and gas development. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, it is crystal clear that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit and successfully drills and fracks its proposed well, similar benefits will undoubtedly come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

### **THE OPPONENTS' LEGAL OBJECTIONS ARE UTTERLY INCORRECT**

Objections to Helis' application are utterly unfounded in Louisiana law. These objections pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of for the reasons noted below.

The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as the Landowners and thousands of St. Tammany Parish residents, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

Specifically, Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient

authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed strictly to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

Finally, any road use and noise from Helis' drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in St. Tammany. Significantly, all road use by Helis will either be on the federal interstate highway system (I-12) or on State highway 1088, and no parish roads will be used. Moreover, drilling activity is temporary in nature and will be mitigated by Helis and by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It would be grossly unfair and unjust to deny the Landowners and Helis their lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of temporary and minor annoyance or inconvenience to a few in St. Tammany and it would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of property based on such utterly insignificant reasons.

For all of these reasons, the drilling permit application submitted to your office by Helis as captioned should be granted without delay as issuance of the permit is clearly in the public interest of the citizens and State of Louisiana, and particularly the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish (due to, among others, the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other

local governmental agencies), and Helis' operations will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Poitevent, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Edward B. Poitevent, II

Attorney for P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C.,  
PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C.

**From:** Cathey Casey [c\_larryc@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** LDNREngDocket 14-626 CaseyLetter.docx

Please enter the attached letter into the subject docket. Please email confirmation of receipt.

Thanks in advance,  
Catherine Casey  
Lawrence J. Casey III

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Catherine and Lawrence J. Casey  
77104 Highway 1082  
Covington, LA 70435

November 18, 2014

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P O Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-626

To Whom It May Concern:

We reside in Covington, Louisiana, Saint Tammany Parish. We are writing to demand that you deny Helis Oil application to drill a hydraulic fracturing well in Saint Tammany Parish. The facts justify our requests:

- **Saint Tammany Parish zoning laws prohibit such activities.**
- **Saint Tammany Parish pine forests have significant economic value and result in an air quality superior to that of surrounding areas.**
- **The Southern Hills Aquifer is a sole source aquifer.**
- **Oil, gas and toxic liquids CAN migrate upward to the aquifer and the surface, contrary to some so-called expert testimony. The fact that natural seeps occur demonstrates this.**
- **The process of fracking has been scientifically linked to earthquakes.**
- **Fracking disposal wells have been directly linked to earthquakes.**
- **Caddo Parish Louisiana - fracking accidents in 2009-2010 polluted the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, forced the evacuation of over 135 residences, and killed 17 cattle.**
- **The current fracking process which includes high volume pumping, directional drilling, multiple wells on one pad, and hazardous chemicals added to water was only begun in the first decade of the twenty-first century, and not +60 years ago, as some so-called experts have publicly stated. It is still evolving and cannot be made FAILSAFE.**
- **The states of Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming have all concluded that earthquakes and fracking are related. Some studies are complete and demonstrate the positive correlation, while other studies are in process.**
- **Multiple public periodicals and news organizations have concluded earthquakes and fracking are directly related: *Seismological Research Letters, National Geographic, Science, and Bloomberg News*, to name a few.**
- **The U.S. Geological Survey concludes, "... that there are good examples where it is clear that if you turn off a fracking well, the earthquakes stop...it is a strong correlation."**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Why is LDNR not conducting studies on fracking? Why would LDNR disregard the scientific/factual conclusions about fracking and earthquakes, and even consider granting fracking permits at this time?

LDNR's mission reads:

**The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.**

As Louisiana citizens, we expect LDNR to fulfill its' mission by recognizing our right to determine that fracking can harm our forests, water, air, and soil. That means fracking can harm us!

We believe it is important in considering our written request, that it be noted one of us has worked in the oil and gas industry for thirty years and is familiar with drilling, production, air/water/waste issues, hazardous materials transportation, pipelines, emergency plans, accident reporting, etc. Thus, we are informed and knowingly request denial of Helis Oil's permit application.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Catherine Casey' and the second is 'Lawrence J. Casey III'. Both are written in black ink.

Catherine Casey

Lawrence J Casey III

**From:** Phyllis Nowak [phyllisnowak@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:58 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** 'Thomas Nowak'  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well  
**Attachments:** November 18 Anti Fracking Letter.docx

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please submit the attached letter to the Office of Conservation, Engineering Division, for consideration at their meeting of Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevant et al No. 1 well hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colonel Thomas Nowak, USAF Retired, and Phyllis Nowak

Colonel Thomas Nowak and Ms. Phyllis Nowak  
2106 Olvey Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70448

November 18, 2014

Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**REF: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well**

Dear Reviewing Committee:

We are writing to you in reference to the aforementioned docket number in order to express that both of us are 100% against the issuance of a permit to allow hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a. “fracking”) in St. Tammany Parish. We live about three miles from the proposed test well and are residents in St. Tammany in our home of 21 years. Thomas is a retired career Air Force officer who served 23 years of active duty in service to our country and who then taught in public schools as an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor for an additional 21 years, thus having worn his U.S. Air Force uniform for a total of 44 years. Phyllis is a retired non-profit organization administrator who worked with the Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany for sixteen years to provide assistance for at-risk children, youth and their families. We are actively engaged as volunteers in work toward the betterment of our community.

We purchased our home 21 years ago after Thomas’ retirement from the Air Force and our home is now paid in full. Within the first few years of our living here, we decided to make St. Tammany our permanent home (we are native Texans) due to St. Tammany’s beauty, high quality of life, and abundance of lush vegetation and wildlife. We are avid gardeners and fishermen and enjoy our pleasant, peaceful life in St. Tammany.

As a result of Helis Oil’s April 2014 announcement of its intent to apply for a permit to do oil and gas exploration in our area, we began to search for information about other American communities that have experienced the impact and effects of fracking. The results of our research are disturbing. As you are probably aware, several U.S. communities, as well as other countries (France and Germany), have passed laws to prevent fracking due to concern for their environment and water supply. We love our home and the community of St. Tammany Parish and we believe than any amount of oil or gas that might be extracted from beneath our aquifer would come at too high a price for our community – including pollution of our sole pure water source, a compromise of our geographical stability, a huge increase in vehicular traffic on

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Highway 1088 and Interstate Highway 12, and greatly increased noise and air pollution of the area. The fine quality of life in St. Tammany would be severely damaged should the drilling be implemented. Loss of property values for those of us living within a ten mile radius from the drilling site would be assured according to research reported by three different St. Tammany Parish realtors. area's Consequently, we are compelled to request that you deny Helis Oil's permit for fracking so that our beautiful corner of the world will be preserved in its pristine condition for us, our children, grandchildren and other future citizens of St. Tammany.

Most Sincerely,

Colonel Thomas Nowak

Phyllis Nowak

U.S.A.F, Retired

**From:** Stacey Martinez [smartinez@steeglaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Stacey Martinez  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

As a resident of Jefferson Parish, I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic

Engine for the Louisiana Economy”. His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis’ well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis’ well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis’ plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council’s endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis’ drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Zimmer Martinez

4325 Cousins Boulevard

Marrero, Louisiana 70072

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**From:** Porter, Cheairs [cporter@harriswilliams.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:38 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

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### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

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- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing—

and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

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Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

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Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis’ well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis’ well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-

reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

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### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp->

<content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheairs Porter

---

**From:** Lauren Chauvin [laurenestopinal@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:36 PM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**CC:** Lauren Chauvin; Gifford Briggs; Don Briggs

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Attachments:** LOGA Formal Comments Regarding Helis Oil and Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish.pdf

LOGA's Written comments to Doc. No. 14-626



November 18, 2014

*Via e-mail*

Office of Conservation, Engineering Division,  
P.O. Box 94275,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Subject:** LOGA Comments Regarding Helis Oil and Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

Commissioner Welsh,

LOGA was organized in 1992 to represent the Independent and service sectors of the oil and gas industry in Louisiana; this representation includes exploration, production and oilfield services. Our primary goal is to provide our industry with a working environment that will enhance the industry. LOGA services its membership of over 1,600 by creating incentives for Louisiana's oil and gas industry, warding off tax increases, changing existing burdensome regulations, and educating the public and government of the importance of the oil and gas industry in the state of Louisiana.

Of these member companies, Helis Oil is a valued member of our association and we are proud to represent them at the local, state and federal level. LOGA offers our specific support of Helis and their efforts in St. Tammany Parish to drill this specific well within the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS). Helis has made every effort to be open and transparent about their future plans of this well.

The TMS could potentially become a major economic driver for this region of the state. As a reminder for economic purposes, each rig site can employ up to 180 jobs. The ripple effect of one rig site is even greater than these 180 direct jobs. As a direct correlation to the industry coming to an area, the hotel industry, the restaurant and automobile market and general commerce of that specific area see a great uptick in that local economy.

LOGA speaks today on behalf of the industry in our support of Commissioner Welsh in his decisions to allow this operation to take place in St. Tammany Parish. The commissioner has been fair to the industry and makes every stride possible to protect our great state and the natural habitats that reside in this state.

Oil and gas activity is not only important for St. Tammany Parish and the state of Louisiana,

*LOGA is Louisiana's Oil & Gas Industry*

PO BOX 4069

BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4069

225.388.9525

800.443.1433

FAX:225.388.9561

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



but for the entire nation. Over 30% of the nation's oil and natural gas comes directly from or through the state of Louisiana either through exploration and production, refining, the intricate pipeline infrastructure or through the Gulf of Mexico.

Louisiana helps power this great nation thanks to this process called hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing is not a new process. This process was first started commercially in 1949. Over one million wells have been successfully completed in the U.S. over the last 60 years. Just in Northwest Louisiana over the last six years, over 2,600 wells have been hydraulically fractured.

The federal government (EPA) has conducted several studies in different states to test any connections between hydraulic fracturing and ground water contamination. Their most recent study is due to be released in early 2015. Thus far, if the EPA had found substantial evidence of contamination, the industry would have seen a ruling passed down. This has not happened.

In addition to the process of hydraulic fracturing, there has been great concern in this parish regarding the safety of aquifers. It is important to note that over 40,000 wells are in production today in the state of Louisiana as we speak. Each of these 40,000 wells was drilled by going through a specific aquifer in this state. The success rate stands at 100% for zero aquifer contamination since drilling operations commenced in the early 1900's in the state of Louisiana.

The oil and gas industry goes to great lengths to ensure that the environment and our workforce are free from contamination, injury or unnecessary disturbance. It is LOGA's hope that the facts be heard regarding hydraulic fracturing, aquifer safety and oil and gas in general.

Again, LOGA offers its full support of Helis Oil as they seek approval to drill this specific well.

Sincerely,

Don G. Briggs

*LOGA is Louisiana's Oil & Gas Industry*

PO BOX 4069

BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4069

225.388.9525

800.443.1433

FAX:225.388.9561

**From:** Hunter Charbonnet [hcharbo1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:26 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** CCC Energy Renaissance.pdf

To: Office of Conservation, Engineering Division

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. Commissioner:

I am writing you today in support of the above Drilling Permit Application.

*Before I give you my reasons, I would like to say that I attended last week's hearing and I find it troubling that the discussion did not center around what I thought this hearing was about – whether indeed the application applied for conformed on all conditions, requests, and requirements as defined by the application process including how Helis planned to address the obvious concerns of the general public. I thought Helis made a conscience effort to show that they had fully covered their bases, the risks involved, and those concerns expressed by many citizens of St. Tammany; however, I thought the condescending attitude and questioning offered by those representing the opposition was deplorable and served little to providing added insight as to the issues at hand other than to stir up further public rhetoric and emotion.*

There is no doubt that there is an Energy Renaissance occurring in this country. In fact, many say in about 6-8 years, the United States will not only be energy independent but it will also be a net exporter of energy.

As the world's largest economy, the US has long been a top market for manufacturers' products. In contrast to other countries, our political stability and lack of business risk continue to draw companies to operate in the US. Given the increasing global demand for energy, the lack of economical alternative energy sources has caused other resources to be considered. Fortunately our improved technology in untraditional extraction methods has allowed the US to become a low cost energy provider.

These developments have provided positive results in this country. Using natural gas is cleaner than burning coal and safer than generating nuclear energy; hence, utilizing natural gas is environmentally friendly. I suspect there are reasons the Saudis have recently reduced the cost of their crude and it is probably not because of a reduction in global demand for energy forcing prices lower or a reduction just out of their generosity. They hope to keep the US dependent on their oil by making it uneconomical to drill via our nontraditional extraction methods. I guess many St. Tammany residents don't recognize or realize that they are already benefiting from these new drilling efforts showing up as reduced prices at the pumps.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Cheaper energy has caused manufacturing to move back to the United States. The Petrochemical Industry uses Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) – butane, propane, ethane, etc. to make plastics and other products. For the last 30 years, many in this industry have moved to places like India, Brazil, Trinidad, and the Middle East where NGL sources were closer at hand. Now, they are coming back to the US and they are not alone.

Airbus is building an aircraft assembly plant in Mobile because they can save on manufacturing costs compared to their plants in Hamburg, Germany and Toulouse, France.

British based Rolls Royce decided against expanding a plant in the UK and instead built a plant in Price George County, VA for producing engine parts.

The Austrian steelmaker Voestalpine AG is building a \$715 Million plant near Corpus Christi, TX.

Royal Dutch Shell, headquartered in the Netherlands, announced it would build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant in Pennsylvania.

Siemens, a German multi-engineering and electronics company is making turbines for fossil fuel power plants in Charlotte, NC.

If you have driven I-55 or I-65 North in the last few years, who hasn't seen the large automobile plants that have been built along those highways?

My point is, why would we deny St. Tammany and its' residents the opportunity to participate in the economic renaissance and the investments that will be made here in the United States potentially including areas of St. Tammany Parish. Whether you are a land owner, business owner, or a working man, all will benefit by the potential economic impact this new energy resource can and will provide. Lastly, the tax revenues this might create for St. Tammany Parish will go a long way to subsidizing and/or increasing our overall budget including helping to fund the much needed infrastructure improvements that are our community needs rather than achieving same via higher taxation.

I ask that your approve this drilling permit and place into the record the attached white paper from the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund that discusses what this energy renaissance means to our country. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted:

Hunter N. Charbonnet  
16423 Summerhill Rd.  
Covington, LA. 70435

See Attachment: Center Coast MLP Fund Focus Fund - US Energy Renaissance

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



# The Continued US Energy Renaissance and Infrastructure Build-out: Capturing the Reenergizing of America with MLP Investing

*This paper aims to inform investors of the ongoing Energy Renaissance and resultant infrastructure build-out in the United States. Over the past decade, the nation's production and capacity has swiftly increased, and there is even greater projected growth ahead. According to the U.S. Energy Information Association, the U.S. was expected to be the largest producer of hydrocarbons in the world in 2013.*

*The accompanying infrastructure development that is necessary to treat, store and transport the natural resources of the Renaissance's continuing shale boom is very significant. This infrastructure build-out will be fueled by five underlying drivers that could, in our opinion, power strong continued investment and growth through 2025. These drivers are: 1) new supply basins; 2) electricity source switching; 3) a resurgent domestic petrochemical industry; 4) manufacturing growth; 5) rerouting of supply to existing refineries.*

*While the US economy is in a stage of slow recovery and many expect continued soft to moderate GDP growth, these*

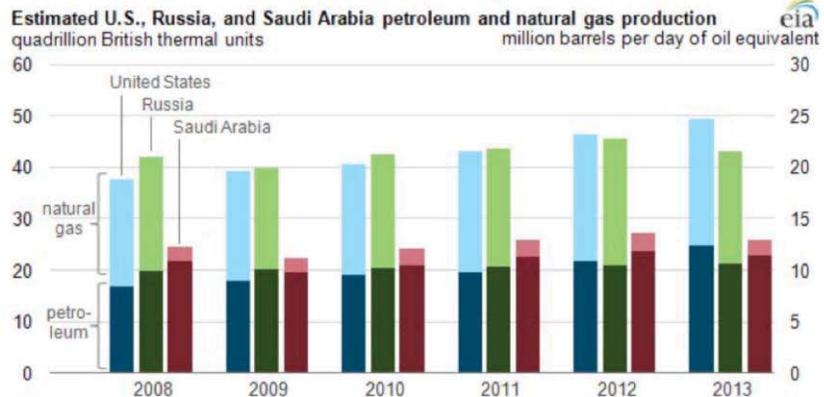
*five drivers should propel the infrastructure build-out largely irrespective of broader economic activity. Robust development of infrastructure and associated activity, however, has the potential to brighten the overall outlook for the US economy.*

*Our Renaissance investment thesis in this paper is focused on Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) as they are one of the asset classes positioned to participate in the continued infrastructure build-out, which is necessary to accommodate the production growth and overall transformation of the US energy landscape. We foresee opportunity for continued attractive, and less-correlated, risk-adjusted returns in MLPs that may benefit from the energy Renaissance over the next few years. The search for ways to participate in the Renaissance, as well as the continued desire for yield, has brought significant capital inflows to the MLP space; however, we believe skillful, active management and deep sector experience is required to identify the right opportunities while attempting to avoid some of the risks associated with any accelerated sector growth.*

## U.S. Expected to be Declared as the Largest Producer of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hydrocarbons for 2013

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Note: Petroleum production includes crude oil, natural gas liquids, condensates, refinery processing gain, and other liquids, including biofuels. Barrels per day oil equivalent were calculated using a conversion factor of 1 barrel oil equivalent = 5.55 million British thermal units (Btu).



### Main Points:

- The U.S. is undergoing an Energy Renaissance and has rapidly become a leading global energy producer
- Projected continued growth in the energy sector through 2025 is significant, well above the expected level of broader economic growth<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated \$500 to \$750 Billion of energy infrastructure investment is needed over the next decade to support the build-out of the Renaissance
- This infrastructure growth will be supported by five powerful drivers generally unrelated to broader economic strength
- MLPs have provided and may continue to provide the crucial infrastructure to accommodate the swift rise in domestic exploration and production of natural resources
- In the continuing energy and infrastructure build-out through 2025 MLPs may have the potential to more than double the size of their asset base. With this growing investment landscape, discerning, experienced active management is required for the greatest possibility of successful investment outcomes and potential avoidance of the risks often associated with sector expansion

## THE U.S. ENERGY RENAISSANCE: THE ENVY OF THE WORLD

Something has quietly happened in recent years, largely under the radar screen of the general public, and at a much quicker pace than anticipated by the investment community. The U.S. has somewhat silently become the current leading global producer of natural gas and the fastest growing producer of crude oil, coming in 1st in combined global production. Additionally, production growth of natural gas liquids (NGLs) further brightens the Energy Renaissance underway in America today.

In very recent memory, the dominant conversation from a growing chorus of pundits, politicians and alternative energy proponents centered around peak oil projections and skepticism that a dependency on foreign energy – a primary source of a widening trade gap – would prove debilitating, bringing a superpower to its knees by weakened foreign policy leverage and concerns for national security. That has not been the case, and now the world's largest economy has lowered its reliance on foreign energy at an astonishing rate.

### *How did this turnaround occur?*

We often hear about the latest setback for energy: the BP spill in the Gulf; the historical trade deficit and trade imbalances due to energy importing; Federal restriction on exploration and development of sources (e.g. Alaska) and infrastructure (e.g. Keystone XL). But the truth is that a resurgence over the last decade – fostered by rising global demand, lack of economical alternative energy sources, improved technology for

untraditional extraction methods, utilization of MLPs to provide the necessary infrastructure and steady flows of capital being put to work – has allowed the U.S. to grow its domestic capabilities to be the envy of the world.

While we later show that the drivers of this momentum are not dependent on certain of economic factors, increased production and capacity hold the potential to improve the domestic economic outlook and could prove impactful in strengthening foreign policy and national security. When viewed through the lens of the Energy Renaissance, America's growth prospects haven't looked this strong in decades.

For investors the roadmap of how we get to 2025 and beyond is the exciting part.

## THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD

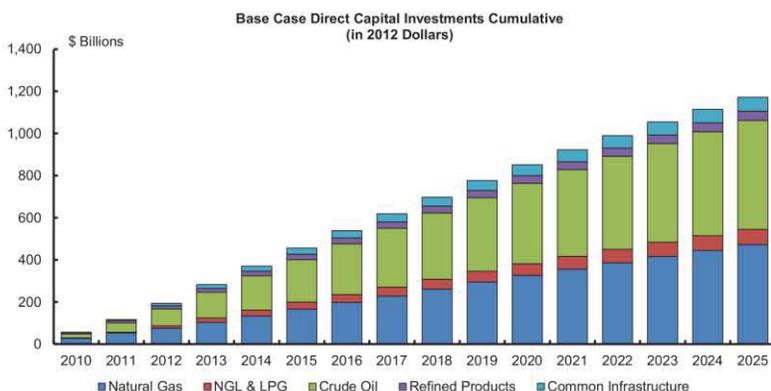
With the growth of energy production over the past decade, the U.S. has witnessed robust increases in energy infrastructure capital investment. Transportation, storage and treatment for oil, gas (midstream and downstream assets) has increased by 60 percent, growing to nearly \$90B in 2013 from \$56.3B in 2010, according

to a report from IHS Global Inc. for the American Petroleum Institute. This increase is telling of the impact the shale boom has had on the energy infrastructure landscape.

New extraction techniques and expanding exploration have made the construction of new transportation and infrastructure networks, as well as the reconfiguring of legacy infrastructure assets, pivotal to the Renaissance.

Further, according to the report, the amount of investment required over the next seven years in U.S. midstream and downstream assets is estimated to exceed \$568 billion. This capital spend is not expected to halt after year seven either—another \$60-\$80 billion is estimated to be spent annually through 2025. While API's forecast concludes in year 2025, we believe there will be continued strong investment beyond the forecast period. And that is the conservative, base case. Estimates for a bullish case, dependent on policy loosening and other factors, place capital investment at up to \$1.15T through 2025.<sup>1</sup>

This validates the thesis that the required energy infrastructure build-out is not only significant but has the ability to continue for many years to come.



Base Case Direct Capital Investment for 2014 and beyond is based on IHS's forecast

For all the media attention and noise out of Washington, the scale or size of opportunity is certainly not dependent on Keystone XL. In fact, Keystone is just one of hundreds of projects proposed in the infrastructure build-out. In truth, there are already hundreds of other non-politicized projects currently under construction or already online serving the demand to transport natural resources to market.

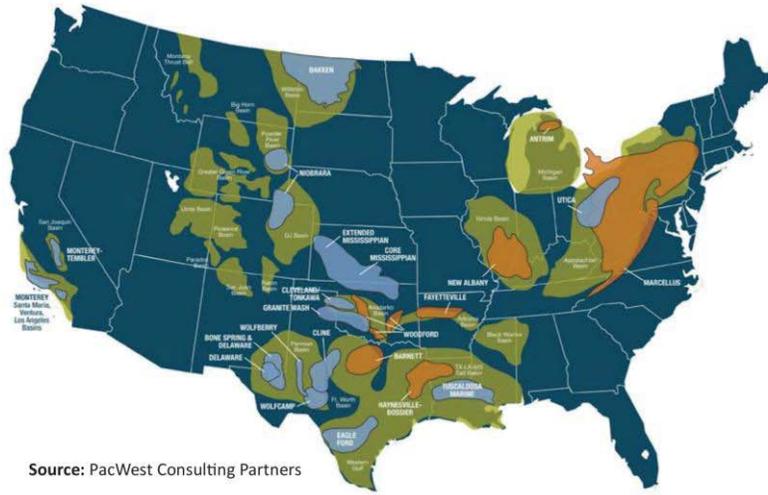
Political risk is an important factor to recognize in the Energy Renaissance. The relative political stability and lack of business risks in the U.S. has always been a draw for companies to operate domestically. In addition, the U.S., as the world's largest economy, has long been a top market for manufacturers' products. In addition to being an attractive place to do business, the U.S. is now also a low cost energy provider. This change is drawing manufacturers and the petrochemical industry back to the U.S. in a material way, and these industries are earmarking investments to expand domestic operations that will alter global production maps over the next decade.

So, we've gotten here with largely existing infrastructure. In the last five years, however, we've seen significant growth in infrastructure investment that is necessary for the U.S. to realize its full potential as an energy producer.

## FUELING THE ENERGY RENAISSANCE'S INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDOUT

**Five** drivers are underpinning the build-out of U.S. Energy infrastructure assets:

**1. New supply basins:** The opening of new supply basins has been essential to recent production

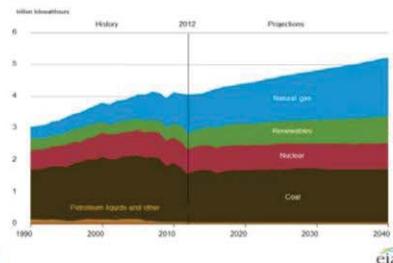
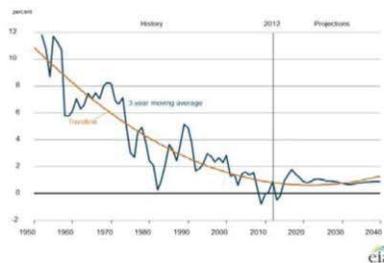


Source: PacWest Consulting Partners

## ELECTRICITY DEMAND

Growth in the electricity use slows but use still increases by 29% from 2012 to 2040

By 2035, natural gas surpasses coal as the largest source of U.S. electricity generation



Source: www.eia.gov

growth, and the future outlook is extremely encouraging. Technology and infrastructure are making historically uneconomical basins more economical. Consider that certain basins, such as North Dakota's Bakken, (now responsible for >10% of U.S. daily oil production, with reserves >20 BBoe), held near zero production in 2000 due to a lack of economical extraction.<sup>2</sup> Now that it has proved economical, the demand for infrastructure to transport the reliable flow of natural resources is tremendous and has long outstripped the current pipeline capacity. Similar cases are

unfolding today in the Marcellus, Utica, Permian, and Eagle Ford basins just to name a few. As investors, we are very excited by the infrastructure buildout required to bring the natural resources from these new basins to market.

## 2. Electricity Source Switching:

America's prominent electricity sources have historically been coal, nuclear and natural gas, in that order.<sup>3</sup> The risks of both nuclear and coal are well known. With recent nuclear incidents (Fukushima) and the heavy environmental taxes on coal, the traditional heavyweight sources of electricity are consistently being

replaced with cleaner, safer natural gas. Accounting for over 52% of electricity generation as recently as 2000, today coal accounts for less than 37% of total electricity output.<sup>4</sup> This number is widely expected to continue its downward trend as natural gas continues to replace it. In 2000, Natural Gas accounted for just 16% of total U.S. electricity production, as of 2012 it represented 30%. Transportation is key with electricity switching though; natural gas needs to be brought to the centers of demand, densely populated areas. This requires infrastructure (e.g. midstream companies). Motivated by its abundant and decreasing costs, companies are willing to build new infrastructure to bring the natural gas to power plants.

With the vast supplies coming to market, natural gas seem poised to take an ever-more prominent role in the production of U.S. electricity. How it gets to market can provide opportunity for investors.

### 3. Resurgent Domestic

**Petrochemical Industry:** The petrochemical industry uses Natural Gas Liquids (“NGLs”) – butane, propane, ethane, etc – to make plastics and other products. Traditionally, the U.S. did not have significant NGL

production. For the past 30 years, therefore, most large petrochemical companies were moving offshore, closer to NGL sources. India, Brazil, Trinidad and the Middle East all became increasingly in favor to both multinational and U.S. petrochemical companies. New extraction techniques, however, have allowed U.S. producers to drill significant wet gas reserves that are rich in NGLs.

NGLs have distinct treatment and transportation requirements. Gas and associated NGLs are typically processed before being transported via pipeline, and growing demand from the domestic petrochemical industry has necessitated the continued development of processing and transportation infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>

With the Renaissance and its underlying shale boom, the petrochemical industry is coming home. Less robust technology, political risk, increased costs and resultant inefficient markets abroad cannot compete with the stability, technology and rapidly expanding supply and infrastructure that have brought down costs in the U.S.<sup>6</sup>

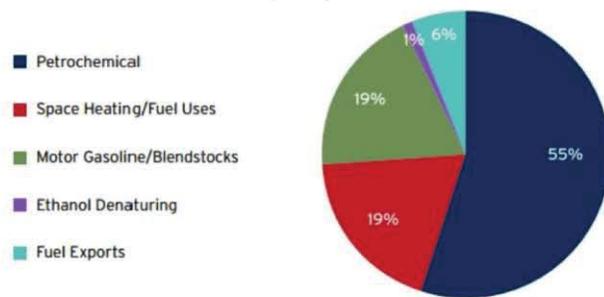
**4. Manufacturing Growth:** Industrial manufacturing is energy intensive. With decreased

energy costs, and relatively attractive labor inputs given growing salaries in emerging markets, the U.S. is seeing an industrial manufacturing resurgence fueled by its Energy Renaissance. Foreign firms, particularly European companies exposed to the risks of Russian belligerence and associated natural gas market inefficiencies, are finding an oasis in America. Costs per cubic foot of natural gas in the U.S. are one third of what they are abroad in Europe, and one quarter of what they are in Japan.

It's no wonder more European companies are opening or expanding facilities in the U.S., and more U.S. multi-nationals are shifting overseas operations back home:

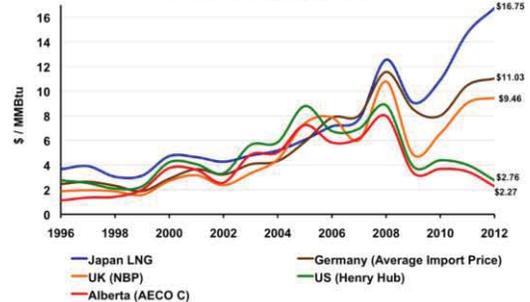
- Airbus is building an aircraft assembly plant in Mobile, Alabama. It will produce A320 jets for the American market. Der Spiegel noted that Airbus “could save on manufacturing costs compared to its plants in Hamburg, Germany, and Toulouse, France.”
- Siemens, a German multi-national engineering and electronics company, is making turbines for fossil fuel power plants in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- BASF, the German chemical

NGL Consumption by Sector



Source: Presentation by Peter Fasullo, Outlook for U.S. Propane Supplies, “En\*Vantage, January 30, 2012

Average Natural Gas Prices



Source: <https://rbnenergy.com/courtesy-of-the-red-white-and-blue-how-the-us-shale-gas-boom-benefits-asian-lng-importers>

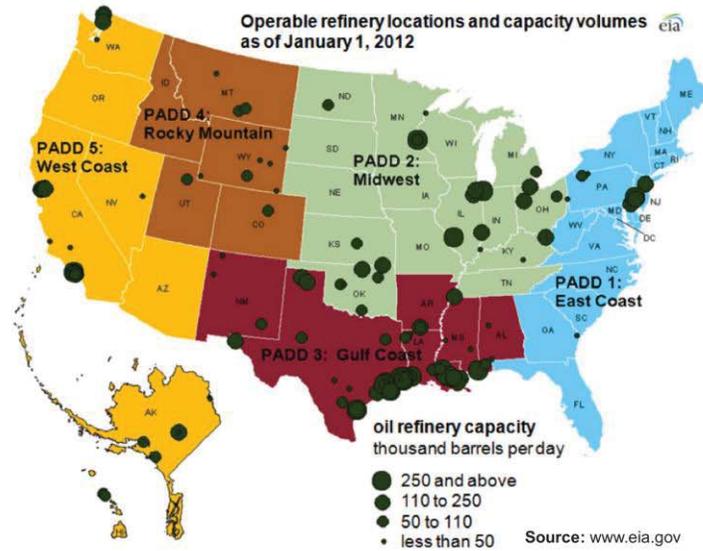
company, has opened a \$33 million facility expansion in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

- Michelin, the French tire producer, is developing a \$750 million facility in Greenville, South Carolina.
- BMZ GmbH, a German company, opened its U.S. facility in Virginia Beach, Virginia for research, development, assembly and distribution of lithium ion rechargeable batteries.
- British-based Rolls Royce decided against expanding a plant in the U.K. and instead built a plant in Prince George County, Virginia for producing engine parts.
- The Austrian steelmaker Voestalpine AG is building a \$715 million plant near Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Royal Dutch Shell, headquartered in the Netherlands, announced it would build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant in Pennsylvania.
- Dow Chemical closed facilities in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the U.K., while opening a plant in Texas.

Other recent significant investments have been seen by BASF, the world's largest chemical maker, which has made and planned nearly \$7 billion in U.S.-based manufacturing-related investments.<sup>9</sup> The German firm has called the outflow of European manufacturing "a self-accelerating process, which will move production into the U.S."<sup>10</sup> This growth in domestic manufacturing will drive demand and necessitate capital investment in infrastructure.

#### 5. Refinery Landscape

**Transformation:** The Energy Renaissance is reshaping America's historical refinery landscape. Long stagnant due to prohibitions and lack



of permits, the refinery picture was set 40 years ago and that system was built to service yesterday's energy realities. This meant refineries designed to process the heavy crude originating from the Middle East, Mexico and South America were built along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. The refineries built in the Northeast were designed to process light sweet crude originating from the Brent "(North) Sea" and finally the West Coast refineries were built to process both light and heavy crudes.

With the Energy Renaissance the supply locations have changed; heavy crude which is needed for the Gulf Coast refineries is now coming from the North in Canada and the light sweet that the coastal refineries require is originating in North Dakota and Texas.

Refineries, however, are cost prohibitive to convert and permits to construct new or relocate are non-existent. A new refinery has not been constructed in the United States in over 35 years. This means the energy transportation network must be

significantly expanded and re-routed to bring the proper sources of crude to the refineries that can process them – from Texas and North Dakota to the East and West coasts and from Canada down to the Gulf Coast. This is where transportation infrastructure, including pipelines, storage facilities, terminals etc...all come into play.

#### MLPS: LEADING THE BUILDOUT

The above five tenets will drive demand and encourage the continuation of the infrastructure build-out associated with the Energy Renaissance. The projected capital investment of \$500-\$750B to accomplish this is just the beginning, getting the resources where they are needed based on existing demand.

This infrastructure build-out of the future will be led by MLPs. For the first 15 years in the brief life of MLPs, there actually was a much smaller percentage of organic infrastructure development being done. MLPs primarily took over or acquired existing

infrastructure assets from larger companies (e.g. oil companies) that transitioned to the tax-advantaged MLP status. That has changed significantly in the past decade and may drastically accelerate through 2025 and beyond.

Much of the future capital expenditures will take place at the MLP level, which in turn will drive new asset development, increased revenues generated by those assets, and ultimately distribution growth to investors. To put the magnitude of such spend into context, if only 50% of the estimated required capital is spent at the MLP level, or ~\$284 billion, that equates to roughly 60% of the market capitalization of the entire MLP sector today.<sup>11</sup> This is an impressive figure and should translate into continued top-tier growth well beyond the next 10 years.

To remind us why MLPs are essential to the continuing build-out, it is important to remember that MLPs are companies that by law must have 90% of their asset base producing revenue from the transportation, storage and/or treatment of a natural resource. Due to the tax structure of the vehicles, MLPs must distribute all of their distributable cash flow to shareholders.

While acceleration of US GDP growth above current levels and projections should only accelerate the build-out associated with the Energy Renaissance, the drivers underpinning

the infrastructure development and accompanying MLP growth are not dependent on aggregate US economic activity. The projected high investment growth of the base case, coupled with the relatively low correlation to total economic activity, highlights the compelling nature of the investment thesis and the sector as an attractive option.

### ON MLP INVESTING: EXTRACTING QUALITY AND MANAGING RISK IN AN EXPANDING SECTOR

Because of the growth in both the market capitalization and the number of companies involved, investors have become more aware of the MLP sector. As with any growing asset class with an expanding universe of assets, sometimes less than optimal business models and management teams gain access to capital markets. There has also been an increase of different types of companies coming to market in the MLP structure. With these evolving dynamics, it is likely we will see a greater bifurcation in the operating results of individual MLPs. As such, we recommend a discerning, conservative approach to investing in the expanding sector.

Though historically a small pool, recent growth over the last five years has bumped MLP total market capitalization from \$220 billion to over \$464 billion, and the total number

of MLPs has increased from 73 to 110 as of March 31, 2014. With the tremendous amount of capital that needs to be spent to develop, process and transport growing U.S. production, the MLP investment universe is poised to continue its growth.

This increased attention from investors and continued acceptance by the capital markets provides exciting opportunities for experienced and capable operators, as well as to seasoned investment managers, who should be able to navigate risks for successful investment outcomes.

Importantly, we must consider the risks to an investment in MLPs. Firstly, there are new business models being brought to market in the MLP structure. Some will likely have untraditional distribution, or payout, others will have business models that are different from the traditional reputation for stability that MLPs have become known for. There is the potential for unsteady, volatile dividends/distributions with new businesses and having an understanding of these models and their compatibility with the MLP structure is necessary to know before investing.

Refineries are one such example. Refineries have an outsized commodity risk exposure via crack spreads that many traditional MLPs in the cash-steady midstream (transportation and storage) space are much less



Source: UBS Investment Bank, Bloomberg, CapIQ (As of March 31, 2014)

susceptible to. Crack spreads are essentially the difference between the price received for the sale of refined gasoline minus the cost of the crude oil input.

The fluctuation and volatility inherent in crack spreads/commodity prices drive this risk profile. Commodity risk introduces the potential for great returns, but also outsized downside due to surplus external factors that management or operators cannot control.

Indeed, one only needs to look back to 2008 to see the impact of excess commodity exposure. Leading up to 2008, vigorous capital inflows were chasing several MLP propositions as natural gas reached \$14 per thousand cubic feet in 2007. But the next year, natural gas plummeted to

\$2 per thousand cubic feet and those new businesses built with a base case of \$10 gas were forced to drastically reduce distributions, scaring some investors from the sector. But not all MLPs are created equally. Those businesses operating in transportation and storage held ironclad contracts dependent on renting pipelines as opposed to commodity prices, for instance, while the price for energy declined dramatically the volume demand did not. This meant their distributions to investors remained on track throughout the downturn.

### OUR OUTLOOK: SAFETY FIRST

Going forward, we imagine continued capital inflows and the expanding universe of MLPs might bring dispersion in returns and distributions. Investors will need to understand

distribution risk, the way contracts are structured and the manner in which revenues are generated. Leverage is also crucial to watch as less mature ventures with limited asset bases and various sources of revenues are increasingly able to access the capital markets and attract investors with forecasts of distribution growth. We feel low leverage, consistent distribution growth supported by long-term, fee-based contracts that could bring dependable cash flows is the most attractive way to invest.

In the face of the Energy Renaissance and accompanying infrastructure build-out, skillful active management by seasoned operators may assist investors in capitalizing on these exciting developments for the coming decade and beyond.

<sup>1</sup>IHS Global Inc. Report "Oil & Natural Gas Transportation & Storage Infrastructure: Status, Trends, & Economic Benefits"

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakken\\_formation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakken_formation)

<sup>3</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US\\_Electrical\\_Generation\\_1949-2011.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US_Electrical_Generation_1949-2011.png)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.cfm?t=epmt\\_es1a](http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_es1a)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.pwc.com/en\\_US/us/industrial-products/assets/pwc-shale-gas-us-manufacturing-renaissance.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/industrial-products/assets/pwc-shale-gas-us-manufacturing-renaissance.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.pwc.com/en\\_US/us/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-shale-gas-chemicals-industry-potential.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-shale-gas-chemicals-industry-potential.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/development/pgd/44457738.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html)

<sup>9</sup><http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/02/basf-results-idUSL6N0NO09920140502>

<sup>10</sup>[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html)

<sup>11</sup>Center Coast Capital Advisors, LP. Capital IQ.

**SEE IMPORTANT RISKS & DISCLOSURES ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

***Before investing you should carefully consider the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other information is in the prospectus and summary prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained by calling 877-766-0066 or by visiting the Fund's website at [www.ccfocusfund.com](http://www.ccfocusfund.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.***

**RISKS AND OTHER DISCLOSURES:**

An investment in the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund ("The Fund") is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested and including, but not limited to, the following risks, which are more fully described in the prospectus:

- The Fund concentrates its investments in master limited partnerships (MLPs), which involve additional risks compared to those from investments in common stock, including, but not limited to, cash flow risk, tax risk, and risks associated with limited voting rights.
- Unlike most other open-end mutual funds, the Fund will be taxable as a regular corporation, or "C" corporation. Consequently, the Fund will accrue and pay federal, state and local income taxes on its taxable income, if any, at the Fund level, which will ultimately reduce the returns that the shareholder would have otherwise received. Additionally, because the Fund is taxable as a "C" corporation, the Fund's net asset value per share ("NAV") will include a deferred tax expense or asset, which is reflected in the Fund's NAV on a daily basis. The Fund's deferred tax expense or asset is based on estimates that could vary dramatically from the Fund's actual tax liability/benefit and, therefore, could have a material impact on the Fund's NAV.
- The Fund, unlike the MLPs in which it invests which are treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is not a pass-through entity. Consequently, the tax characterization of the distributions paid by the Fund, such as dividend income or return of capital, may differ greatly from those of its MLP investments. An investment in the Fund does not provide the same tax benefits as a direct investment in an MLP.
- The Fund currently anticipates paying monthly cash distributions to shareholders at a rate that over time is similar to the distribution rate the Fund receives from the MLPs in which it invests, without offset for the expenses of the Fund. Because the Fund's distribution policy takes into consideration estimated future cash flows from its underlying holdings, and to permit the Fund to maintain a stable distribution rate, the Fund's distributions may not represent yield or investment return on the Fund's portfolio. To the extent that the distributions paid exceed the distributions the Fund has received, the distributions will reduce the Fund's net assets.
- The Fund is not required to make distributions and in the future could decide not to make such distributions or not to make distributions at a rate that over time is similar to the distribution rate it receives from the MLPs in which it invests.
- It is expected that all or substantially all of the distributions to shareholders will be tax-deferred return of capital (ROC). Historically, the Fund's distributions have been considered 100% ROC. ROC is tax deferred and reduces the shareholder's cost basis. When the Fund shares are sold, if the result is a gain, it would then be taxable at the capital gains rate. There is no guarantee that future distributions will maintain the same classification for tax purposes as past distributions.
- The MLPs owned by the Fund are subject to regulatory and tax risks, including but not limited to changes in current tax law which could result in MLPs being treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes or the elimination or reduction of MLPs tax deductions, which could result in a material decrease in the Fund's NAV and/or lower after-tax distributions to Fund shareholders.
- As a non-diversified fund, the Fund may focus its assets in the securities of fewer issuers, which exposes the Fund to greater market risk than if its assets were diversified among a greater number of issuers.
- Equity securities issued by MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling.
- A substantial portion of the MLPs within the Fund are primarily engaged in the energy sector. As a result, any negative development affecting that sector, such as regulatory, environmental, commodity pricing or extreme weather risk, will have a greater impact on the Fund than a fund that is not over-weighted in that sector.

The Fund may not be suitable for all investors. The views in this material are intended to assist readers in understanding certain investment methodology and do not constitute investment or tax advice (please consult your tax professional). The Center Coast MLP Focus Fund and Center Coast Advisors, LP do not render advice on tax and tax accounting matters to clients. This material was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used or relied upon by any recipient, for any purpose, including the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer under U.S. federal tax laws. The views in this material were those of the author as of the date of publication and may not reflect his view on the date this material is first published or any time thereafter.

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*For more information, please contact the Fund at (877) 766-0066 or visit the Fund's website. Financial Professionals only may contact **HRC Fund Associates, LLC** member FINRA/SIPC at (212) 240-9726. HRC is the affiliated broker-dealer of **Liberty Street Advisors, Inc.**, the Advisor to the Fund.*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Team Cowan [cowseal@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:23 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Attn: Patrick Courreges.

To Whom It Concerns,

I would like to make my stance against fracking in St. Tammany made official. I am not going to go into detail about the environmental concerns such as water , air and soil pollutions which I believe to be of great concern because you have heard from many people who are much more knowledgeable than I. I will save both of us time.

Instead, I am going to focus on the fiduciary responsibility the DNR has to protect our citizens right to safe food, water and soil. I DO have confidence the DNR will have the courage to what is ethical and deny Helis' drilling permit (Engineering Docket 14-626).

Kirstie Cowan  
1187 Scarlet Oak Ln  
Mandeville, LA. 70448

**From:** garrett acquistapace [gpace15@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:10 PM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; drilling Permit application, Eads Poitevant et al No. 1 Well

**Attachments:** HELIS -- Docket Number 14-626 Drilling permit application.docx

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

PO BOX 94275

BATON Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poiteviant et al No.1 Well

Dear Commisioner:

I would like to offer my thoughts about the Helis proposal for a drilling permit in St. Tammany Parish. I am in full support of the project. I believe being a landowner and the owner of minerals comes the right to be able to lease your property for the possibility of oil production. I believe that is part of the "American Dream". I understand that there has been over 2,000 wells drilled in the Northern part of the State in the Haynesville Shale area, and I have not heard of any major problems. I also understand there are some citizens in St. Tammany who are opposed to the project because of having to drill through the drinking water aquifer, but the same aquifer has been drilled though and hydraulically fractured numerous times in Tangipahoa Parish. I trust the State Department of Natural Resources will do an excellent job of making sure that Helis and any company afterwards that may drill in St. Tammany Parish will abide by all State regulations to extract oil and gas as safely and effectively as possible.

On another note, being a lifelong citizen of St. Tammany Parish I believe the economic impact will be wonderful for the community. I have experienced in my life many people who grew up here leaving to go to Texas and other States to find high paying jobs. I know if the Oil industry were to produce oil here it would bolster the economy and produce many high paying and quality jobs.

Thanks for Your Time,

Garrett Acquistapace

**From:** Lucius Butts [lbutts@TransFinancialCo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:10 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No.14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well

**Attachments:** Letter to Office of Conservation.pdf

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Please find attached my correspondence regarding my support to issue a drilling permit on the above referenced project.

Thank you,

**Lucius M. Butts**  
**7922 Picardy Ave**  
**Baton Rouge , LA 70809**  
**225-761-4300**

**Lucius M. Butts**  
**7922 Picardy Avenue**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application,  
Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment regarding my support in issuing a permit to drill the well known as the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1.

The State of Louisiana is and has been the sole authority to regulate drilling for oil and gas in the State. It is expressly prohibited for any other agency or political subdivision to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well by a holder of a drilling permit. The State has the responsibility to make realistic assessments during the permitting process to protect the public interest.

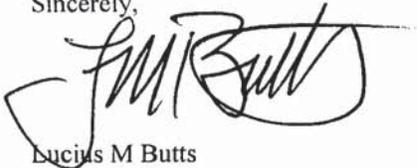
The fact is that drilling for oil and gas, including using hydraulic fracturing methods has been extraordinarily safe. Regulations are in place to assure the protection of the environment and people.

There has been a lot of sensationalism regarding "fracking" which has lead to uninformed people panicking and fanning the flames of hysteria. It is vital for the State of Louisiana to be the voice of experienced reason and ignore the hue and cry.

The company seeking a permit, Helis Oil and Gas, is a proven Louisiana company with a long stellar track record of safety and compliance. The landowners are totally dedicated to the health and prosperity of St. Tammany Parish.

It is important for the Office of Conservation to tune out the hysteria and proceed with the issuance of the drilling permit in its traditional business like manner.

Sincerely,



Lucius M Butts

**From:** Dawn Meisch [dawnmeisch@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:39 AM  
**To:** robert.m.tewis2@usace.army.mil; Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Please DO NOT allow Helis to Build an Exploratory Well in St. Tammany

**Dear Sir:**

Please do not allow Helis to frack in Louisiana.

The toxic chemicals that fracking releases into the ground water, water reservoirs, and the air surrounding the fracking site contaminate the environment and increase the risks of illness, infertility, birth defects, and cancer.

In a state so dependent on the natural landscape and the water for food, transportation, commerce, recreation, and tourism, it proves nonsensical to support practices that endanger those activities and the people who depend upon them. This state has a beautiful ecosystem and a proud heritage of people who live with the land.

Fracking is bad for the people, the ecosystem, and the economy. In short, fracking is destructive to the traditions and lifeways that make us proud to call Louisiana home.

Dawn Meisch

**From:** P Thomas [pthomasnola@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:25 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Ref Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Drilling Permit Application  
Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

To whom it concerns:

I am writing in support of fracking/drilling in St. Tammany Parish. I am a resident of St. Tammany and have lived in Mandeville for over 10 years. The vocal and hypocritical minority making issue of this is very frustrating to me as a resident.

If you do your research an I feel very familiar with Helis Oil & Gas. There is no one who goes to such great lengths to protect the environment and themselves from potential law suits. Further to my knowledge there is no evidence yet that oil/gas exists. This first permit is only to find out if it's there.

IF THE LAW ALLOWS FOR THEM TO DRILL. LET THEM DRILL! This is not some fly by night drilling company. If we need independent water tests set up to monitor quality of water over time that would not be bad idea.

We need to drive our economy and a multi headed approach at energy independence. Let Louisiana lead the way.

Thank you for your time,

Paul Thomas  
1143 Rue Bayonne  
Mandeville LA 70471

**From:** Grim Darkling [brandyj2790@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:17 AM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Just say "NO" to the Fracking permit. For those who make the decisions on these permits this in NOT the right thing to do. Say no and veto the permits and approvals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** Chuck O'Neil [chuck@georgebass.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** I Stand with Helis Oil on Drilling in St. Tammany

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at

the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and

severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled “The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy”. His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis’ well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis’ well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis’ plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council’s endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis’ drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles O'Neil, St. Tammany resident

**From:** Joycelyn Lowe [joycelyn.lowe@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:23 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Joycelyn Lowe  
**Subject:** Helis Permit

Gentlemen:

I have owned property in St. Tammany Parish for 40 years and have been a resident for 29 of those years. I am writing to urge you to deny the Helis Permit.

After listening to the testimony at Lakeshore High School on November 12, 2014, it was abundantly clear to me that Helis is not able to protect the citizens of St. Tammany. DNR is constitutionally bound to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents. I hope you heard what I heard and do what is right and deny the permit.

Permitting Helis to drill would jeopardize our sole source aquifer, ground water, air, transportation grid and home values ... our quality of life!!

Furthermore no one company has the right to 'trump' our zoning laws. Our parish has zoning laws in place that dictate how we manage our trees on our private property yet Helis is asking to 'frack'.

At the meeting on November 12 I listened. I did not hoot, holler or stomp my feet. I did not wave a sign. I just listened to all sides. After listening as I did to the concerns and objections voice by the people, I trust you will do what is correct and what you are constitutionally bound to do and deny the Helis permit.

Thank you,  
Joycelyn Lowe  
150 Glendale Heights  
Mandeville, LA 70471

*joycelyn*

**From:** Ann Blossman [annblossman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:21 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Welsh:

I am writing to you in lieu of my speaking at the hearing of Nov. 12 on the above captioned Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application of Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

As a lifelong resident and property owner in St. Tammany Parish, I was compelled to extensively research Helis Oil & Gas Co. and the process of hydraulic fracturing for production of oil and natural gas. Helis has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf of Mexico and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments. I am convinced Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements.

While there are currently no oil and gas wells in our Parish, once Helis is granted a drilling permit many benefits will come to our residents and government. These significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish will be in high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, School Board and other local government agencies.

My overwhelming conclusion is THIS PERMIT MUST BE GRANTED.

Sincerely,

Ann Blossman  
200 Bayberry Dr.  
Covington, LA 70433  
email: [annblossman@gmail.com](mailto:annblossman@gmail.com)

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Hermien Delpport [hermiendelpport@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:24 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Say no to fracking

To Whom it may concern (the admin or Moderator)  
Just say no to Fracking Permit.

Engineering docket 14-626.

The U.S. does not need any further permits for fracking.  
Renewable energy is here in many different forms and it is here to stay. We do not need anymore hydraulic fracturing sites. it has shown to be detrimental to the environment via:

1. air pollution
2. pollutes water with toxic elements
3. waste fresh drinking water. the water they use and waste is fresh water while most people are aware several states in the USA and other countries in the world are in severe drought.
4. Causes Seismic activity.

This is just the beginning of what fracking can do to your home.

Thank You  
Hermien Delpport

**From:** J. Ollie Edmunds [ollie@deltapac.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:38 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

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**From:** J. Ollie Edmunds  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:34 AM  
**To:** 'jim.welsh@la.gov'; 'dnrinfo@lal.gov'  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I support those who have urged you to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

I am a retired orthopaedic surgery professor at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans. I have invested in pine forestland with mineral rights in St. Tammany Parish near the proposed Helis well. The anti-fracking arguments against this well are spurious. Your office in the state government is the proper agency to make this decision, not the Parish or local government.

I encourage you to grant this application for drilling.

J. Ollie Edmunds, MD  
Professor of Orthopaedics  
Chief of Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery  
Tulane University School of Medicine  
Suite 1500 Tidewater Place  
1440 Canal St.  
New Orleans, LA, 70112  
Office 504-558-0103  
Cell 504-919-3502  
[ollie@deltapac.com](mailto:ollie@deltapac.com)

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Daniel Rinehart [daniel\_t\_rinehart@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis’ St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis

will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy

industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Daniel Thomas Rinehart

**From:** Anne B. Pablovich [apablovich@stpgov.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:12 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well  
**Attachments:** dnr comments.pdf

Please see attached. If you require further information please let me know. Thanks and have a great day.



Anne B. Pablovich  
Assistant to the President

St. Tammany Parish Government  
Office of the President  
985-898-2362  
[apablovich@stpgov.org](mailto:apablovich@stpgov.org)  
[www.stpgov.org](http://www.stpgov.org)

Any e-mail may be construed as a public document, and may be subject to a public records request. The contents of this e-mail reflect the opinion of the writer, and are not necessarily the opinion or policy of St. Tammany Parish Government.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



## PAT BRISTER, PARISH PRESIDENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

P. O. Box 628  
COVINGTON, LA 70434

985-898-2362

FAX: 985-898-5237

E-MAIL: [PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG](mailto:PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG)

WEB SITE: [HTTP://STPGOV.ORG](http://STPGOV.ORG)

November 19, 2014

Via email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Honorable James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al  
No. 1 Well

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

On behalf of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for holding a public hearing for the above mentioned project here in St. Tammany Parish. Doing so allowed for civic engagement and public discourse of the issue. It also provided residents the opportunity to hear first-hand the details of Helis Oil & Gas' proposal along with testimony from Helis' consultants, and from geologists and engineers with the State Department of Natural Resources' Office of Conservation.

I am also appreciative of the cooperation we have received from Helis in terms of the additional regulatory oversight Parish Government intends to implement should this project move forward. My research of Helis has produced a longstanding track record of compliance with both legal and regulatory requirements and I am confident in their commitment to continue to do so here in St. Tammany Parish. We have identified various safeguards pertaining to impacts that could be felt by a proposal such as theirs. In anticipation of this we are in the process of creating ordinances to address these issues including but not limited to the following:

1. Mandate pre-drilling water quality testing to establish baseline data, as well as require periodic additional tests during drilling, and for as long as the well is operational, to measure any and all water quality impacts. This will not be done by any oil company, but paid for by the driller, and will be conducted by the Parish, the State, or a third party contractor.
2. Create and enforce an ordinance to limit the hours of operation of any oil & gas drilling project.

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3. Create noise ordinance specific to this type of operations to limit the decibel levels during the drilling phases, and compel sound attenuation, especially if drilling activity is near residential areas.
4. Establish strict restrictions on truck traffic routes, weights and standards, hours of operation, and truck marshalling to prevent negative impacts on area bridges and roads. We will also work with the St. Tammany Parish School Board to address the concerns of impacts to Lakeshore High School.
5. Mandate buffers, plantings and setbacks to reduce visual conflicts and screen production activity from public view.
6. Require the creation of a mitigation plan to be submitted to the Parish before drilling occurs.
7. Require all water to be used in the drilling life cycle be brought in from outside the Parish, and more importantly, any and all fluids that are extracted from a well be sent outside the Parish for disposal.
8. Dictate that every drilling project be bonded at a rate proportionate to the unitization granted by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, through a Performance Bond, Certificate of Deposit, or a Letter of Credit.

Helis has also agreed to additional safeguards in the construction of their well by building three concentric strings of casings – one more than the legal requirement – along with three layers of cement to provide additional protection of the Southern Hills Aquifer.

Our goal has always been to protect the resources of St. Tammany Parish and we appreciate the opportunity given for the citizens of St. Tammany to address their concerns.

Sincerely,



Patricia P. Brister  
Parish President

**From:** Bonnie Eades [bonnieeades@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:52 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Eades Bonnie  
**Subject:** Public Comment RE: Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I attended the Helis Oil drilling permit hearing on November 12th and, as I reflected upon the highly emotional and negative public reaction to the proposed drilling project and permit approval from the Dept. of Conservation, I came to only one conclusion - which is that St. Tammany Parish and its people (of which I am one) are being misled by a small albeit very vocal and persuasive group. It was apparent to me also that many of these people are not from St. Tammany Parish and obviously have different agendas than what is in the best interests of our residents.

My understanding from industry leaders is that St. Tammany Parish will continue to get requests for drilling permits by numerous others in the oil and gas business. Therefore, the Dept. of Conservation will likely receive additional requests for drilling in St. Tammany Parish. Wouldn't it be in our best interests to set the "bar" high with regard to issues that could possibly be encountered with drilling? I've noticed with high interest that Helis has proactively agreed with the Parish on numerous issues such as air, water, noise and traffic and, most importantly transparency. We would be setting a high bar for others to follow in future drilling projects in St. Tammany Parish.

It is my view that, by granting this permit, the Dept. of Conservation would be sending a message to both supporters and detractors alike that the "bar" is being set very high for St. Tammany Parish and its prosperous future. It is for these reasons that I urge the Dept. of Conservation to grant the Helis drilling permit.

Respectively submitted,

Bonnie Eades, Business Retiree  
921 Beauregard Pkwy.  
Covington, LA 70433

Sent from my iPad

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Louis Buatt [LBUatt@liskow.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** John Adams (DNR); Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Comments from St. Tammany Land Co., LLC  
**Attachments:** DNR Comment Letter.pdf

Please find attached comments on behalf of St. Tammany Land Co. L.L.C. concerning the Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well; Engineering Docket 14-626. Also the comments are reproduced below in the body of this email.

November 19, 2014  
4082

Writer's Name

Direct: (504) 556-

Buatt

[lbuatt@liskow.com](mailto:lbuatt@liskow.com)

Louis

**VIA Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE: Comments**  
**Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

Please be advised that I represent St. Tammany Land Co., L.L.C. ("STLCO") and am submitting this letter on its behalf. By letter dated September 10, 2014, Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") submitted an application for a drilling permit authorizing it to drill a vertical well in order to test the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval in its proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well, in the Lacombe Bayou Field, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Thereafter, by letter dated September 15, 2014, the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of the Town of Abita Springs and the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany ("CCST") requested a public notice and comment period regarding Helis' referenced application for drilling permit. Tulane Environmental Law Clinic also requested a public hearing.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the Office of Conservation that STLCO supports issuance of the requested drilling permit and provides the following comments and information in support of Helis's permit application.

STLCO is an owner of the location where Helis proposes to drill the well and an owner of the minerals. STLCO and its predecessors have ties to St. Tammany Parish dating back to the

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1800's. We have been contributing to the economy of St. Tammany Parish for nearly 150 years through cultivation of timber, operation of a timber mill, the responsible development of property and other activities. From the late 1800's to the 1930's our predecessors were one of the largest employers in St. Tammany Parish, operating a timber mill and cultivating timber. STLCO has and continues to pay substantial taxes, which are used by St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana to fund important public infrastructure projects and services, such as, building and maintaining roads and bridges and to pay for education and health care within the Parish. Throughout the years we have also been responsible for making land available in St. Tammany Parish for public use. One significant example is our conveyance of close to 16,000 acres of property to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the establishment of the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. This conveyance dates back nearly 45 years and has provided a vast area on which the citizens of St. Tammany Parish have been able use for public recreation. Additionally, we have provided property to Recreational Districts and the School Board for parks, recreational facilities, and schools.

We have and continue to be good stewards of the land. In fact, in the mineral lease, Helis is restricted to areas where it can locate a well and other structures in support of those activities. These contractual restrictions are imposed to minimize any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and also to allow for future responsible development of the property and surrounding properties. STLCO is also an owner of the area around the proposed well site. The site where Helis proposes to drill the well is remotely located and is on property that has been in timber cultivation for more than 150 years. In addition, the property surrounding the proposed well site has likewise been in timber cultivation. The nearest structure to the proposed drill site is located more than a mile away. There are no residences within a mile of the location. Interstate 12 is located approximately 1,837 feet away from the proposed drill site. Lakeshore High School is located more than a mile away. The town of Abita Springs is in excess of 7 miles away. There are no registered water wells within a 1 mile radius of the proposed drill site. Accordingly, we are confident the proposed location of this well minimizes any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and will not adversely impact the responsible future development of this or any of the surrounding properties.

In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increasing energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world. Energy production ties into societal benefits, such as comfort, transportation, lifestyle, and jobs. Energy production benefits the state from collection of severance taxes, from manufacturing and other economic development based on reliable supplies of affordable domestic energy with a growing population base. There are specific benefits to the parish including severances taxes, local taxes, and significant economic development. The increase in economic development will result in more jobs, increased sales taxes and additional local property taxes. All of which provides substantial additional resources to the parish that can be used to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the parish.

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There is no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is a vital public interest. There is also no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is dependent on and will continue to require additional energy resources. As such, the demand for energy will continue to increase. There is also no dispute that the public is dependent on crude oil resources to fuel its transportation system and that a robust transportation system is vital to the nation's economic recovery as well as to the public's way of life. Projects such as the one Helis is proposing could potentially provide a significant amount of crude oil to support the nation's economic recovery and to provide reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

A recent study by Dr. David Dismukes, professor and executive director for the LSU Center for Energy Studies titled "Unconventional Resources and Louisiana's Manufacturing Development Renaissance" (January 11, 2013) provides an economic overview of the Louisiana manufacturing sector, examines the importance of available and affordable energy to this sector, and show how the emergence of unconventional resources has resulted in a manufacturing investment renaissance in Louisiana. As of the date of the report some \$62.3 billion in new capital investments have been announced in Louisiana and are likely to be developed between the next five to eight years. Since the report several other significant announcements have been made for additional projects, so the dollars for new capital is even higher than that reported.

Dr. Dismukes reports statewide impacts as follows:

- Potential for in-state capital investment in Louisiana to total \$20.2 billion (out of the total of \$62.3 billion) over the next nine years;
- More than \$29.7 billion in economic output over a nine-year period;
- A cumulative increase of some 214,670 job-years; and
- \$9.3 billion increase in wages over a nine-year construction period.

He also reports regional impacts to South Louisiana as follows:

- Over \$22.5 billion in output;
- 160,000 in job-years; and
- \$7.4 billion in wages.

Based on a study conducted by Professor Ladd for the Journal of Rural Social Sciences, other parishes in Louisiana with development of oil and gas from resource formations have benefitted as outlined below (See 28(2) 2013, pages 56(3)(2)).

- Improved local economy/buffered recession;
- Increased local/state tax revenues;
- Created new job opportunities;
- Created new businesses/restaurants;
- Increased income/wealth for people with mineral leases;
- Improved local services/schools/libraries;
- Benefited chemical/energy/water services industry;
- Increased population/housing/property values;

- Increased U.S. energy production/security;
- Created new markets/uses for energy resources;
- Reduced energy prices;
- Created new R&D programs for state universities;
- Benefited local charities/nonprofits; and
- Improved community race relations.

Accordingly, based on the forgoing studies and other information available, the development of energy resources from resource formations, such as the project proposed by Helis, is necessary for the nation and state to achieve energy and economic security and provides significant economic benefits to the state, region and parish that are necessary to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the state, region and parish. These projects, including the project proposed by Helis, are vitally important to the public interest, including but not limited to, supporting the economic recovery of the nation and supplying the reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

Many of the comments referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic in its request for a public hearing relate to hydraulic fracturing. We would note that this application for a drilling permit does not request authorization to conduct hydraulic fracturing. At any rate, the comments and concerns referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic that relate to hydraulic fracturing are unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, shortly after Helis made its request for unitization, the public was provided misinformation concerning the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing. In fact, there has been no credible information, data or scientific studies presented that support the notion that hydraulic fracturing presents any significant risk of impacts to freshwater supplies or the environment.<sup>[1]</sup> It appears Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's comments related to hydraulic fracturing are based on unsubstantiated claims and conclusions by those who oppose development of conventional energy resources that hydraulic fracturing somehow and in some way could contaminate drinking water resources. The purpose of this misinformation campaign clearly appears to be designed to simply instill fear in the public to achieve goals that restricts the development of conventional energy resources, thereby decreasing the availability and increasing the costs of conventional energy resources in an effort to artificially make alternative energy resources more competitive. Such policies and goals are misguided and would in fact be detrimental to the energy and economic security opportunities for the country, region and state, as such, would be detrimental to the public welfare. We would point out that EPA has been evaluating the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing for years now and has been unable to draw any conclusions that hydraulic fracturing has impacted drinking water resources.<sup>[2]</sup> Moreover, as set forth below, the scientific

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<sup>[1]</sup> See Council of Canadian Academics (2014) *Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada* (Report from the Expert Panel of Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction) pg. 66; *Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process*, 2014; and *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing"*, 2013.

<sup>[2]</sup> EPA's [Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources: Progress Report](#) (December 2012), where EPA states the current report "cannot be used to draw conclusions about potential impacts

studies, data and information support that hydraulic fracturing has and can continue to be conducted without posing a threat to drinking water resources.

During the public hearing concerning this matter held on November 12, 2014, no evidence was presented that this proposed project presented any unreasonable risks of harm to the environment or public welfare, including adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. The only witness presented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic was Mark Charles, a registered professional geologist. Mr. Charles' testimony only discussed the possibility of the potential for leaks of drilling and hydraulic fracturing fluids to get into an aquifer. He never presented any testimony or evidence that he assessed or in any way attempted to quantify any risks of probability of such fluids entering any aquifers or any probability of any adverse impacts to any aquifers. In fact his testimony was largely outside of his professed area of expertise where he testified about the possibility of fluids leaking from various components of the well. During his testimony and on cross examination, it was made clear that Mr. Charles is not a petroleum or civil engineer and is not registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. In addition, his testimony and on cross examination demonstrated he has no education, training or experience that would qualify him to testify as an expert concerning the design of a well and the potential for failure of any well component. In fact, overall he demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of the regulatory requirements for such a well and the design of the well Helis is proposing. We would also point out that Statewide Order 2003 requires that certain information in applications to drill be certified by an engineer with a Professional Engineering registration.<sup>33</sup> Lastly, his testimony concerning the possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing harmful chemicals was completely speculative where he testified that it was possible that such fluids could possibly contain petroleum distillates and that benzene could possibly be one of those constituents. He never presented any evidence, facts or basis to support any such claims. In fact a recent study by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder published in the journal *Environmental Chemistry* found that fracking fluids in five states were no more toxic than substances commonly found in homes. The study found that the chemicals found in fluid samples were also commonly found in everyday products, from toothpaste to laxatives to detergent to ice cream. Accordingly, his testimony should be disregarded or alternatively given very little weight.

The testimony of the Helis experts during the public hearing clearly demonstrated how the proposed project would be protective of the environment, including groundwater and surface water resources. They specifically testified concerning the design of the well<sup>34</sup> and the geology in the area and how the proposed well would be protective of groundwater resources. They also testified concerning the design of the well and the operational plan,

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to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing...[and]EPA has not made any judgment about the extent of exposure to these [fracking] chemicals...or their potential impact on drinking water resources”.

<sup>33</sup> This is a requirement where an engineer is providing these services to a third party.

<sup>34</sup> Unlike Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Helis presented testimony related to the design of the well by a registered Professional Engineer with 45 years of experience, Adam T. Bourgoyne, Jr. P.E..

including the use and management of water for hydraulic fracturing, demonstrating how surface water resources would be protected.

Freshwater zones would be protected by multiple strings of casing cemented in place providing multiple and redundant levels of protection. When complete, the well design with multiple and redundant permanent layers of protection, that exceed regulatory standards, will eliminate any probability of damage to the aquifers initially and through the life of the well. According to the *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing, 2013"* "AWWA White Paper" wells that are properly designed and operated pose no significant threat to ground water resources, since it would take the simultaneous failure of multiple safeguards for such fluids or hydrocarbons to escape and migrate to drinking water resources.<sup>[5]</sup> In addition, the geology of the area in which the pad site is located is particularly suitable for the proposed project for two reasons: 1) the distance between the lowest fresh water zone and the zone which may be hydraulically fractured; 2) the lack of natural faulting. If hydraulic fracturing were to take place, the zone that would be hydraulically fractured is approximately 2,400 feet or 1.8 miles below the base of the deepest freshwater zone. There are many impermeable shale and clay units between the zone that may be hydraulically fractured and any freshwater zone. There is also no faulting present in the area to act as a potential pathway for migration.<sup>[6]</sup> And according to the AWWA White Paper, where hydraulic fracturing takes places hundreds to thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it is unlikely that fissures could be created extending into freshwater zones. Based on a study by *King, La Vergne Bryan, & Clark, 2012* fractures induced from hydraulic fracturing will only extend vertically approximately 100 meters and laterally 200-300 meters due to lithologic pressure.<sup>[7]</sup> If hydraulic fracturing were to take place related to this project, it would not only be thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it would be almost two miles below the deepest freshwater zone, making the proposed project area very suitable to safely conduct hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas production. Consequently, based on the well design and the geology of this project area, the project does not pose a threat to drinking water resources.

We would also point out that hydraulic fracturing associated with oil and gas developments are exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In the 2005 Energy Policy Act Congress specifically exempted such hydraulic fracturing unless diesel fuel was used as a fracturing fluid.<sup>[8]</sup> Accordingly, Congress has determined that such hydraulic fracturing conducted under state regulatory programs are protective of drinking water resources and the environment.

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[5] Also see GWPC et al. 2009 and Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process, 2014.

[6] In addition to the information provided by Helis an independent geologist with more than 25 years of experience has reviewed the site geology and confirmed no evidence of faulting.

[7] We understand based on Helis' hydraulic fracture design fractures are estimated to only extend out 200 feet.

[8] SDWA § 1421(d) states that "the term 'underground injection' excludes ... the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities."

It is also important to note this would not be the first well to be drilled through the freshwater zones in this area. Dating back many decades, we have granted many Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases covering our property in St. Tammany Parish including the subject tract. The Office of Conservation should take this fact into account when evaluating this permit application. Based upon a review of the data contained in the State's data base, a total of at least 73 oil and gas wells have been drilled in St. Tammany Parish alone, and many of these wells were drilled much closer to locations of local water wells than the proposed well site. In addition, there has been another 124 oil and gas wells drilled through the same freshwater zones in the neighboring parishes of Washington and Tangipahoa. We also understand there have been several wells recently drilled and completed, which were hydraulically fractured, just across the state line in Mississippi. These wells in Mississippi that were hydraulically fractured were drilled through freshwater zones with no evidence of damage to the freshwater zones. Considering the previous and current substantial oil and gas activities that have been conducted over many decades and the lack of impacts to the freshwater aquifers in the area, there is no reasonable basis to believe the proposed well will adversely impact the drinking water resources in the area.

The right to own, possess and use property for our benefit is a fundamental right we all have in this country, and when government regulation goes too far it effects a taking of property requiring compensation. Under the circumstances here, a denial of the referenced permit would constitute a regulatory taking, requiring compensation. As a mineral servitude owner, STLCO has a reasonable expectation to be able to develop the oil and gas resources that are subject to its mineral servitude. There is long standing precedent in this state that allows mineral servitude owners the right and ability to develop these oil and gas resources. This long standing precedent allowing the development of oil and gas resources exist even where local governments have attempted to prevent such development by imposing their own requirements.<sup>[9]</sup> As such, STLCO has always had a reasonable expectation that it would be able to develop these oil and gas resources where the regulatory requirements are met, even where opponents to the issuance of the permit allege that issuance of the permit would be in violation of local zoning ordinances and/or requirements. Accordingly, denial of the referenced permit would not only result in usurping landowner rights, it would constitute a regulatory taking requiring compensation. In addition, to the extent the application of these zoning ordinances and/or requirements are deemed valid and would now prevent the development of the oil and gas resources subject to STLCO's mineral servitude such as application of the ordinances and/or requirements under the circumstances would likewise constitute a regulatory taking by St. Tammany Parish, requiring compensation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. In sum, we support issuance of the permit for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,

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<sup>[9]</sup> See Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport, 967 F.3d 297 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Cir. 2013); Hunt v. Batchelor, 644 So.2d 191 (La. 1994); Greater New Orleans Expressway Com. Traver Oil Co., 494 So.2d 1204 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1986); La. R.S. 30:28(A),(D), & (F); and La. Atty. Gen Op. Nos 82-1021, 88-418, and 89-416.



Louis E. Buatt

LEB:shb

**Louis E. Buatt**

(504) 556-4082 Direct  
(504) 556-4108 Fax  
(225) 223-9600 Cell  
[lbuatt@liskow.com](mailto:lbuatt@liskow.com) E-mail



**New Orleans | Lafayette | Houston**

One Shell Square  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, LA 70139  
[www.liskow.com](http://www.liskow.com)

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**LISKOW & LEWIS**  
A Professional Law Corporation

822 Harding Street  
Post Office Box 52008  
Lafayette, LA 70505  
(337) 232-7424 Main  
(337) 267-2399 Fax

[www.Liskow.com](http://www.Liskow.com)

1001 Fannin Street, Suite 1800  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 651-2900 Main  
(713) 651-2980 Fax

One Shell Square  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 581-7979 Main  
(504) 556-4108 Fax

November 19, 2014

**Writer's Name**  
Louis Buatt

Direct: (504) 556-4082  
[lbuatt@Liskow.com](mailto:lbuatt@Liskow.com)

**VIA Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE: Comments**  
**Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

Please be advised that I represent St. Tammany Land Co., L.L.C. ("STLCO") and am submitting this letter on its behalf. By letter dated September 10, 2014, Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") submitted an application for a drilling permit authorizing it to drill a vertical well in order to test the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval in its proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well, in the Lacombe Bayou Field, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Thereafter, by letter dated September 15, 2014, the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of the Town of Abita Springs and the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany ("CCST") requested a public notice and comment period regarding Helis' referenced application for drilling permit. Tulane Environmental Law Clinic also requested a public hearing.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the Office of Conservation that STLCO supports issuance of the requested drilling permit and provides the following comments and information in support of Helis's permit application.

STLCO is an owner of the location where Helis proposes to drill the well and an owner of the minerals. STLCO and its predecessors have ties to St. Tammany Parish dating back to the 1870's. We have been contributing to the economy of St. Tammany Parish for nearly 150 years through cultivation of timber, operation of a timber mill, the responsible development of property and other activities. From the late 1800's to the 1930's our predecessors were one of the largest employers in St. Tammany Parish, operating a timber mill and cultivating timber. STLCO has and continues to pay substantial taxes, which are used by St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana to fund important public infrastructure projects and services, such as, building and maintaining roads and bridges and to pay for education and health care within the Parish. Throughout the years we have also been responsible for making land available in St. Tammany Parish for public use. One significant example is our conveyance of close to 16,000 acres of property to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the establishment of

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the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. This conveyance dates back nearly 45 years and has provided a vast area on which the citizens of St. Tammany Parish have been able use for public recreation. Additionally, we have provided property to Recreational Districts and the School Board for parks, recreational facilities, and schools.

We have and continue to be good stewards of the land. In fact, in the mineral lease, Helis is restricted to areas where it can locate a well and other structures in support of those activities. These contractual restrictions are imposed to minimize any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and also to allow for future responsible development of the property and surrounding properties. STLCO is also an owner of the area around the proposed well site. The site where Helis proposes to drill the well is remotely located and is on property that has been in timber cultivation for more than 150 years. In addition, the property surrounding the proposed well site has likewise been in timber cultivation. The nearest structure to the proposed drill site is located more than a mile away. There are no residences within a mile of the location. Interstate 12 is located approximately 1,837 feet away from the proposed drill site. Lakeshore High School is located more than a mile away. The town of Abita Springs is in excess of 7 miles away. There are no registered water wells within a 1 mile radius of the proposed drill site. Accordingly, we are confident the proposed location of this well minimizes any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and will not adversely impact the responsible future development of this or any of the surrounding properties.

In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increasing energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world. Energy production ties into societal benefits, such as comfort, transportation, lifestyle, and jobs. Energy production benefits the state from collection of severance taxes, from manufacturing and other economic development based on reliable supplies of affordable domestic energy with a growing population base. There are specific benefits to the parish including severances taxes, local taxes, and significant economic development. The increase in economic development will result in more jobs, increased sales taxes and additional local property taxes. All of which provides substantial additional resources to the parish that can be used to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the parish.

There is no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is a vital public interest. There is also no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is dependent on and will continue to require additional energy resources. As such, the demand for energy will continue to increase. There is also no dispute that the public is dependent on crude oil resources to fuel its transportation system and that a robust transportation system is vital to the nation's economic recovery as well as to the public's way of life. Projects such as the one Helis is proposing could potentially provide a significant amount of crude oil to support the nation's economic recovery and to provide reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

A recent study by Dr. David Dismukes, professor and executive director for the LSU Center for Energy Studies, titled "Unconventional Resources and Louisiana's Manufacturing

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Development Renaissance” (January 11, 2013), provides an economic overview of the Louisiana manufacturing sector, examines the importance of available and affordable energy to this sector, and show how the emergence of unconventional resources has resulted in a manufacturing investment renaissance in Louisiana. As of the date of the report some \$62.3 billion in new capital investments have been announced in Louisiana and are likely to be developed between the next five to eight years. Since the report several other significant announcements have been made for additional projects, so the dollars for new capital is even higher than that reported.

Dr. Dismukes reports statewide impacts as follows:

- Potential for in-state capital investment in Louisiana to total \$20.2 billion (out of the total of \$62.3 billion) over the next nine years;
- More than \$29.7 billion in economic output over a nine-year period;
- A cumulative increase of some 214,670 job-years; and
- \$9.3 billion increase in wages over a nine-year construction period.

He also reports regional impacts to South Louisiana as follows:

- Over \$22.5 billion in output;
- 160,000 in job-years; and
- \$7.4 billion in wages.

Based on a study conducted by Professor Ladd for the Journal of Rural Social Sciences, other parishes in Louisiana with development of oil and gas from resource formations have benefitted as outlined below (See 28(2), 2013, pages 56-89):

- Improved local economy/buffered recession;
- Increased local/state tax revenues;
- Created new job opportunities;
- Created new businesses/restaurants;
- Increased income/wealth for people with mineral leases;
- Improved local services/schools/libraries;
- Benefited chemical/energy/water services industry;
- Increased population/housing/property values;
- Increased U.S. energy production/security;
- Created new markets/uses for energy resources;
- Reduced energy prices;
- Created new R&D programs for state universities;
- Benefited local charities/nonprofits; and
- Improved community race relations.

Accordingly, based on the forgoing studies and other information available, the development of energy resources from resource formations, such as the project proposed by Helis, is necessary for the nation and state to achieve energy and economic security and provides significant economic benefits to the state, region and parish that are necessary to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the state, region and parish. These projects, including the project

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proposed by Helis, are vitally important to the public interest, including but not limited to, supporting the economic recovery of the nation and supplying the reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

Many of the comments referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic in its request for a public hearing relate to hydraulic fracturing. We would note that this application for a drilling permit does not request authorization to conduct hydraulic fracturing. At any rate, the comments and concerns referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic that relate to hydraulic fracturing are unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, shortly after Helis made its request for unitization, the public was provided misinformation concerning the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing. In fact, there has been no credible information, data or scientific studies presented that support the notion that hydraulic fracturing presents any significant risk of impacts to freshwater supplies or the environment.<sup>1</sup> It appears Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's comments related to hydraulic fracturing are based on unsubstantiated claims and conclusions by those who oppose development of conventional energy resources that hydraulic fracturing somehow and in some way could contaminate drinking water resources. The purpose of this misinformation campaign clearly appears to be designed to simply instill fear in the public to achieve goals that restricts the development of conventional energy resources, thereby decreasing the availability and increasing the costs of conventional energy resources in an effort to artificially make alternative energy resources more competitive. Such policies and goals are misguided and would in fact be detrimental to the energy and economic security opportunities for the country, region and state, as such, would be detrimental to the public welfare. We would point out that EPA has been evaluating the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing for years now and has been unable to draw any conclusions that hydraulic fracturing has impacted drinking water resources.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, as set forth below, the scientific studies, data and information support that hydraulic fracturing has and can continue to be conducted without posing a threat to drinking water resources.

During the public hearing concerning this matter held on November 12, 2014, no evidence was presented that this proposed project presented any unreasonable risks of harm to the environment or public welfare, including adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. The only witness presented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic was Mark Quarles, a registered professional geologist. Mr. Quarles' testimony only discussed the "possibility" of the potential for leaks of drilling and hydraulic fracturing fluids to get into an aquifer. He never presented any testimony or evidence that he assessed or in any way attempted to quantify any risks of probability of such fluids entering any aquifers or any probability of any adverse impacts to any aquifers. In fact his testimony was largely outside of his professed area of expertise, where he testified about the "possibility" of fluids leaking from various components

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<sup>1</sup> See Council of Canadian Academics (2014) *Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada* (Report from the Expert Panel of Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction) pg. 66; *Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process*, 2014; and *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing"*, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> EPA's *Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources: Progress Report* (December 2012), where EPA states the current report "cannot be used to draw conclusions about potential impacts to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing...[and]EPA has not made any judgment about the extent of exposure to these [fracking] chemicals...or their potential impact on drinking water resources".

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of the well. During his testimony and on cross examination, it was made clear that Mr. Quarles is not a petroleum or civil engineer and is not registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. In addition, his testimony and on cross examination demonstrated he has no education, training or experience that would qualify him to testify as an expert concerning the design of a well and the potential for failure of any well component. In fact, overall he demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of the regulatory requirements for such a well and the design of the well Helis is proposing. We would also point out that Statewide Order 29-B requires that certain information in applications to drill be certified by an engineer with a Professional Engineering registration.<sup>3</sup> Lastly, his testimony concerning the possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing harmful chemicals was completely speculative, where he testified that it was “possible” that such fluids could “possibly” contain petroleum distillates and that benzene could “possibly” be one of those constituents. He never presented any evidence, facts or basis to support any such claims. In fact a recent study by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder published in the journal “Analytical Chemistry” found that fracking fluids in five states were no more toxic than substances commonly found in homes. The study found that the chemicals found in fluid samples were also commonly found in everyday products, from toothpaste to laxatives to detergent to ice cream. Accordingly, his testimony should be disregarded or alternatively given very little weight.

The testimony of the Helis experts during the public hearing clearly demonstrated how the proposed project would be protective of the environment, including groundwater and surface water resources. They specifically testified concerning the design of the well<sup>4</sup> and the geology in the area and how the proposed well would be protective of groundwater resources. They also testified concerning the design of the well and the operational plan, including the use and management of water for hydraulic fracturing, demonstrating how surface water resources would be protected.

Freshwater zones would be protected by multiple strings of casing cemented in place providing multiple and redundant levels of protection. When complete, the well design with multiple and redundant permanent layers of protection, that exceed regulatory standards, will eliminate any probability of damage to the aquifers initially and through the life of the well. According to the *American Water Works Association’s White Paper “Water and Hydraulic Fracturing, 2013”* (AWWA White Paper) wells that are properly designed and operated pose no significant threat to ground water resources, since it would take the simultaneous failure of multiple safeguards for such fluids or hydrocarbons to escape and migrate to drinking water resources.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the geology of the area in which the pad site is located is particularly suitable for the proposed project for two reasons; 1) the distance between the lowest fresh water zone and the zone which may be hydraulically fractured; 2) the lack of natural faulting. If hydraulic fracturing were to take place, the zone that would be hydraulically fractured is approximately 9,400 feet or 1.8 miles below the base of the deepest freshwater zone. There are many impermeable shale and clay units between the zone that may be hydraulically fractured and

<sup>3</sup> This is a requirement where an engineer is providing these services to a third party.

<sup>4</sup> Unlike Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Helis presented testimony related to the design of the well by a registered Professional Engineer with 45 years of experience, Adam T. Bourgoyne, Jr. P.E..

<sup>5</sup> Also see GWPC et al. 2009 and Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process, 2014.

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any freshwater zone. There is also no faulting present in the area to act as a potential pathway for migration.<sup>6</sup> And according to the AWWA White Paper, where hydraulic fracturing takes places hundreds to thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it is unlikely that fissures could be created extending into freshwater zones. Based on a study by *King, La Vergne Bryan, & Clark, 2012* fractures induced from hydraulic fracturing will only extend vertically approximately 100 meters and laterally 200-300 meters due to lithologic pressure.<sup>7</sup> If hydraulic fracturing were to take place related to this project, it would not only be thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it would be almost two miles below the deepest freshwater zone, making the proposed project area very suitable to safely conduct hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas production. Consequently, based on the well design and the geology of this project area, the project does not pose a threat to drinking water resources.

We would also point out that hydraulic fracturing associated with oil and gas developments are exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In the 2005 Energy Policy Act Congress specifically exempted such hydraulic fracturing unless diesel fuel was used as a fracturing fluid.<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, Congress has determined that such hydraulic fracturing conducted under state regulatory programs are protective of drinking water resources and the environment.

It is also important to note this would not be the first well to be drilled through the freshwater zones in this area. Dating back many decades, we have granted many Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases covering our property in St. Tammany Parish including the subject tract. The Office of Conservation should take this fact into account when evaluating this permit application. Based upon a review of the data contained in DNR's SONRIS database, a total of at least 73 oil and gas wells have been drilled in St. Tammany Parish alone, and many of these wells were drilled much closer to locations of local water wells than Helis' proposed well site. In addition, there has been another 124 oil and gas wells drilled through the same freshwater zones in the neighboring parishes of Washington and Tangipahoa. We also understand there have been several wells recently drilled and completed, which were hydraulically fractured, just across the state line in Mississippi. These wells in Mississippi that were hydraulically fractured were drilled through freshwater zones with no evidence of damage to the freshwater zones. Considering the previous and current substantial oil and gas activities that have been conducted over many decades and the lack of impacts to the freshwater aquifers in the area, there is no reasonable basis to believe the proposed well will adversely impact the drinking water resources in the area.

The right to own, possess and use property for our benefit is a fundamental right we all have in this country, and when government regulation goes too far it effects a taking of property requiring compensation. Under the circumstances here, a denial of the referenced permit would constitute a regulatory taking, requiring compensation. As a mineral servitude owner, STLCO

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<sup>6</sup> In addition to the information provided by Helis an independent geologist with more than 25 years of experience has reviewed the site geology and confirmed no evidence of faulting.

<sup>7</sup> We understand based on Helis' hydraulic fracture design fractures are estimated to only extend out 200 feet.

<sup>8</sup> SDWA § 1421(d) states that "the term 'underground injection' excludes ... the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities."

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has a reasonable expectation to be able to develop the oil and gas resources that are subject to its mineral servitude. There is long standing precedent in this state that allows mineral servitude owners the right and ability to develop these oil and gas resources. This long standing precedent allowing the development of oil and gas resources exist even where local governments have attempted to prevent such development by imposing their own requirements.<sup>9</sup> As such, STLCO has always had a reasonable expectation that it would be able to develop these oil and gas resources where the regulatory requirements are met, even where opponents to the issuance of the permit allege that issuance of the permit would be in violation of local zoning ordinances and/or requirements. Accordingly, denial of the referenced permit would not only result in usurping landowner rights, it would constitute a regulatory taking requiring compensation. In addition, to the extent the application of these zoning ordinances and/or requirements are deemed valid and would now prevent the development of the oil and gas resources subject to STLCO's mineral servitude, such as application of the ordinances and/or requirements under the circumstances would likewise constitute a regulatory taking by St. Tammany Parish, requiring compensation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. In sum, we support issuance of the permit for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,



Louis E. Buatt

LEB/shb

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<sup>9</sup> See *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 967 F.3d 297 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Cir. 2013); *Hunt v. Batchelor*, 644 So.2d 191 (La. 1994); *Greater New Orleans Expressway Com. Traver Oil Co.*, 494 So.2d 1204 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1986); La. R.S. 30:28(A),(D), & (F); and La. Atty. Gen Op. Nos 82-1021, 88-418, and 89-416.

**From:** Tyler Gray [tyler.gray@lmoga.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Jim Welsh; Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Helis Permit Application Comments  
**Attachments:** Helis Permit Application Comments (11-19-2014).pdf

Please find attached LMOGA's comments on Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Original to follow by U.S. Mail.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Tyler Patrick Gray  
General Counsel  
La. Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
www.lmoga.com  
730 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Office: (225) 387-3205  
Cell: (225) 505-3459  
Fax: (225) 344-5502

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



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730 NORTH BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802 • TELEPHONE (225) 387-3205 FAX (225) 344-5502

November 19, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Public Comment on Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC's  
Drilling Permit Application**

Commissioner Welsh:

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (“LMOGA”) respectfully submits the following comments to the Office of Conservation (“OOC”) in support of the Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC’s (“Helis”) permit application. These comments are submitted in response to the OOC’s September 30, 2014, public notice inviting comments following the public hearing held on November 12, 2014.

LMOGA supports the approval of Helis’ permit application for the following reasons:

- 1) The application satisfactorily complies with Louisiana law governing permit application approval
- 2) The hydraulic fracturing method proposed in the application for permit does not pose any additional proven environmental risks
- 3) The project will substantially improve economic development for the parish and the state

LMOGA offers the following comments discussing each of these reasons below.

**1) The Helis Application Complies with Governing Louisiana Law**

Pursuant to the Louisiana Revised Statutes, “the commissioner has jurisdiction and authority over all persons and property necessary to enforce effectively the provisions . . . and all other laws relating to the conservation of oil and gas.”<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, LMOGA recognizes and understands that the Commissioner of Conservation possesses the sole authority and jurisdiction to approve or disprove applications for drilling permits. Using this authority, the Commissioner must evaluate applications to determine their compliance under current Louisiana law.

Here, the Helis permit application complies with all laws; thus, the Commissioner has no legally sound reason to deny the permit application. The opposition’s concerns go beyond the scope of the Commissioner’s criteria used in evaluating whether to grant permit applications, as outlined in all applicable revised statutes and the Louisiana Administrative Code. Therefore, LMOGA fully supports the granting of the permit application.

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<sup>1</sup> La. Rev. Stat. 30:4(A).

Next, many critics of the Helis permit application are not located or do not have an interest in the proposed drilling unit. Since those in opposition have failed to make, nor have they been required to make, any claim justifying their legal standing or proprietary interest related to this issue. LMOGA must assume these opposing parties have no proprietary interest in the proposed well. For example, Abita Springs is over seven miles away from the drill site and never established their legal interest in the proposed well. Thus, LMOGA cautions the OOC in considering these comments and creating an expectation for all future drilling permit procedure.

Additionally, some critics and those in opposition of the approval of the Helis permit cite the Louisiana Supreme Court decision in *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Env'tl. Control Comm'n.* in support of their position, however, LMOGA submits this case is inapplicable to the Helis application. In *Save Ourselves*, the Court held the Louisiana Constitution requires a balance between environmental protection consistent with the "health, safety, and welfare of the people" and "economic, social, and other factors."<sup>2</sup> The court further reasoned that the legislative intent of this provision "was to implement and perpetuate the constitutional rule of reasonableness."<sup>3</sup> Here, Helis is distinguishable from the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves*. For example, the Helis application fully complies with the OOC's standards, company representatives have publicly commented on the environmental soundness of the proposed well, and the proposed well is designed to meet and exceed applicable regulatory standards unlike the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves* who failed to provide testimony or evidence that their project would avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the OOC should approve the Helis permit application because it complies with all governing statutes, rules, and regulations and because Helis has provided information to the OOC and public as to how it plans to minimize adverse environmental effects in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

## 2) Hydraulic Fracturing

Much of the opposition to the Helis permit application comes from parties concerned with the environmental risks, specifically the risk to drinking water contamination as a result of hydraulic fracturing. However, while this topic has become very contentious for those in opposition, to date, there is no reliable scientific data or research linking hydraulic fracturing to the contamination of drinking sources.

Furthermore, there have been wells successfully and responsibly drilled through freshwater zones in St. Tammany's neighboring parishes, Tangipahoa and Washington. Additionally, several hydraulically fractured wells have been drilled and completed in freshwater zones, similar to Helis' proposed well, in Mississippi. There is no evidence these wells caused any damage to the freshwater zones. Given the close proximity to St. Tammany and the similarity of Helis' project to the wells in Mississippi, LMOGA supports the approval of the Helis permit.

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<sup>2</sup> *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Env'tl. Control Comm'n.*, 452 So. 2d 1152, 1156-57 (La. 1984) (citing La. Const. art. IX § 1).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1157.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1160.

### 3) The Helis Permit Application Benefits the State and Parish Economy

Louisiana's oil and gas industry is a driving force for Louisiana's statewide economy as well as oil and gas producing parishes' local economy. On the state level, leading economists have observed the correlation of Louisiana's economy and the future of the oil and gas industry. The oil and gas industry generates over \$20 billion annually in household income in Louisiana as well as a positive economic impact of approximately \$73 billion annually.<sup>5</sup>

All parishes reap the benefit from collection of severance taxes, local property taxes, and significant direct and indirect economic development, such as job creation and increased sales taxes. These resources allow the parish to use them toward essential infrastructure improvements and social services for its citizens. Additionally, St. Tammany already has many oil and gas operations within its boundaries. Based on these proven economic benefits and resources the oil and gas industry in Louisiana creates for the state and parish governments, this permit should be approved.

In conclusion, LMOGA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Helis application permit. The OOC has gone above and beyond what is required under the rules and regulations to take additional comments at a second, unnecessary and unprecedented, off-site public hearing. Because of the economic benefits the proposed project would bring to the state and parish, the application's compliance with state law, and the lack of proven environmental risks, LMOGA fully supports the approval of Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Respectfully,

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association



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Tyler Gray  
General Counsel

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<sup>5</sup> See, Loren Scott, Ph.D., "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" (2014).

**From:** Paul Orr [paul@leanweb.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:48 PM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Helis Oil and Gas Company, LLC, Permit to Drill Eads Poitevent et. al. Well # 001

**Attachments:** LEAN Helis 2nd Comments.pdf

Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) submits the attached second set of comments in response to the Helis Oil and Gas Company application for a permit to drill the vertical portion of the Eads Poitevent et. al. Well # 001 in St. Tammany Parish.



November 19, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
dnrinfo@la.gov

Ref.: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Oil and Gas Company, LLC  
Permit to Drill Eads Poitevent et. al. Well # 001  
St. Tammany Parish

Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) submits the following second set of comments in response to the Helis Oil and Gas Company application for a permit to drill the vertical portion of the Eads Poitevent et. al. Well # 001 in St. Tammany Parish.

LEAN is opposed to the granting of the permit to drill to Helis Oil and Gas Company for the Eads Poitevent et. al. Well #001.

#### **Destruction of Wetlands as a Result of Construction of the Well Pad**

The proposed drill site well pad and structures for a vertical well will consist of 3.21 acres of which 2.81 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. The drill site/well pad project is not water dependent and thus does not have to be sited in a wetland area that will result in the destruction of 2.81 acres of wetlands associated with the well pad and 0.32 acres of wetlands associated with access road improvements. In addition, the well pad will have the potential to impact an even larger area of wetlands surrounding the pad through the discharge, seeping and migration of contaminated storm water from the well pad into the surrounding wetlands.

The wetlands area is an inappropriate location for the well pad and should be used as a reason to deny the permit to drill. The destruction of wetlands will begin with the first Helis well pad and well in St. Tammany Parish and will open the door for extensive additional wetland destruction as additional wells are requested to have the well pads sited in wetland areas.

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POST OFFICE BOX 66323 🌿 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896 ➡ (225) 928-1315 📠 FAX (225) 922-9247 🌿 WWW.LEANWEB.ORG

### **Contaminated Storm Water Has the Potential to Contaminate Soil, Surface Water and Groundwater Resources**

The well pad will be built up with off site fill material overlaid with board materials. The pad will be permeable and storm water contaminated from spills and leaks from the drilling process will seep into the ground and contaminate soil, shallow groundwater and surface water resources.

The drill pad will be surrounded by a borrow ditch and ring levee constructed out of natural material from the borrow ditch. In the Northwest corner of the drill pad a 50 foot by 50 foot storm water collection area will be located. The volume of the borrow ditch and storm water collection area could be inadequate to contain spills and leaks as well as storm water from severe weather events. When such events occur, the storm water that falls on the drill pad will be contaminated with the chemicals that leak and/or spill from units on the site and result in contamination of the collection area liquids and flow over the berms and migrate through the bottom of the well pad into the surrounding wetlands and associated environment.

The storm water that falls on the well pad is consistently referred to as non-contact storm water. However, when storm water falls on the well pad during drilling operations, the storm water will not be uncontaminated. It will come in contact with chemicals that leak and spill from drilling operations as well as chemicals coating and covering equipment on the drill site. These chemical residues will contaminate the storm water and result in water in the drainage ditches and collection area being contaminated.

The storm water that collects in the collection area will be pumped through a filter and stored in a number of onsite tanks. The tanks will have filter systems between the tanks. The storm water in the last tank will be discharged into the wetlands surrounding the drill pad site. Prior to discharge, the storm water will be visually monitored to confirm the absence of visible sheen, or floating or settable solids or visible foam. The sampling of storm water before discharge is limited to visual observations. The application indicates that after filtration, storm water is to be sampled to confirm the quality prior to discharge off the pad site. Visual observations are inadequate to determine the quality of the water prior to discharge.

The filtering of storm water is not an adequate method of treatment of contaminants present in the storm water that has fallen on the drill site. Dissolved toxic chemicals and ions of substances such as chloride, will not be removed by the filtration method. Thus as the storm water is discharged into the surrounding wetlands adjacent to the Helis well site, the marshy areas and wetlands, soils and surface and ground water resources will be contaminated with chemicals from the drill site and from subsurface formations.

The potential to contaminate soils, surface water and ground water resources as a result of operating on the drill pad should be used as a reason to deny the permit to drill application.  
Proposed Site not Least Damaging

On September 23, 2014, the Corps of Engineers issued a letter to Helis Oil and Gas Company care of Fenstermaker and Associated in reference to the revised permit application submitted for the construction of a pad and associated structures for an exploration well on September 10, 2014. The Corps stated in the letter that "Language in Addendum A regarding CEMVN involvement with the pre-application and review process for this

proposal is misleading as presented. Those misrepresentations insinuate that CEMVN has made a predetermination on the applicants preferred alternative and that CEMVN concurs that the proposed site is the least damaging alternative.” The Corps went on to point out specific statements in the addendum. The third quote selected from the addendum which were considered by CEMVN to be misleading consisted of the following:

“In addition to the concurrence of the USACE technical representatives, the state Geologist and consulting agency representatives (LDEQ, USACE, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and US EPA) participated in the Geological Review of the Helis project and likewise concluded that there were “no less damaging alternatives” to the drill site location selected by Helis.”

The Corps returned the September 10, 2014 (Sep. 11, 2014 received by the Corps) revised application to Helis with the recommendation that appropriate corrections be made to the language of the application. Once corrected the Corps indicated it should be resubmitted to the Corps office.

On October 3, 2014, Helis replaced the September 10, 2014 application with an amended Section 404 permit application which had been amended in accordance with the request of the Corps on September 23, 2014. The same well pad site is proposed in the October 3, 2014 application as was applied for in the September 10, 2014 application.

In the written testimony by John Connor presented at the hearing, he indicates the agencies that reviewed the wetlands application and then referred to the LA Geological Survey as indicating no less damaging feasible alternatives. However, he did not indicate that the other agencies (LA DEQ, USACE, LWF and USEPA) did not concur with the proposed site was the lease damaging site. Thus the proposed site is not the most appropriate site on which to locate a drill pad and the permit to drill on this site should be denied.

Lack of Appropriate Zoning

On May 28, 2014, LA DEQ wrote a letter to Helis in care of Fenstermaker and Associates concerning the application by Helis for a Water Quality Certification for a well pad in St. Tammany Parish. The well pad is for the exploration and potential future extraction of oil and gas. The application for Water Quality Certification was the topic of the Joint Public Notice of April 14, 2014. The letter listed 12 items that were necessary to be received by LA DEQ prior to processing the certification. The 13th item in the letter pointed out the following issue:

“LDEQ is required to consider all parish or municipal planning commission master plans before undertaking any action that would affect the adopted elements of the master plan as required per Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:109.1. Therefore, LDEQ requires assurance that the proposed project will not affect any adopted elements of the St. Tammany Parish Zoning Commission and the St. Tammany Parish Council master plan.”

The entire Helis 960 acre unit (Unitization Order No. 1577, TMS RA SUA) on which the proposed Eads Poitevent et. al. well #001 is to be located is zoned A-3 Suburban, primarily reserved for residential purposes, according to the St. Tammany Parish Unified Development Code which became effective May 3, 2007.

The entire 960 acre unit is thus not zoned appropriately for oil and gas drilling, fracturing and production and thus does not comply with the zoning ordinance. Helis leased the property which makes up the TMS RA SUA 960 acre unit site from P and F Lumber Company LLC et. al. in October 2013 and Abita Springs Timber Company, LLC in February 2014. Thus at the time Helis negotiated the two lease agreements until today, Helis should have been aware of the zoning A-3 Suburban, on the properties that make up the 960 acre leased unit.

LA DEQ has stated in documents that the Water Quality Certification needs assurance that the Helis project well pad and well does not run afoul of the St. Tammany Parish master plan and zoning requirements. The Helis project for which water quality certification is requested to be located on property that is zoned A-3 Suburban and is thus not in compliance with zoning requirements.

The Office of Conservation must use the lack of compliance with zoning requirements to deny the Helis Permit to Drill.

#### **Permit To Drill Amendment for Horizontal Portion of Well**

After Helis has performed the vertical phase of their drilling process and evaluated data collected from the logs and testing of cores, Helis will be required to submit an application for a permit amendment for the horizontal portion of the well. In the written testimony presented at the hearing by Adam Bourgoyne Jr., he failed to indicate the requirement for an amended permit once the data analysis is completed and the decision has been made to proceed with the lateral portion of the well. The permit amendment will be required in order for Helis to drill the horizontal lateral. LEAN is once again requesting that a public comment period and a public hearing be held on any amendment application to the Helis permit to drill the vertical portion of the well, including amendments to the permit to drill which will allow the horizontal portions of the well to be drilled, hydraulic fractured and completed.

LEAN appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Helis application to drill and based on the information that LEAN presented in their previous comments and the current comments, the permit to drill should be denied.

**From:** John Schneider [crowhunter@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:36 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626

I write to you today to ask you to grant the drilling permit( engineering docket 14-626) to Hellis Oil Co. on the Poitevent tract in St. Tammany Parish. As a fellow landowner and taxpayer, the jobs and economic activity this well would bring to the surrounding area would be greatly appreciated and needed. There have been lots of myths and lies promulgated about oil drilling and fracking in particular. No documented case of a water well being contaminated exists here in North America. The DNR has the ability and experience to properly manage wells of this type. I hope you will not cave in to the nay sayers and let this drilling move forward.

Many thanks for consideration: John F. Schneider, Hwy 22, Ponchatoula, La.

**From:** William B. Rudolf [wrbiloxi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:32 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I AM SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING FOR A SECOND TIME, IT DOES NOT APPEAR ON YOUR "ONE DRIVE" BOX WEBPAGE. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT MY SUPPORT FOR PROMPT ISSUANCE IS MADE OF RECORD.

William B. Rudolf  
Metairie, LA

---

**From:** William B. Rudolf [mailto:wrbiloxi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:36 AM  
**To:** dnrinfo@la.gov  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I am writing in full support of the prompt issuance by the Department of Conservation of the Drilling Permit to commence drilling of the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well located in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Sincerely,

William B. Rudolf  
Metairie, LA 70001

**From:** Jim Brothers [jim@geopursuit.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:15 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** Helis - DNR request.pdf

Jim Brothers  
Geophysical Pursuit, Inc.  
713-529-3000  
[jim@geopursuit.com](mailto:jim@geopursuit.com)  
[www.geopursuit.com](http://www.geopursuit.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Jim Brothers**  
18319 Langsbury Drive  
Houston, TX 77084  
(713) 824-1299

November 19, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

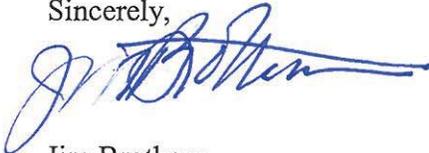
RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Sent via email at [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask you to consider Helis' track record as you make a determination on whether to grant them a drilling permit for their proposed well in St. Tammany Parish. Helis has a longstanding commitment to safety relative to both the environment and people. Their record of utilizing technologically advanced systems that reflect the highest industry standards puts them above and beyond in terms of legal and regulatory requirements on every well. Opponents of the project do not dispute this because they cannot. This proposed well will of course employ SEMS, as Helis used SEMS long before it became mandatory. They will employ three frack casings - more than are required. They will not take water from the aquifer and will dispose of waste in strict accordance with regulatory requirements. Their employees and contractors are fully trained in safety of both themselves and the environment, and every person on site has full "stop work" authority should they deem a situation to be unsafe. Helis has worked with The OBrien's Group - the world's best crisis response company - for decades and would have the benefit of their expertise in the highly unlikely event of an incident related to this well. This partnership is indicative of Helis' commitment to working with local companies. The obvious and considerable economic benefits to the Parish go far beyond the taxes generated because local companies and individuals will benefit directly. Granting Helis a permit for this well would let St. Tammany Parish set the bar for future exploration and create an atmosphere of safety and prosperity that is only possible with such a responsible operator.

Sincerely,



Jim Brothers

**From:** Larry Galloway [larry@geopursuit.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** public hearing comment  
**Attachments:** Helis- DNR application.pdf

**Larry P. Galloway**  
Vice-President  
Geophysical Pursuit, Inc  
1740 Westheimer # 200  
Houston, TX 77098  
713-529-3000 (Office)  
985-727-6720 (Office LA)  
web: [www.geopursuit.com](http://www.geopursuit.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Larry Galloway**  
2895 Hwy 190, Suite 227  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
(504) 452-4350

November 19, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

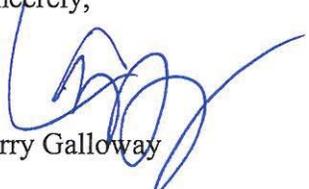
RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Sent via email at [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask you to consider Helis' track record as you make a determination on whether to grant them a drilling permit for their proposed well in St. Tammany Parish. Helis has a longstanding commitment to safety relative to both the environment and people. Their record of utilizing technologically advanced systems that reflect the highest industry standards puts them above and beyond in terms of legal and regulatory requirements on every well. Opponents of the project do not dispute this because they cannot. This proposed well will of course employ SEMS, as Helis used SEMS long before it became mandatory. They will employ three frack casings - more than are required. They will not take water from the aquifer and will dispose of waste in strict accordance with regulatory requirements. Their employees and contractors are fully trained in safety of both themselves and the environment, and every person on site has full "stop work" authority should they deem a situation to be unsafe. Helis has worked with The OBrien's Group - the world's best crisis response company - for decades and would have the benefit of their expertise in the highly unlikely event of an incident related to this well. This partnership is indicative of Helis' commitment to working with local companies. The obvious and considerable economic benefits to the Parish go far beyond the taxes generated because local companies and individuals will benefit directly. Granting Helis a permit for this well would let St. Tammany Parish set the bar for future exploration and create an atmosphere of safety and prosperity that is only possible with such a responsible operator.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Galloway

**From:** courtney@jonesfussell.com on behalf of awb@jonesfussell.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:37 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** awb@jonesfussell.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Engineering Docket No. 14-626 (Helis Oil Application)

***RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 – Request for Hearing and Public Comment Period on Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent, et al, No. 1 Well***

As I reflected on the very negative public reaction to Helis' proposed drilling project and the permit that they are requesting from the Department of Conservation, it occurred to me that the Parish of St. Tammany and its people (of whom I am one) are being misled by a small but very vocal and persuasive group, many of whom are outsiders. After speaking with friends in the oil and gas industry, I believe that the real issue is the inevitability of future interest in this area by companies large and small. The inevitability is that the Department of Conservation will see many more requests for drilling permits in St. Tammany Parish. So the question becomes: why would St. Tammany Parish not want to set the bar as high as possible with a company like Helis that has committed to the highest bar possible and done so proactively? Helis has worked with the Parish on every issue that might be of concern relative to this project: air, water, noise, and traffic, and Helis has been transparent at every step. My own view is that by granting this permit, the Department of Conservation would be sending a message to supporters and detractors alike that the bar is being set high for St. Tammany Parish and its prosperous future.

I fully support the issuance of the permits requested by Helis for the proposed drilling project.

Sincerely,

Wayne Buras

A. Wayne Buras | Jones Fussell, LLP | P.O. Box 1810, Covington, LA 70434 | p: 985-892-4801 | f: 985-892-3147 | [awb@jonesfussell.com](mailto:awb@jonesfussell.com) |

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Kevin Drews [soundlodge@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:34 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well  
**Attachments:** FRACKING LETTER.docx

Please add the attachment to the record of public comment. Submitted 11/19 at 2:35 p.m.

November 19, 2014

## **Regarding: Presentations/Exhibits and other materials related to Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil and Gas Permit Application and Public Hearing**

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Thank you for accepting my letter. My personal opinion is that I strongly prefer Helis – nor any other company eager to employ the fracturing method – ***never*** be granted a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), please. While the scientific data and popular consensus is that the actual physical process of drilling into the ground and extracting oil using the fracking method can be safe, there are many other practical considerations that are incumbent on your department and others to consider.

I have been intimately involved in the debate collecting data and public opinion since July. I have attended town hall meetings, parish council meetings, and various hearings, including last week's important hearing at Lakeshore High School. From that data collected I inherently understand fracking to be a net negative when considering the environmental impacts and its affects on the natural resources of water, soil, and air. Of course I understand that there is this need for cheap, dirty, non-sustainable energy too. So the debate lies in the details of where it is appropriate to frack and where it should not be allowed.

As the Department of Natural Resources, the following are concerns of mine and others and seem they could be subject to your jurisdiction and consideration. According to your own Office of Conservation, your other declared responsibilities are “to *protect public safety* and the *environment* from oilfield waste, including regulation of underground injection and *disposal practices*.” Due to the aforementioned charge the DNR should ***deny*** the permit for the following reasons:

- The sole-source aquifer is too precious a commodity to risk in any way, no matter what guarantees (although never committing to a legally enforceable document) Helis gives.
- The actual chemicals involved in the drilling and the subsequent construction of the casing. The chemicals will be entering the aquifer during the drilling process. The casing was never guaranteed by Helis to be capable of withstanding the particular geologic makeup of our wetlands and the well-documented potential for surface breakage and spills.
- The small levee Helis intends to build around the perimeter of the potential site may not handle the large downpours of rain during particular months throughout the year, rendering the cesspools of chemical water stored in the middle of these wetlands possible of drainage into the general water cycle.
- The unnamed and largely unaccountable amounts of water they will be sucking out of the sole-source aquifer. Helis representatives never explained or promised anything regarding all of the sources of water they would be obtaining for their operation.
- The trucking of the toxic chemicals across a densely populated parish and the real risk of spill near schools, hospitals, elderly homes, or farmland.
- A proliferation of industrial clear-cutting forever altering the landscape of St. Tammany's natural resources. This would also come at a price to various sectors of our local economy.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

I urge you to **deny** this request. I understand the concepts of free market and private property. However, I am concerned that in St. Tammany Parish – a population of almost 240,000 people – fracking and the industrialization that it brings will have dire consequences to the beauty and bounty of our natural resources like fresh water, soil, and air. Only few people stand to gain economically from this endeavor while hundreds of thousands will have nothing but poisoned water to show for it. Finally, the fact that the landowners, Helis, and the DNR can effectively change the zoning of this particular tract of land simply for the profit of a few sets a dangerous precedent in St. Tammany that seeks to avoid a similar fate already well-established around the state and other parts of the country being – profits for the few over the good will and tranquility of the people. To allow this **without a VOTE** is **UNDEMOCRATIC**. The logical conclusion for this debate is to **deny** the permit to allow for a democratic vote to be taken by the people of St. Tammany to allow our citizens to determine our own particular destiny regarding the poisoning of our water. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Charles Drews, B.A. History  
15407 Tchefuncte Dr.  
Covington, LA 70433

The Office of Conservation will continue to accept comments until Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. Comments can be sent via fax to 225.242.3428; via email to [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov); or by mail to Office of Conservation, Engineering Division, P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, La. 70804. Comments should reference Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**From:** Darryl Malek-Wiley [darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:17 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent Well No. 1 Docket #14-626  
**Attachments:** Comments of Darryl Malek-Wiley--Sierra Club--Eads Poitevent Well No 1 Docket number 14-626..pdf

Dear Mr. Courreges,

Find attached my comments on the Eads Poitevent Well No. 1 Docket #14-626.

Please inform me as to actions taken by your office on this permit.

Yours truly,

Darryl Malek-Wiley

--

Darryl Malek-Wiley  
Sierra Club  
Senior Organizing Representative  
Environmental Justice and  
Community Partnership Program

716 Adams Street  
New Orleans, LA 70118

504-861-4835 office  
504-427-1885 cell

***Represented by John Muir Local 100***

[darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org](mailto:darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org)

***Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand; it never has and it never will.***

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Frederick Douglass**



**Comments of Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club, Senior Organizing Representative, Environmental Justice and Community Partnership Program 12 Nov 2014 at LA Department of Natural Resources on the proposes Helios Oil operations**

**Eads Poitevent Well No. 1**

**Docket #14-626.**

Darryl Malek-Wiley

618 Adams St. New Orleans, LA 70118

504-427-1885 [darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org](mailto:darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org)

Let me be very clear here at the beginning of my statement the Sierra Club is 100% opposed to the granting of this permit from LA DNR to Helios Oil for oil drilling. We will take all legal means at our disposal to stop this proposed permit.

We believe that the DNR is currently unfit and unable to fulfill its Constitutional duties to the People of Louisiana. Due to its long documented history of bias in favor of the Oil and Gas Industries vs the people of Louisiana.

Article I. Declarations of Rights of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution:

***“Section 1. All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded on their will alone, and is instituted to protect the rights of the individual and for the good of the whole. Its only legitimate ends are to secure justice for all, preserve peace, protect the rights, and promote the happiness and general welfare of the people.*** (emphasis added) The rights enumerated in this Article are inalienable by the state and shall be preserved inviolate by the state.”<sup>i</sup>

Furthermore in the 1974 Louisiana Constitution Article IX:

***“Section 1. The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.”***<sup>ii</sup>

It is the constitutional duty of the LA DNR to protect the Natural Resources of the state ***“including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be***

***protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. (emphasis added)***” It is duty is not to ensure that Oil and Gas companies are able to run ruff shod over the will of the people of Louisiana but to protect our Louisiana environment.

In additional to DNR’s duty to follow the Louisiana Constitution it must also follow case law in Louisiana especially “Save Ourselves Inc. V. Louisiana Environmental Control Commission”<sup>iii</sup> Which in the recent ruling by Judge Keith J. Comeaux, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge in the case “Save Lake Peigneur, Inc. ET AL VS. Docket NO. 122358 Secretary, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.”<sup>iv</sup>

Where Judge Comeaux in his ruling stated “However, the Louisiana Supreme Court in Save Ourselves, Inc. et al. vs. Louisiana Environmental Control Commission, 452 So.2d 1152, (La. S.Ct. 1984) makes it clear when an environmental impact analysis must be done. The Court stated that an agency is required before granting approval of proposed action affecting the environment, to determine that adverse environmental impacts have been minimized or avoided ns much as possible consistent with the public welfare. Id. at 1157. ***Therefore, the key issue is not which office should handle which part of the analysis but instead whether that analysis had been completed before granting the coastal use permit which proposed action would affect the environment. (emphasis added)***”<sup>v</sup>

Therefore the Sierra Club believes that no permit can be issues until such time at the LA DNR has completed an “IT Analysis” on this proposed Helios Oil Permit.

Moving on to other issues related to the DNR’s and its operation on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 The Louisiana Legislative Auditor released a report “Regulations of Oil and Gas Well and management of orphaned well: Office of Conservation – Department of Natural Resources”<sup>vi</sup> I would like the full Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s report included in the public record of this hearing.

Here are some of the findings:

1. *“Overall, we found that OC (Office of Conservation added by DM-W) has not always effectively regulated oil and gas wells to ensure operators comply with regulations. Specifically, OC’s current regulations, unlike other states, do not require that all operators provide financial security. In addition, OC’s financial security amounts, when required, are not sufficient to cover the cost to plug all wells. OC also does not sufficiently monitor wells to determine if they are in compliance with regulations and does not always take enforcement action when it identifies noncompliance. As a result, operators are not always maintaining their wells in compliance with regulations and these wells may ultimately be orphaned. In addition, we determined that the state currently has a significant population of inactive wells potentially at risk of becoming orphaned.”*<sup>vii</sup>
2. *“OC has not developed an effective enforcement process that sufficiently and consistently addresses noncompliance and deters operators from committing subsequent violations. Specifically,*

- a. *OC did not consistently or timely address violations cited on inspections. Of the 7,665 routine inspections that failed from fiscal years 2008 to 2013, 1,179 (15%) did not receive a compliance order to correct the violation. According to OC, some of the violations cited on these inspections were not major and did not warrant a compliance order. In other cases, OC said that compliance orders were issued but none of these orders were in SONRIS.*
  - b. *From fiscal years 2008 to 2013, OC did not conduct re-inspections on 1,116 (16%) of 6,827 wells with compliance orders to ensure that operators corrected violations.”<sup>viii</sup>*
- 3. *OC did not inspect at least 26,828 (53%) of 50,960 oil and gas wells in accordance with timeframes established by the commissioner and 12,702 (25%) were not inspected at all during this timeframe.***
- a. *OC Conservation Enforcement Specialists (CESs) in the three district offices conduct routine inspections of oil and gas wells to ensure they are operating in compliance with regulations outlined in Title 43 Section 29B of the Louisiana Administrative Code. Routine inspections also help OC identify inactive (non-producing) and abandoned wells.*
  - b. *OC’s inspection goal, as outlined in a memorandum from the Commissioner to district offices on May 15, 2007, is to inspect all wells at least once every three years. According to this memo, this goal was established after legislative debates regarding allegations that OC had been lax in its enforcement of regulations by “allowing illegal discharges to continue for extended periods of time causing serious environmental damages to surrounding property.” In response to these allegations, the legislature approved additional funding and positions for OC based on its commitment to develop an inspection strategy of inspecting every existing well on a three-year rotation.*
  - c. *In fiscal year 2008, OC obtained additional funding to add 11 CES positions, increasing its total from 31 to 42 positions, or a 35% increase. However, according to DNR, only eight of those 11 positions were filled prior to a hiring freeze during fiscal year 2008 and two of the remaining three positions were eliminated in fiscal year 2009 because of mid-year budget adjustments. Therefore, according to OC, it never received the additional three positions needed to meet the three-year inspection cycle.*
  - d. *We found that OC did not inspect at least 26,828 (53%) wells every three years in accordance with timeframes established by the commissioner and 12,702 (25%) of these wells were not inspected at all during that timeframe. The Monroe and Shreveport districts had the highest percentages of wells that were not inspected every three years as shown in Exhibit 5.<sup>ix</sup>*

So why is the LA DNR issuing more permits when they are not following their duties under the Louisiana Constitution and the IT Decision to protect “natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people.”<sup>x</sup>

Moving on to an additional factor that the DNR should include in any analysis and action to permit new oil and/or gas fracking well is the concern about “Health and Public Safety.”

A recent report October 2014: **Warning Signs: Toxic Air Pollution Identified at Oil and Gas Sites**,

“Provides results from community air monitoring in those states near oil and gas development sites, including where hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” activities or waste disposal are taking place. Results show a wide range of hazardous chemicals are present in the air at levels above federal health and safety standards. In some cases, monitors revealed concentrations of hazardous chemicals high enough to pose an immediate health threat to people.”<sup>xi</sup>

The full report is located at <http://comingcleaninc.org/assets/media/images/Reports/cc-rpt-fracking%2010.14.pdf> and I would like to request that the report in its entirety be added to the public record of this meeting.

Additional this new report **Air concentrations of volatile compounds near oil and gas production: a community-based exploratory study** authored by Gregg P Macey, Ruth Breech, Mark Chernaik, Caroline Cox, Denny Larson, Deb Thomas and David O Carpenter <sup>xii</sup> I would like to request that the report in its entirety be added to the public record of this meeting.

Their results are: “Results: Levels of eight volatile chemicals exceeded federal guidelines under several operational circumstances. Benzene, formaldehyde, and hydrogen sulfide were the most common compounds to exceed acute and other health-based risk levels.”<sup>xiii</sup>

With their conclusions: “Air concentrations of potentially dangerous compounds and chemical mixtures are frequently present near oil and gas production sites. Community-based research can provide an important supplement to state air quality monitoring programs.”<sup>xiv</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Article I. Declarations of Rights of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution:  
<http://senate.legis.state.la.us/documents/constitution/article1.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> Article IX: Natural Resources of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution:  
<http://senate.legis.state.la.us/documents/constitution/article9.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Environmental Control Commission  
No. 83-C-1480 (452 So. 2d 1152, 20 ERC 2214) (La. May 14, 1984) <http://elr.info/sites/default/files/litigation/14.20790.htm>

<sup>iv</sup> Save Lake Peigneur, Inc, et al v Secretary, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources SEPTEMBER 29, 2014: 16th Judicial District Court, State of Louisiana, United States of America: Docket No. 122358 Date of judgment: 23 September 2014 <http://cer.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/9-23-14-Reason-for-Judgment.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> Ibid page 4

<sup>vi</sup> REGULATION OF OIL AND GAS WELLS AND MANAGEMENT OF ORPHANED WELLS OFFICE OF CONSERVATION - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>

<sup>vii</sup> Ibid page 6

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid page 7

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid page 9

<sup>x</sup> Article IX: Natural Resources of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution:  
<http://senate.legis.state.la.us/documents/constitution/article9.htm>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://comingcleaninc.org/whats-new/warning-signs>

<sup>xii</sup> Environmental Health <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/13/1/82> with the full report at <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/pdf/1476-069X-13-82.pdf>

<sup>xiii</sup> Ibid page 1 in Abstract

<sup>xiv</sup> Ibid page 1 in Abstract

**From:** Ammerman, John [John.Ammerman@iberiabank.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:16 PM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil

To whom it may concern;

It occurs to me that the positives of approving the Helis application outweigh the negatives, given the company's track record of safety and performance. I am in favor of the location because it is so far from anything really, in the middle of nowhere. A better site for this could not be chosen in St Tammany Parish. I believe that we are being misled by a very vocal and persuasive group, who are organized on social media and who I believe that many of their members are outsiders. They are in the vast minority of our population. I am a 19 year resident of St Tammany Parish, and feel that economic development and jobs, far outweigh the risks of this drilling project. 95% of the people I speak with who are informed, agree with me. It seems that Helis has worked with the Parish on every issue of concern on this project, and has been very transparent during this process. Granting this permit would send a message to Helis and other companies, that we have very high expectations regarding our safety and our environment. Please do your job and grant this application.

John L. Ammerman  
SVP Business Banker/Private Banking/Commercial  
850 N. Causeway Blvd.  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
John.Ammerman@IBERIABANK.com  
985-674-8261 NMLS# 787007



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Thank You.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Suzanne Cohen (via Google Docs) [suz123sc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 1:43 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** office of conservation  
**Attachments:** Untitled document.pdf

Suzanne Cohen has attached the following document:



Untitled document



re: docket no 14-626

please read attachment  
thank you for your time and consideration

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

ref: Engineering Docket No.14-626  
Lacombe Bayou Field

11/19/2014

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you today to ask you to refuse Helis Oil's request for a permit to drill in St Tammany Parish. I am a citizen of St Tammany Parish I live there and work there. I have invested my time into this community like everyone else that lives here. I believe that the introduction of a well would have many negative effects on our health and safety here.

We have all heard stories about what has happened in other communities where Hydraulic Fracturing has taken place. We have heard of spoiled, polluted air and water. We have heard of sick children and an increase in cancer throughout the region.

I have read on the front page of the website for Louisiana Office of Conservation that part of your office's responsibility is to "protect public safety and the environment from oilfield waste including regulation of underground injection and disposal practices" I am asking you to please deny Helis's permit at this time and leave the oil in the ground until the industry can improve on the safety of Humans and the environment. So that the oil will be there to be used on a later date without the unnecessary disruption to our fragile environment and our lives here in St Tammany Parish.

Thank you for this comment period, I hope you will consider our concerns  
Suzanne Cohen

**From:** William Dossett [dossettlaw@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 1:22 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: engineering docket 14-626

Dear sir,

As a property owner in St Tammany parish, I'm am writing to express my full support for the issuance of the drilling permit for the Eads Poitevant et al. number one well. The successful completion of this well would bring great economic benefits for all the citizens of this parish.

Sincerely Yours,  
William K Dossett  
Anita Springs, La.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Michele Sharp [michele.sharp@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:52 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626 Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today as a resident of St. Tammany Parish to express my opinion regarding the permit that is being requested by Helis. I strongly disapprove of Fracking being done in St. Tammany Parish. As it stands, the home charter does not have any language in it that approves Fracking or Drilling for gas. To side step this and approve the permit would be an ethical and legal mistake. Also, the area where Helis wishes to do Fracking is near a high school and an area that supplies water to a majority of the parish. I believe this is irresponsible and hazardous and could potentially cause a disaster to our parish. I am asking you to look at the area that Helis wants to use to for fracking. This area is close to the interstate, a highway, homes, a school, and an aquifer. This is clearly NOT a safe or logical area for fracking to be done. Some may say the chances of fracking causing harm to the people or environment of St. Tammany are very slim. I say that if the chance is more than 0%, then that is too much of a risk for any of us to take. I've always been told there are only two reasons why someone can sleep good at night after making an important decision: Either their conscience is clear because they made the right one OR They have no conscience. Please make the right decision.

Thank you,

Michele Lappin  
St. Tammany Parish Resident  
Former English Teacher

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Sam Poitevent [sampoitevent@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:47 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

To Whom it May Concern,

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always "go the extra mile" to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

**Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US' reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur,

would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically from Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see

<http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

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[1] <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

**From:** Ben Tiller [BTiller@thebergerco.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:22 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am an interested citizen and land owner in St. Tammany Parish and am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.

**I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application as Helis' well is in the public interest and will benefit the State of Louisiana and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish and will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin B. Tiller

100 Conti Steet  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Office: (504)586-7410  
Cell: (504)579-3250

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** John Schneider [crowhunter@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:01 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Hellis Well

As a fellow landowner and tax payer in St. Tammany Parish, I whole heartedly endorse the application for the drilling permit on the Poitevent tract in St. Tammany. There have been far too many myths and untruths spread about drilling for oil with modern precautions and regulations. There has never been a documented case of fracking causing water well contamination in the entire country to date. The DNR is fully capable of regulating and monitoring oil drilling activities and St. Tammany can surely use the jobs and economic improvement that comes with successful drilling. Please do not let the uninformed naysayers destroy this opportunity.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider

**From:** Betsy Rinehart [betsyprinehart@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:47 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, complete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPsbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SE S") for its operations in the Parish. That SE S means for Helis St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St. Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at

the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis well will be 1,800 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis well is placed on production by that time; the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/17/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St Tamman Parish Will Benefit Economically from Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance

tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Loren Scott entitled “The Energy Sector Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy” His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 70,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans.

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth P. Rinehart

**From:** Roger Linder [rogerl@linderoil.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:26 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a resident and have a business in St. Tammany Parish. By this email, I wish to inform you that I am in full support of the issuance by the Department of Conversation a drilling permit for the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 to Helis located in St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you,

Roger D. Linder

**From:** jandbettymiceli@charter.net

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:52 AM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Patrick Courreges DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

### **Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.**

I am a 20+ year resident of St. Tammany parish, settling in Quail Creek subdivision and raising my kids. They attend Lakeshore High School and my house is probably a little over a mile from the drilling site. We chose to live here because it is a family community and pay very high property taxes which fund the best school district in the state. THAT IS WHY WE LIVE HERE.

Our home rule charter states that the citizens have the right to determine zoning requirements. The parish master plan & re-zoning does NOT ALLOW FRACKING. This site is zoned residential.

Relaters are already stating that our property values will plummet 30%. I paid off my \$220k house & will lose \$66,000.00 dollars.

The chemicals heavy metal pollutants are odorless, colorless, & tasteless. Some can not be detected at all. Helis has not disclosed what they will pump into the well. It will penetrate our sole source of drinking water!!!

What about the unexpected? Namely, an explosion, fire, toxic gas release. You have 1000 kids at the high school barely a mile away and 20,000 residents living in a 5 mile radius. Does this sound rational?

All we have from Helis is promises, not backed by the power of law. They haven't even put their proposal into a legally binding document. Fracking brings to my beautiful neighborhood heavy equipment traffic on an already overburdened highway, the prospect of car accidents with high school teenage drivers with water/tanker trucks, noise-air-light-water pollution, severe loss of property values, higher incidents of cancer, Parkinson, & death rates, increased taxes to improve fire department training & equipment, earthquakes as reported today in a Kansas oil field that was fracked. It goes on and on.....

I saw an economic evaluation that estimates the value of St. Tammany parish at \$20 billion dollars. Let require Helis put up a security bond for that amount in the event of real threat of poisoning our sole source aquifer and rendering the parish unusable. But, not all the money in the world will bring back our dead spouses and children. Sounds incredible? Remember that this

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

is the industry that brought us the Deep Water Horizon disaster.... which was in the Gulf, and not literally in our back yards!

Really, this is a no-brainer!!! When you consider this permit, think about if you lived in my house, and **□□□E N□ □□ □E□□□ Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.**

Sincerely,

□hn S. □iceli III

Betty E. □iceli

Katie L. □iceli

Nicholas □ □iceli

**From:** John Rice [brtmarine@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:47 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et. al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** Helis Permitting.docx

--

John Rice  
Byrne, Rice & Turner, Inc.  
jrice@BRTMarine.com  
[www.BRTMarine.com](http://www.BRTMarine.com)  
800-725-3787  
Fax# 504-525-6303

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**John B. Rice  
1172 Camp St.  
New Orleans, La. 70130  
504-421-8339**

**Date:11/19/14**

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

I am the president of a marine supply company in New Orleans. We have been serving the marine industry for two generations over a 67 year period. Our family has owned property in St. Tammany parish for over 100 years. The property is located along River Road and Hosmer Mill Road close to the Abbey. The Bogue Falaya river runs through the property. We believe in being good stewards of the land and would not want to see anything that would harm St. Tammany. We strongly believe that the issuance of the drilling permit to Helis Oil and Gas will not be harmful to the parish and that it actually would be very beneficial for economic growth.

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## **THE US SHALE REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS**

A short five years ago, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional gas production declined in the United States, it seemed that this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta.

The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States, where producers have taken advantage of two newly viable technologies to unlock resources once deemed commercially infeasible: horizontal drilling, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations.

The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between 2007 and 2012,

U.S. shale gas production rose by over 50 percent each year, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from five percent to 9 percent. Terminals once intended to bring foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG) to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to export U.S. LNG abroad. Between 2007 and 2012, fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which grew by 50 percent between 2008 and 2012. Thanks to these developments, the U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.

The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has wide-reaching geopolitical consequences. Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers have wielded for decades. Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain.

The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since 1971, when U.S. oil production peaked, energy has been construed as a strategic liability for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad. But that logic has been upended, and the newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled "Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution", which I ask be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

## **THE TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE IN LOUISIANA**

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) is a sedimentary rock formation that consists of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin (Volume 7) of the LSU-Basin Research Institute (BRI) Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?fuseAction=files.view&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf67ce4fb80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?fuseAction=files.view&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf67ce4fb80f)

TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Florida Parishes in southeastern Louisiana—which includes St. Tammany Parish-- within an approximate depth range of 11,000 feet to the north to more than 15,000 feet to the south. It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit form your office.

The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons [oil and gas] originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock [TMS] which is now being explored for oil and [or li]uid hydrocarbons with advanced [horizontal]drilling and completion [hydraulic fracturing, called fracking]

## **THE US SHALE REVOLUTION'S IMPLICATIONS FOR ST. TAMMANY**

The highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott just completed a very significant economic report on the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

It is the engine that makes the difference. For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana.

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following very significant economic benefits flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

- Louisiana is the nation's **number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas** among the 50 states.
- Louisiana ranks **number two among the states in petroleum refining** capacity.
- Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry **supported \$73.8 billion in sales in Louisiana firms, generated over \$20.5 billion in household earnings for Louisianans, and supported 287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.**
- The [20.5 billion in earnings represented 11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/uscaloosa/20Marine/20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?nid=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

- On average **the job multiplier for these three industries was 4.4**. That is, for every job created in these sectors 4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state. The job multiplier for the oil and gas extraction industry is about 6 and for the very capital-intensive refinery industry it is about 9.0.
- Louisiana's energy industry directly paid **nearly \$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees** in FY2010 or about 14.6 % of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected.
- Through the \$20.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an additional \$1,488,000,000 in taxes, **for a total boost to the state treasury of \$2.9 billion**.
- A very conservative estimate is that Louisiana's energy industry directly paid **\$410 million in ad valorem taxes to local governments** in the state in 2010--a 7.5% increase over 2009. In 40% of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 22 parishes the number exceeded \$5 million.

It is important to note that that the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

It is also important to note that all of the following regional business groups representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

## **OBJECTIONS TO HELIS' PERMIT ARE UNFOUNDED**

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface  
**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues [principally related to zoning] are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Ramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Ramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, 4.05 [B] [M]

Louisiana law provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 10:28 [B] [Emphasis Added.]

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 97 F.3d 297 [5th Cir. 2005]; 467 F.3d 471 [5th Cir. 2006]

The State of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also

deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I strongly urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Rice

**From:** Lem Sanders [lemsanders@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**CC:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Thank you,

Lem Sanders

**From:** Edward F. LeBreton, III [lebreton@frfirm.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:18 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al. No. 1 Well

I am a resident of Louisiana and write in support of the drilling application.

The concerns about fracing and horizontal drilling are exaggerated. Many wells in Louisiana have been safely drilled this way – even in the same water aquifer.

Local disruption will be no more than any other construction project, and the state clearly has the authority to proceed. Indeed, one reason for state regulation of mineral development is so that decisions are made by experienced regulators on a rationale and informed basis.

An objective analysis will show that the application should be approved.

Edward F. LeBreton, III  
[lebreton@frfirm.com](mailto:lebreton@frfirm.com)  
Cell 504 458 7293  
3219 Chestnut St.  
New Orleans, La 70115

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** jstarks100 [jstarks100@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:55 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I am writing in full support of the prompt issuance by the Department of Conservation of the Drilling Permit to commence drilling of the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well located in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Sincerely,

Jackie D. Starks, Jr.  
21 Sydney Court  
Covington, LA 70433

**From:** C B STARKS [colleenstarks711@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:50 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I am writing in full support of the prompt issuance by the Department of Conservation of the Drilling Permit to commence drilling of the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well located in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Sincerely,

Colleen B Starks  
21 Sydney Court  
Covington, LA 70433

**From:** Hy McEnery [hymcenery@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:48 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Public Hearing for Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** Fracking Letter to LA COC in SUPPORT of HELIS & POITEVENT # 1 Well in ST TAMMANY Engineering Docket No. 14-626. Due 19 Nov 2014.docx

Bonjour Mr. James Welsh,

Please see the attached letter in favor of Helis for the Poitevent well, as I strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626, and respectfully submits that it be forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in this letter which I hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Thanks and God bless,

**Chaplain Hy McEnery**

CH Henry Alfred McEnery III

**LAMB Ministries Inc** [www.lambnola.com](http://www.lambnola.com) **Isaiah 40:31** "...with wings as eagles;"

**"An Inner City Formula with an Inner City Focus for Inner City Folks"**

5127 Laurel St, New Orleans, LA, 70115, USA, 504-269-5002 ☐504-72☐  
9☐69 Cell

[hymcenery@hotmail.com](mailto:hymcenery@hotmail.com) [libbamcenery@yahoo.com](mailto:libbamcenery@yahoo.com)

"Except ye... become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 18:3** "Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear." **Mark Twain** "For **God so LOVED** the world,

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



**Mr Henry Alfred McEnery III**  
5127 Laurel St  
New Orleans LA 70115, USA  
(504) 269-5002 (504) 723-9369 cell (504) 269 5309 Fax  
[henrycener@hotmail.com](mailto:henrycener@hotmail.com)

October 14, 2014

Via email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation, Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
1000 Poydras Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am a land owner and past resident of St. Tammany Parish, and I am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of **Helis Oil & Gas, LLC** for the drilling of the proposed **Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.**

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the **public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.**

**As a lifelong (63 years) land owner, past resident (28 years), ordained minister by Collins Blvd Baptist Church in St Tammany parish, I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

Before I tell you why I support the permit being issued, I want to remind you that last week was **Veterans' Day**, a day when we honor the brave men and women of this country who have fought and sacrificed for us all. **I am a veteran**, and served in the **Gulf War** and **twice in Afghanistan with U.S. Army Special Forces**, and I was attached to the **Marine Corps as a counter insurgency advisor** on my last tour in **2010. As a lessor, investor, and past employee on offshore work over rigs and as a military man**, there are more than a few similarities between **my experience in the oil and gas industry and the military. A brotherhood develops** between guys in the field, mostly because you're watching each other's backs on the job. There's also **patriotism in the oilfield**, unlike any other industry, probably because of all the vets that work with us. As a **vet and a denizen of the oil patch**, it's a great honor to know that I've had the good fortune of being part of both groups. This current oil play in St Tammany will bring many **new jobs** for our greater NOLA area of which **returning vets** are in great need! Returning vets at no fault of their own add new burdens to our currently failing job markets. New petro jobs will certainly help our AO with this **well regulated, safe, and clean industry.** Helis has even set records

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

concerning this. Please see below for the stats on this page.

## My Reasons for Supporting the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish

### The U.S. Shale Revolution and its Implications for America

**A short five years ago**, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional **gas production declined in the United States**, it seemed that **this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports**. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. **Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East**, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta. **The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States**, where producers have taken advantage of **two newly viable technologies** to unlock resources once deemed commercially non-feasible—**horizontal drilling**, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and **hydraulic fracturing**, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations. The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between **2009 and 2012, U.S. shale gas production rose by over 10 percent each year**, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from **1 percent to 11 percent**. Terminals once intended to bring **foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG)** to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to **export U.S. LNG abroad**. Between 2009 and 2012, **fracking also generated an 11-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone** that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which **grew by 10 percent between 2009 and 2012**. Thanks to these developments, the **U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower**. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and **by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia** as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required **more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers** with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by **thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company**. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an **industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.** The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has **wide-reaching geopolitical consequences**. **Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets**. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby **diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers** have wielded for decades. **Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out**, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain. The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. **Ever since 1971, when U.S. oil production peaked**, energy has been construed as a **strategic liability** for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes **necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad**. But **that logic has been upended**, and the **newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world**.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the **U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled "The Energy Transition: A New Era"**

Mr. Moran's hereby certificate which I ask be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

### The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in Louisiana

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (MS) is a **sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region** approximately 100 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 2008 Bulletin Volume 10 of the LSU Basin Research Institute (BRI) Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 1 billion barrels of oil in the TMS.<sup>1</sup> Its thickness varies from 100 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 1000 feet in the southern part of the Iberia Parishes in southeastern Louisiana which includes St. Tammany Parish within an approximate depth range of **11,000 feet to the north to more than 10,000 feet to the south**. It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit from your office. The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons (oil and gas) originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock (MS) which is now being explored for oil and natural gas hydrocarbons with advanced horizontal drilling and completion (hydraulic fracturing, called fracking)<sup>2</sup>

### The U.S. State Certificate's Implications for St. Tammany

The highly respected **LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott** just completed a very significant economic report on the **huge economic benefits** that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled **The Energy Certificate Grant Program in the State of Louisiana** lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>3</sup> Ask that Dr. Scott's be **filed into the record** of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

**It is the engine that makes the difference.** For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The **energy industry**, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a **powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana.**

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following **very significant economic benefits** flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

**Louisiana is the nation's number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas among the 50 states.**

Louisiana ranks **number two among the states in petroleum refining capacity.**

Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry supported **100 billion in sales** in Louisiana firms, generated over **20 billion in household earnings** for Louisianans, and supported **20,000 jobs in the state in 2011.**

<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/Tuscaloosa%20Marine%20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

The **20.6 billion in earnings** represented **11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana**. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level. On average the **job multiplier** for the petroleum industry in Louisiana was **4.4** that is, for every job created in these sectors **4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state**. Louisiana's energy industry directly paid nearly **1.1 billion in state taxes and fees** in 2014, or about 11% of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected. Through the 11.6 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an **additional 1,400,000,000 in taxes**, for a total boost to the **state treasury of 2.6 billion**. A very conservative estimate is that **Louisiana's energy industry directly paid 410 million in ad valorem taxes** to local governments in the state in 2014, a **200% increase over 2008**. In 20 of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded 100 million. In 10 parishes the number exceeded 200 million.

It is important to note that that the **Northshore Business Council** representing **60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore** region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the **West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce**, which represents **1,000 members and their 10,000 employees**, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. It is also important to note that all of the **following regional business groups** representing **hundreds of thousands of jobs** in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Thibodaux Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

Once **Helis is granted the drilling permit**, I am confident that similar **benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish**.

**Helis' Outstanding Safety and Ecology Track Record**

In the past, **Helis has drilled any well similar to the one it proposes to drill**, and these types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. Helis has an outstanding record of more than **10 years of safe and efficient operations** and extensive operations on **private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters**. Also, Helis has years of experience **drilling in sensitive environments**, such as wildlife and always has the highest regard for its surroundings. Well in advance of being required to do so for its offshore

<sup>5</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

operations, Helis voluntarily implemented the now mandatory **Safety and Environmental Management System** called **SEMS** for **all** of its operations offshore and onshore. That **SEMS** means for Helis' **SEMS**. **SEMS** many well is this

**Full-time, experienced safety inspectors** on drilling and completion operations **Every employee** and contractor on Helis locations is **properly trained and given full safety briefings**, and every Helis employee and contractor can **stop work on any operation** if he or she deems it unsafe.

Helis has received the following **commendations** for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells

**Federal offshore regulators** have nominated Helis for the **Outstanding Offshore Operator** for its safety and environmental performance record.

The **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality** commended Helis' work for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, recognizing that Helis **went above and beyond** in its efforts.

**The US Coast Guard has commended Helis** for its **environmental protection efforts**. Helis also has received **numerous awards for safety awards from the Louisiana Offshore Compensation Corporation.**

### Objections to Helis' Permit are Unfounded

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues principally related to zoning are relatively simple and easily disposed of, as follows

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does **not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity** in a community. **Such activity is temporary in nature** and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is **unfair and unjust to deny a person's reasonable use of her property or prohibit a valuable business activity** simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a **terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.**

**Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1960** when use was first made of the **Robertson** **perforated**, which was **widely employed** in the **early days** of the industry. **Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1940** and **hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated** with this process being employed. **Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured** have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have **dramatically expanded domestic production** of oil and natural gas, **diminished the reliance on foreign sources** of supply and **enhanced American security**. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from **bonuses, royalties and severance tax**. Critics can point to **no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.**

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)

Concerning the **law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling**, in the highly regarded publication **Oil and Unitization Treatise**, **Lessors' Rights** and **Drilling and Production**, **Fraser** survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude **that Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation** in the **United States**. **Fraser** and **Martin**, *Drilling and Production*, 1998, 2001.

**Louisiana law** clearly provides as follows:

The **issuance of a permit** by the commissioner of conservation shall be **sufficient authorization** to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and **to drill** in search of minerals thereon. **No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well** or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 103:1001 (emphasis added).

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be **followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government**, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025. The **State of Louisiana** has wisely entrusted a **central agency** of the state for the **protection of the public interest**. That office, the **Louisiana Office of Conservation**, has an **exemplary record of safeguarding the public** while overseeing the **orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana**. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to **relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests** or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also **deny to owners of oil and gas rights**, such as **Helis' lessors and hundreds and thousands of other Louisianans**, the **right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands**.

### **Helis Will Drill and Produce its Well in an Environmentally Safe Way**

Objections to Helis' application based on water pollution are also utterly unfounded for the following reasons:

Helis will also employ **an extra string of casing** so that the aquifer will be protected by **three concentric strings of casing** (one more than the required two strings of casing) along with **three layers of cement**. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5sbrCk>

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately **12,000 feet**. As the **Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 4,000 feet**, Helis' well will be **4,000 feet below the aquifer**, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Thousands of wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, fracking projects through this same aquifer are already taking place in neighboring **Tangipahoa Parish**. There are literally **thousands of fracked wells** in **Louisiana** (about two thousand seven hundred in the Haynesville Shale area in North Louisiana and some thirty five in Tangipahoa Parish and other areas near to St. Tammany. See <http://videos.loga.la/home>. According to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials in those areas, there are **no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana**. If the issue is **protecting the aquifers**, then it is just **too late**, as we are **completely surrounded by hundreds of fracked wells** and so **where is the pollution**?

**Several peer-reviewed scientific studies** have that concluded that **fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers**. See, for example, the report in the *Proceedings* of the **National Academy of Sciences** at [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/16/science/study-points-to-](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/16/science/study-points-to)

[well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/). In some areas outside of Louisiana there are **very rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers** can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented. In areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to oil and gas operations, naturally occurring **shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers**. There are **no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Parish**, as evidenced by **electric logs run in wells previously drilled** in St Tammany and by the fact that **no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water**. However, **thousands of potable water wells** out west and **around the world** and many **sacred pristine springs** a flame rises up in the middle of the bubbling spring have gas from low lying pockets of gas in the aquifers! Also, let's not forget the **vulcanization of aquifers** under **volcanic high pressure toxic steam** that pump tens of thousands of some of the **most poisonous chemicals** into those very **fresh water** sources like Yellowstone's old faithful among others is one, and if that giant caldera ever blows, it will more than prove global warming to be the ridiculous joke that it is! If you stand near and downwind to these noxious chemical clouds, you die, and we have these **volcanic eruptions often every year** with the one in **Iceland in 2008** pumping more pollution into the ground and upper atmosphere than **all of the pollution produced by the human race over the past 100 years** Every year **every just one** of these volcanic eruption produces more pollution than all of the cars and factories do over the same entire year. You know, **after that's said but not to worry, as Mother Nature has repeatedly says these earthquakes have been at it a very high rate**

A study by the **University of Colorado at Boulder** published recently in the respected journal **Analytical Chemistry** of components found in fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas **contains chemicals found in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste**. Though the fluid is mostly water and sand, many critics of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, say chemicals added to the fluid contaminate groundwater. The new study suggests that additives found in one component, **surfactants** (soap) which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted, are no more toxic than other common household items like bleach. University researchers collected samples from fracking fluid surfactants in five states Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Texas. Other chemicals used are commonly found in **hair color, I fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners**.

The **potential for the casing to leak** has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills Aquifer. Here, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by **three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement**, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and **no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer**.

**Earthquakes** caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is **no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel**. While this may have

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and also see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

occurred near a few waste water disposal wells, Helis has stated that wastewater from the operation of its well will not be disposed of in St Tammany. And, even if it were, the **geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Parish is different from the geology in the areas where the few earthquakes have occurred**, as those that have taken place have occurred in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress stored energy along the fault. **No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow tertiary sediments in Louisiana** underlying the well site because the **unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.**

Much has been made by opponents of Helis' well about the **Southern Hills Aquifer** being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Parish, and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm it. This argument has two major problems—first, the **Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes.** This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for thousands of people while at the same time **over 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 10 years, with no resulting contamination;** secondly, the Southern Hills Aquifer may not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a subsurface fresh water zone made up of **10-15 separate fresh water sands.** These sands are **separated by impermeable shales** and are therefore **isolated from each other.** This fact makes it **all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole.** Fracking is also not new to this area of Louisiana. Major fracking operations are safely taking place **less than 40 miles away** through the **same aquifer in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish** without any incident at all. Fracking operations will begin soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany Parish.

**I am quite familiar** and have been familiar for over two years with Helis Oil Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. In fact, I have known and been friends with the **Poitevents** for over 30 years. I know both to be **wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.** In fact the **Poitevent family were early Acadian settlers** arriving in St Tammany Parish in a covered wagon **some 200 years ago.**

For all of the **many solid reasons** set forth in this letter and as the Bible tells us that **God will bless us with oil riches** out of the ground when I washed my steps with butter, and **the rock poured me out rivers of oil** Job 28 and Jacob made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields and he made him to **suck** honey out of the rock, and **oil out of the flinty rock** Deuteronomy 32, **sweet crude out of M Shale** I strongly reiterate my personal support of Helis' operation as Helis' well is in the **public interest**, and it will **benefit the State of Louisiana** and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish. It will not harm the air, the water, or quality of living of St. Tammany Parish. Take a look at **New Iberia, LA surrounded by oil wells** for decades. It was just voted the **best overall place for quality of living in America**

To repeat, this landowner strongly supports the state's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in **Engineering Docket No. 14-626**, and respectfully submits that it be forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in this letter which I hereby **submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.**

Thanks and God bless,

**Chaplain Hy McEnery**

c Henry Alfred McEnery III

AM Ministries Inc [www.lambnola.com](http://www.lambnola.com) Isaiah 40:31 with wings as eagles

“An Inner City Formula with an Inner City Focus for Inner City Folks”

Laurel St, New Orleans, LA, SA, cell

[hymcenery@hotmail.com](mailto:hymcenery@hotmail.com) [libbamcenery@yahoo.com](mailto:libbamcenery@yahoo.com)

And ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3 Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

Mark 16:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten SON, that whosoever believeth in Him shall NOT PERISH, but have EVERLASTING LIFE!! John 3:16



Semper Fidelis

Depresso Liber

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**From:** Julie Poitevent [jpoitevent@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:04 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, complete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPsbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection,

traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

**Fracking in Louisiana: A Safe and Effective Process that Protects the Environment and the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the U.S.’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer, the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis’ well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis’ well will be 1,800 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to

fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/16/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

### The Louisiana State Comm'n on the Energy Economic Impact of Helis' Success

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp->

[content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf](#). While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans

- ☐ Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- ☐ Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- ☐ Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- ☐ Jefferson Business Council
- ☐ Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- ☐ New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- ☐ River Region Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- ☐ St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- ☐ Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- ☐ Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- ☐ Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also

weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia B. Poitevent

**From:** Trevor Theunissen [ttheunissen@coatsrose.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:26 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen of the State of Louisiana and wish to see uniformity in the application of the issuance of drilling permits.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Overseas Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 22 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPSbrCqk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System called "SESS" for its operations in the Parish. That SESS means for Helis St. Tammany any well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis’ Success**

Drilling has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana’s economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott entitled “The Energy Sector Still a Viable Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy” this report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 62 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council’s endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]



higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

██

This e-mail and/or attachment is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

**From:** H Elder Brown Jr [ebrown@fidelismarine.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:23 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**CC:** Elder Brown

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I would like to take the opportunity to write to you concerning the captioned Drilling Permit Application in St. Tammany Parish

I am sixty one years old, married with three grown children. My family has lived in this Parish for close to 100 years. We have built businesses, employed hundreds of our fellow citizens here, raised our families here, worshipped and educated our children here, buried family members here and have been a positive influence and contributed to the welfare of our community here continuously throughout the last century. We love St. Tammany, its people and the life we have and will live here for many years to come. Ironically, much of what we enjoy in this and neighboring Parishes are as a direct result of Louisiana's strong oil and gas economy.

I have studied, as a layman, the issue at hand carefully and believe the practices and procedures being used in today's oil and gas exploration on land, especially "fracking" to be safe. I have read that there are over 1,000 wells already drilled in the very aquifer that those few who are opposed to drilling the well that a permit is being sought. I am unaware of a single instance where any of the previously drilled wells have contaminated or polluted any of our aquifers. My family drinks from the very aquifer that this small unruly minority are voicing their opposition. They are not the only people who drink from St. Tammany's water wells. I suspect many of the "few" do not even live in the Parish and perhaps not even in the State of Louisiana.

I also want to make sure that my land owner rights are not taken away from me via those who would, without question, like to steal from my family those land owner's rights which are guaranteed to us via the State's Constitution. I am vehemently opposed to those who would use any means and methods to take those rights from me on the local and State levels where the law is so clearly in the exclusive hands from the State level - not the local level.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

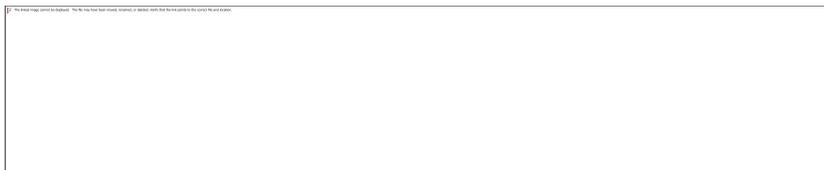
The economic benefit to “all” of St. Tammany’s citizens should oil and gas be found in this Parish will be enormous and will only ensure a much better life style for all future generations. This is not limited to just land owners but to everyone who considers St. Tammany their home as my family has for so many years.

I respectfully ask that the State of Louisiana grant the permit that is being sought for by the Helis Corporation and which is overseen at the State level exclusively. I am disappointed at the lack of leadership that our local Parish leaders have displayed in this regard and the waste of the Parish tax dollars being spent in the frivolous politically driven patronizing lawsuit which, is not representative of the majority of this Parish’s residents but more for the vocal, rude and incredibly unruly minority who are against most any positive growth opportunities for our area. Some people simply want to oppose anything and everything and in the process, greatly diminish the opportunity for the majority of those who have worked so hard to make St. Tammany home.

Please do not allow these few naysayers to be seen as representative of the majority in this Parish and whose sole purpose is to diminish the value that I and many others have worked so hard to build for our families and colleagues in my Parish. Finally, I would not react to those who attended to the recent meeting held last week in my Parish. They do not speak for the majority. Not every person in this Parish will take the time that I have taken to write to you but I can most assuredly tell you that their silence is not to be mistaken for opposition. People are simply too busy to write and most sane people would not attend meetings such as last week’s where they were mocked and treated so inconsiderately.

Respectfully,

H. Elder Brown, Jr.  
22496 Elderberry Lane  
Bush, LA. 70431



**From:** H Elder Brown Jr [hebrownjr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** H Elder Brown Jr  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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Respectfully,

H. Elder Brown, Jr.  
22496 Elderberry Lane  
Bush, LA. 70431

**From:** Jan Jumonville [jjjumonville@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:34 PM  
**To:** Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV; jim.welch@la.gov; Jeff Wells; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Emailing: 11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf. Jan Jumonville, Covington, LA  
**Attachments:** 11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

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*Jan P. Jumonville*

*Attorney at Law & Notary  
24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, Louisiana 70435  
Email: [jjjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)  
Office/Fax (985) 892-8191*

**PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS EMAIL AND WERE ABLE TO OPEN THE ATTACHED FILE(S).**

November 18, 2014

Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)  
Mr. Patrick Courreges and  
Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)  
Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh, Courreges and Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, this message is sent with the following file attachments:

11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Thank you for your service and protection of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj

*Jan P. Jumonville*

24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, LA 70435

Telephone (985) 892-8191  
Email: [jjjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)

November 18, 2014

**Email:** [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email:** [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Email:** [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Engineering - Regulatory Division

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh, Courreges and Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I emailed to you a letter dated 10/25/2014 and attended the Public hearing on 11/12/2014 at Lakeshore High School.

Please note my presence at the Public meeting on 11/12/2014, my letter dated 10/25/2014 and this letter dated 11/18/2014 as opposition by me, my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al's well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications. Please make my letters a matter of public record as relates to this matter.

I received a copy of a very compelling letter dated 11/15/2014 by Cynthia Brooking sent to you. In furtherance of and adopting Ms. Brooking's letter, I request you deny Helis' drilling for these additional reasons:

First and foremost, you should rule, morally and legally, for the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish's right to health, safety, and welfare under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish's Home Rule Charter, all of which support our right to deny Helis' drilling permit.

1. GRANTING HELIS A PERMIT TO DRILL AND FRACK WILL DESTROY OUR WETLANDS.

During the Public hearing on 11/12/2014, as part of the hearing, Adam T. (Ted) Bourgoyne, Jr., Ph.D. P.E., 1969, Professor Emeritus of Petroleum Engineering, Louisiana State University and Vice-President, Bourgoyne Enterprises Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana stated,

**Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)**

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

Page 2 of 5

**Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)**

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

"The Economic impact COULD be considerable".

We urge you to focus on and give every consideration against granting Helis a permit to drill where Helis will destroy our wetlands and wildlife.

2. GRANTING HELIS THIS PERMIT WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

Using a conservative estimate of 2,500 trucks per drilled well to carry equipment and supplies to and from the well site. Granting Helis this permit will generate more applications for additional wells from Helis and many more oil companies. Just examine Texas. You would be opening the floodgates to an estimates 6,000 wells in St Tammany Parish would require more than 15 million more 18 wheelers on our roads in St. Tammany Parish.

That's a tremendous increase in traffic congestion, which our every day traffic can not handle. Going to and from work has already caused terrible delays and the increase in the risk of traffic accidents, injuries and death.

In particular, consider the risk of our children and teachers at Lakeshore High School. Drilling across from Lakeshore High School would generate two thousand five hundred(2,500) 18 wheelers on the same parish road upon which our teachers and high school students travel and drive twice a day. Traffic congestion increases the potential for accident by or including 18 wheelers, loaded with numerous toxic chemicals.

Those 2,500 trucks driving to and from the well site across the street will be bringing these chemicals to the site, and removing the frack water which has been polluted with these chemicals. Any kind of leak, traffic accident, or intentional spill of any of these compounds will be hazardous to these children at Lakeshore High School.

Who is most effected by such accidents? Not Helis, the benefactor of these 18 wheelers, but our children, their families, the Lakeshore High School, residents in the area and all citizens who use the parish roads by these 18 wheelers!

3. FRACKING RESULTS IN TOXIC AIR POLLUTION.

Emissions from diesel-fueled engines are composed of thousands of substances including more than 40 air toxins that are known or suspected carcinogens. Diesel, a dirty fuel, is heavier and oilier than gasoline. Diesel exhaust is a complex mixture of carbon, ash, and sulfate particulates, and hydrocarbons. In addition, the engine produces nitrous oxide (NOx) a precursor of smog. One heavy-duty diesel truck can produce as much air pollution as 150 passenger cars.

**Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)**

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

Page 3 of 5

**Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)**

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Increasing evidence links exposures to these substances with lung cancer, upper respiratory illness, allergies, asthma attacks, and death from heart and respiratory disorders. In fact, recent EPA data indicate that diesel exhaust is likely the main air pollutant contributing to cancer risk in Oregon. On road emissions are particularly dangerous for those who share the road. When cars follow diesel trucks or buses, the levels of soot INSIDE those cars are 6 to 8 times higher than the ambient air outside those cars.

Using figures from a study on diesel pollution in Oregon, 2,500 trucks, needed for Helis' ONE well, going up and down the highway right outside Lakeshore High School will result in the Lakeshore High students, teachers and all school personnel breathing:

1,240,000 lbs Volatile Organic Compounds  
2,717,500 lbs Carbon Monoxide  
32,500 lbs Particulate Matter  
139,645,000 lbs Carbon Dioxide  
3,225,000 lbs Nitrogen Oxides

This is an unacceptable level of toxic air and pollution. When those figures are multiplied by a potential 6,000 wells, our air quality will be heavily toxic and polluted in St Tammany Parish.

#### 4. CLEAN WATER and TOXIC WASTE:

In order to frack, Helis will use a at least two and a half million (2,500,000) gallons of water per well. With a potential of six thousand (6,000) wells, fifteen BILLION(15,000,000,000) gallons of water will be forever full of toxic chemical, lost forever to our eco-system.

Our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded:

"More than one billion people - one in five people- on this planet we live on, lacks access to safe drinking water.

By the year 2050, 40 percent of the world will suffer water shortages.

Less than 3% of the world's water supply is fresh water and much of that is inaccessible." <http://www.savewateramerica.com/index.htm>.

Our State of Louisiana government is giving our water away to hydraulic fracturing projects - even from our scenic rivers! We have already given away 105 million gallons, with more permits pending. In Baton Rouge, our State Capital, major industries are using aquifer water to the tune of millions of gallons per day, when the Mississippi River is right there.

Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

Page 4 of 5

Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Is this moral and ethical for our State governing bodies to allow our waters to be given away to when it forever removes our water from the eco-system? Oil companies should and can afford to pay for what they take from Louisiana. The real issue here is even more important:

Louisiana should not sell its Citizens' water! We ALL own that water. We ALL need water to survive and it is your soleum duty to protect All of us from the loss of our waters.

5. CHEMICAL USED IN FRACKING ARE TOXIC TO HUMANS.

Between 2005 and 2009 the most widely used chemical in hydraulic fracturing, as measured by the number of compounds containing the chemical, was methanol which was used in 342 hydraulic fracturing products. Methanol is a hazardous air pollutant on the candidate list for potential regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Some of the other most widely used chemicals are isopropyl alcohol (used in 274 products), 2-butoxyethanol (used in 126 products), and ethylene glycol (used in 119 products).

Between 2005 and 2009, the oil and gas service companies used hydraulic fracturing products containing 29 chemicals. These 29 chemicals were components of more than 650 different products used in hydraulic fracturing that are:

- (1) known or possible human carcinogens,
- (2) regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for their risks to human health, or
- (3) listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Fracking itself will release compounds into the air such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and n-hexane; long term exposure to these has been linked to birth defects, neurological problems, blood disorders and cancer.

6. ST. TAMMANY PARISH WILL NOT PROSPER FROM FRACKING.

Louisiana has a severance tax exemption on minerals extracted using directional drilling for 2 years or until the cost of drilling the well is recovered, whichever comes first. After these exemptions are exhausted, the oil company can drill another well and restart the process of another severance tax exemption.

7. OUR STATE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MONITORING OF DRILLING OPERATIONS TO PROTECT US.

The Office of Conservation has also been unable to develop an effective enforcement process to address non-compliance. The State Department of Natural Resources' Office of

**Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)**

Mr. Patrick Courreges and

**Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

November 18, 2014

Page 5 of 5

**Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)**

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells

Conservation does not have adequate funds to properly regulate and inspect the state's oil and gas wells, and to properly overseeing a growing number of "orphaned" wells abandoned by private operators, (Legislative Audit June 2014). The Office of Conservation was unable to inspect at least 53% of the 50,960 oil and gas wells in the state at least once every three years between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2013, as required by department rules. That resulted in more than 12,700 wells not being inspected at all during that time.

Add this to the many exemptions for hydraulic fracturing under United States Federal law: the oil and gas industries are exempt or excluded from several of the major federal environmental laws. These laws range from protecting clean water and air, to preventing the release of toxic substances and chemicals into the environment:

- the Clean Air Act,
- the Clean Water Act,
- the Safe Drinking Water Act,
- the National Environmental Policy Act,
- the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,
- the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and
- the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act(Superfund).

We have valid concerns for our health, safety and welfare and you should NOT grant this drilling permit or any other drilling permit using hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany Parish.

Thank you for your service and protection of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Daniel Henry; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Tom Himes; Gordon Cain; David Kerstein <dkerstein@helisoil.com>; Virginia Miller; greg Beuerman (gbeuerman@e-bmf.com); Donna Roebke; Robin M. Rockwell \*\*\* Rockwell Properties & Technologies; Mike Barham (mbarham@helisoil.com); Charlotte Batson  
**Subject:** Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** 11-18-14 Ltr to LOC re Helis permit.pdf

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I represent P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C. (collectively, the "Landowners"). Together, the Landowners own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit as noted in the captioned Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully submit that it be issued forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in the attached letter which they hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

This email, including attachments, contains information that is confidential and may be protected by the attorney-client or other privileges. The entire communication constitutes non-public information intended to be conveyed

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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**IRS Circular 230 Notice:**

To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

EDWARD B. POITEVENT, A PLC

One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
(504) 648-4109

[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Via email to [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Re: Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This firm represents P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C., (collectively, the "Landowners"), which together own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands they have leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance forthwith of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully for the following reasons:

## **Helis Has An Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of outstanding safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest oil and gas industry standards and legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including the following:

- (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record;
- (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; and
- (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has drilled and fracked some 60 wells similar to the one it proposes to drill here and has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.<sup>1</sup>

## **Helis' Operations Will Be Conducted in a Safe and Environmentally Sound Manner**

Helis has publicly committed that its drilling and fracking operations in St. Tammany Parish will be conducted in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office and Helis' outstanding track record, prove that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and

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<sup>1</sup>See the detailed information on Helis' website for its well and its You Tube video at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

production operation by Helis.<sup>2</sup>

One significant way in which Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is its agreement to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis’ St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a significant additional sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, as noted on its website and You Tube video referenced in footnotes 1 and 2, Helis has agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. This means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections.

Thus, Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Helis has carefully designed its wellsite in an environmentally sound and secure way, with the following features being prominently used to assure that this happens<sup>3</sup>:

1. Helis’ well pad and access road improvements consists of a total of 3.21 acres, yet only 2.81 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. Access road improvements and the construction of a guard shack will result in only an additional 0.32 acre of wetland impacts for a total of only 3.13 acres of wetlands to be directly impacted by Helis’ well, which is a very minimal impact.
2. Helis’ wellsite plans have incorporated a ditch and ring levee abutting and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

<sup>3</sup> For items 1-9 below, see the Joint Public Notice of the New Orleans District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (the “Corps”) for Helis’ wetlands application number MVN-2013-02952-ETT.

circumventing the drill pad and would be contiguous with a planned 125 ft. elevated entrance driveway. Its drill pad surface has been designed with sloping features to drain stormwater to a 2,500 sq. ft. drainage sump within the drill site and abutting the perimeter ditch. Its design is for the purpose of managing stormwater runoff within the drill pad site for containment, use and proper disposal.

3. The water Helis will use for its vertical well operation will be obtained from private ponds, not from groundwater sources in St. Tammany Parish (the Southern Hills Aquifer).
4. Helis' drill rig deck design incorporates a basement/sump underneath the rig to capture drill deck drainage for collection, transport and proper offsite disposal.
5. Helis will install "sentinel wells" up-gradient and down-gradient of its well site to assess and monitor water quality of the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of its well site.
6. Helis will compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts by purchasing the appropriate credits from a mitigation bank approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps").
7. There are no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near Helis' proposed wellsite, or any presently known archeological, scientific, prehistoric, historical sites or data.
8. There are no species or designated critical habitat, listed by the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), which may be directly affected by the proposed activity. Its initial finding was that the proposed work would neither affect any ESA listed species nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species.
9. On July 29, 2014, a geological review meeting ("GR") coordinated by the Corps and facilitated by the Louisiana Geological Survey was held to discuss geological aspects associated with Helis' permit application. The GR was attended by the applicant and their consultants along with other state and federal resource agencies

representatives. The focus of discussion was on the viability of the proposed location as a production site for fossil fuels to be extracted from the Tuscaloosa Shale Play. Upon reviewing the information presented by Helis, the consulting geologist at the GR recommended that a single exploratory well be constructed for the purpose of obtaining more data to better assess the site's viability as an oil and gas production site. The Corps concurred with that recommendation.

Helis' proposed location is approximately 12 miles from the nearest structure, and over 2 miles from the nearest subdivision. Therefore, its work acres will have no impact whatsoever on the residents of St. Tammany Parish. The surface area of the wellsite is uninhabited pine-savannah acreage and the only use thus far has been as a pine tree farm under a long term (90 year) timber lease to a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Corporation. If its well is successful, Helis will drill multiple horizontal wells from one surface location. Therefore, even after full development of this vital resource with multiple well pads, impacts on the surface will be negligible.<sup>4</sup>

### **Helis' Fracking Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US' reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas,

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<sup>4</sup> While St Tammany Parish zoned the Landowners' lands for future uses several years ago, as of today no such development exists on the surface of the property and any future development other than agricultural and oil and gas is many years away as the current timber lease on the land expires in 2043. Agriculture and mineral development is therefore most appropriate use at this time.

Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have also provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues through bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

There is no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, the Landowners are convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Many of Helis' opponents have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides St. Tammany its drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it is curious that these same opponents ignore the fact that over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the Southern Hills Aquifer over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination. They also ignore the fact that there are many thousands of water wells in St. Tammany that were drilled using many of the same substances that Helis will use in its operations and that these water wells are completely unregulated.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate its borehole from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if any ever occur, will occur many years after Helis' well is placed on production. However, by that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer were to occur, water would flow into the production tubing above the oil, and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, again, no credible evidence exists that their use will harm the Southern Hills Aquifer. In fact, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics

and household cleaners.<sup>5</sup>

### The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success

Production of oil and gas is vital to the economic health of our state and nation. From a national perspective, continued production of shale oil and gas will power a US manufacturing renaissance, fill state and local tax coffers, and power the creation of another 1,000,000 jobs in the US over the next decade, over and above the 9.2 million jobs the US energy industry already has created. See <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>. This report dramatically notes the following:

- The US tracking industry supported 2.1 million jobs in 2012, in every state and will support 3.9 million by 2025.
- In 2012, energy from fracking and related chemical activity contributed almost \$284 billion to GDP while abundant, affordable energy from shale has helped fuel a U.S. manufacturing resurgence.
- For U.S. households, the energy surge made possible by tracking has produced household savings through lower natural gas prices estimated at \$1,200 per US household in 2012.<sup>6</sup>

In Louisiana, fracking has provided numerous jobs and greatly aided its economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically

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<sup>5</sup>See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

<sup>6</sup> Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and President Obama's former White House Chief of Staff, said recently "Cheap energy-the revolution that's going on in America's heartland on energy-is making sure that America now has a manufacturing renaissance." <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>

shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry.

<http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>.

Significantly and specifically, it cannot be ignored that the Northshore Business Council--representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region--strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

In addition, all of the following regional business groups--representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area--also strongly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>7</sup>

If successful, the oil and gas development will generate significant tax revenue and jobs for St. Tammany Parish. Specifically, if full development occurs, severance taxes, ad valorem taxes, and sales taxes will generate tens, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind--business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

for St. Tammany Parish. It will also generate significant income for St. Tammany Parish residents in bonus and royalties from the oil and gas development. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, it is crystal clear that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit and successfully drills and fracks its proposed well, similar benefits will undoubtedly come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

### **THE OPPONENTS' LEGAL OBJECTIONS ARE UTTERLY INCORRECT**

Objections to Helis' application are utterly unfounded in Louisiana law. These objections pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of for the reasons noted below.

The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as the Landowners and thousands of St. Tammany Parish residents, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

Specifically, Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient

authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed strictly to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

Finally, any road use and noise from Helis' drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in St. Tammany. Significantly, all road use by Helis will either be on the federal interstate highway system (I-12) or on State highway 1088, and no parish roads will be used. Moreover, drilling activity is temporary in nature and will be mitigated by Helis and by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It would be grossly unfair and unjust to deny the Landowners and Helis their lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of temporary and minor annoyance or inconvenience to a few in St. Tammany and it would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of property based on such utterly insignificant reasons.

For all of these reasons, the drilling permit application submitted to your office by Helis as captioned should be granted without delay as issuance of the permit is clearly in the public interest of the citizens and State of Louisiana, and particularly the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish (due to, among others, the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other

local governmental agencies), and Helis' operations will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. B. Poitevent, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Edward B. Poitevent, II

Attorney for P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C.,  
PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C.

**From:** Cathey Casey [c\_larryc@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** LDNREngDocket 14-626 CaseyLetter.docx

Please enter the attached letter into the subject docket. Please email confirmation of receipt.

Thanks in advance,  
Catherine Casey  
Lawrence J. Casey III

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Catherine and Lawrence J. Casey  
77104 Highway 1082  
Covington, LA 70435

November 18, 2014

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P O Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-626

To Whom It May Concern:

We reside in Covington, Louisiana, Saint Tammany Parish. We are writing to demand that you deny Helis Oil application to drill a hydraulic fracturing well in Saint Tammany Parish. The facts justify our requests:

- **Saint Tammany Parish zoning laws prohibit such activities.**
- **Saint Tammany Parish pine forests have significant economic value and result in an air quality superior to that of surrounding areas.**
- **The Southern Hills Aquifer is a sole source aquifer.**
- **Oil, gas and toxic liquids CAN migrate upward to the aquifer and the surface, contrary to some so-called expert testimony. The fact that natural seeps occur demonstrates this.**
- **The process of fracking has been scientifically linked to earthquakes.**
- **Fracking disposal wells have been directly linked to earthquakes.**
- **Caddo Parish Louisiana - fracking accidents in 2009-2010 polluted the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, forced the evacuation of over 135 residences, and killed 17 cattle.**
- **The current fracking process which includes high volume pumping, directional drilling, multiple wells on one pad, and hazardous chemicals added to water was only begun in the first decade of the twenty-first century, and not +60 years ago, as some so-called experts have publicly stated. It is still evolving and cannot be made FAILSAFE.**
- **The states of Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming have all concluded that earthquakes and fracking are related. Some studies are complete and demonstrate the positive correlation, while other studies are in process.**
- **Multiple public periodicals and news organizations have concluded earthquakes and fracking are directly related: *Seismological Research Letters, National Geographic, Science, and Bloomberg News*, to name a few.**
- **The U.S. Geological Survey concludes, "... that there are good examples where it is clear that if you turn off a fracking well, the earthquakes stop...it is a strong correlation."**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Why is LDNR not conducting studies on fracking? Why would LDNR disregard the scientific/factual conclusions about fracking and earthquakes, and even consider granting fracking permits at this time?

LDNR's mission reads:

**The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.**

As Louisiana citizens, we expect LDNR to fulfill its mission by recognizing our right to determine that fracking can harm our forests, water, air, and soil. That means fracking can harm us.

We believe it is important in considering our written request, that it be noted one of us has worked in the oil and gas industry for thirty years and is familiar with drilling, production, air/water/waste issues, hazardous materials transportation, pipelines, emergency plans, accident reporting, etc. Thus, we are informed and knowingly request denial of Helis Oil's permit application.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Catherine Casey' and the second is 'Lawrence J. Casey III'. Both are written in black ink.

Catherine Casey

Lawrence J Casey III

**From:** Phyllis Nowak [phyllisnowak@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:58 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** 'Thomas Nowak'  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well  
**Attachments:** November 18 Anti Fracking Letter.docx

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please submit the attached letter to the Office of Conservation, Engineering Division, for consideration at their meeting of Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevant et al No. 1 well hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colonel Thomas Nowak, USAF Retired, and Phyllis Nowak

Colonel Thomas Nowak and Ms. Phyllis Nowak  
2106 Olvey Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70448

November 18, 2014

Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**REF: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well**

Dear Reviewing Committee:

We are writing to you in reference to the aforementioned docket number in order to express that both of us are 100% against the issuance of a permit to allow hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a. “fracking”) in St. Tammany Parish. We live about three miles from the proposed test well and are residents in St. Tammany in our home of 21 years. Thomas is a retired career Air Force officer who served 23 years of active duty in service to our country and who then taught in public schools as an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor for an additional 21 years, thus having worn his U.S. Air Force uniform for a total of 44 years. Phyllis is a retired non-profit organization administrator who worked with the Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany for sixteen years to provide assistance for at-risk children, youth and their families. We are actively engaged as volunteers in work toward the betterment of our community.

We purchased our home 21 years ago after Thomas’ retirement from the Air Force and our home is now paid in full. Within the first few years of our living here, we decided to make St. Tammany our permanent home (we are native Texans) due to St. Tammany’s beauty, high quality of life, and abundance of lush vegetation and wildlife. We are avid gardeners and fishermen and enjoy our pleasant, peaceful life in St. Tammany.

As a result of Helis Oil’s April 2014 announcement of its intent to apply for a permit to do oil and gas exploration in our area, we began to search for information about other American communities that have experienced the impact and effects of fracking. The results of our research are disturbing. As you are probably aware, several U.S. communities, as well as other countries (France and Germany), have passed laws to prevent fracking due to concern for their environment and water supply. We love our home and the community of St. Tammany Parish and we believe than any amount of oil or gas that might be extracted from beneath our aquifer would come at too high a price for our community – including pollution of our sole pure water source, a compromise of our geographical stability, a huge increase in vehicular traffic on

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Highway 1088 and Interstate Highway 12, and greatly increased noise and air pollution of the area. The fine quality of life in St. Tammany would be severely damaged should the drilling be implemented. Loss of property values for those of us living within a ten mile radius from the drilling site would be assured according to research reported by three different St. Tammany Parish realtors. area's Consequently, we are compelled to request that you deny Helis Oil's permit for fracking so that our beautiful corner of the world will be preserved in its pristine condition for us, our children, grandchildren and other future citizens of St. Tammany.

Most Sincerely,

Colonel Thomas Nowak

Phyllis Nowak

U.S.A.F, Retired

**From:** Stacey Martinez [smartinez@steeglaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Stacey Martinez  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

As a resident of Jefferson Parish, I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyprotect.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPSbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis in St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

What means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

\_\_\_\_\_

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas--diminished the US reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer-- the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St. Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 1,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis' well will be 800 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac50216k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/11/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

Helis' Success

### Helis' Success

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector Still a Giant Economic

Engine for the Louisiana Economy”. His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis’ well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis’ well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis’ plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council’s endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis’ drilling permit and plans:

- ☐ Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- ☐ Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- ☐ Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- ☐ Jefferson Business Council
- ☐ Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- ☐ New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- ☐ River Region Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- ☐ St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- ☐ Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- ☐ Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- ☐ Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Zimmer Martinez

425 Cousins Boulevard

Marrero, Louisiana 70072

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**From:** Brin Veenhof [brinveenhof@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:23 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:**

PLEASE STOP FRACKING IN ST. TAMMY PARISH.

Sincerely, a Canadian citizen who supports the Ian Somerhalder Foundation.

**From:** Giulia Varmi [giulia.tvd95@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:**

NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH

Inviato da iPhone

**From:** thisistrue1111@yahoo.co.jp  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:51 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:**

Hello. My name is Emi.

I read this.

@CCSTPorg: Today is the last day to email the Dept. Of Natural Resources to them to deny fracking in St. Tammany. please email

I will help you if you need.

For example, donate...or something.

Let's spread and share this world.

**From:** Jennifer E Natal De La Guardia [jennifer.natal1@upr.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:12 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:**

Please do not destroy a natural ecosystem as St. Tammany by fracking. Nature is what keeps us sane.

**From:** Andreyamar Nuñez' [andrey-ale@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:30 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** !!!!!

NO FRACKING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

☒☒☒ : Kristen Stanley [kristenstanley@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:27 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Ban Fracking Please

Mr. Welsh,

Please ban fracking in St. Tammany Parish. We cannot risk our sole aquifer being contaminated with toxic fracking chemicals. Hydraulic Fracturing to date has lead to contaminated water supplies, poisoned environments and toxic air quality for workers and surrounding people due to silicosis. Osha just released a Hazard alert about silicosis and how the workers are in danger. The wetlands will be destroyed in the area, the amount of water needed to frack will not be good for us. There are "fraccidents" documented all across the United States and those are the one's that are documented, there are many that are not reported. Our parish can't drink money and it is not worth it.

The citizens are counting on you to do the right thing and not just stop Helis Oil but to ban fracking from our parish. Please do the right thing and deny Helis the permit to frack our parish and anyone else who wants to.

My mother and I attended the public hearing and we hope that you ban fracking for the citizens here and the future generations.

Sincerely,

Kristen Stanley LMT #4288

**From:** Rita McDonald [rvmdonald@icloud.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 8:18 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** BANNING IN ST. TAMMANY

**An upstate New York town** is fighting to preserve its way of life in a lawsuit pitting a small town's rights against an out-of-state oil and gas company's wishes.

More than a hundred towns in New York have enacted local bans or moratoriums on gas drilling, including the controversial process known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," in which drillers blast millions of gallons of chemically treated water into the ground to extract gas from hard-to-reach deposits deep in the earth.

Among those municipalities is the Town of Dryden—which is now being sued.

In September of 2011, the privately-held Anschutz Exploration Corporation, owned by Forbes-ranked Phillip Anshutz (net worth: \$7.5 billion), sued the Town of Dryden (population: 14,500) in a bid to force the town to accept industrial gas drilling—including fracking—within town limits.

The company brought its lawsuit after the Dryden Town Board approved a change in its zoning ordinance, clarifying that oil and gas development activities, including fracking, were "prohibited uses" of land within the town. The Dryden Town Board's unanimous, bipartisan vote followed a petition drive and a series of public hearings, in which residents spoke out 3-to-1 in favor of the change.

**This is how it all started.** The Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (DRAC) was created in the spring of 2009 by Dryden residents concerned about the possible upcoming consequences that the hydraulic fracturing of gas wells drilled into the Marcellus Shale may bring not only to their own neighborhoods, but also to the state and region.

In 2010, DRAC members began collecting petition signatures from their fellow residents to ask the Town Board to develop an industrial noise ordinance and to make a firm statement against gas drilling. The journey to the successful passage of the ordinance involved the entire community, through information sessions, a listening project, collaborations with neighboring communities, and much more. DRAC members took their concerns and requests for protective action to the Dryden Town Board, using their citizens' privilege time at the beginning of each meeting. They attended each monthly meeting, reiterating their concerns and reporting on progress to the Dryden Town Board and Town Supervisor.

**Fracking requires a heavy industrial buildup**, complete with giant well pads containing multiple wells, miles of trucks rumbling down gravel roads, and noisy equipment that runs all night. Fracking sites, which are significant sources of volatile organic compounds, also taint local air quality by increasing ozone levels.

And then there's the issue of water. Each fracking job requires millions of gallons of water laced with sand and toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and hydrochloric acid. Some of the chemicals in fracking fluids are known carcinogens and the health effects of many additives are not fully understood, in large part because industry officials have refused to disclose precisely what they are using.

**"The people of Dryden** want to preserve the special character of our town and make sure it continues to be a healthy community for generations to come," said Dryden Town Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner.

"The oil and gas industry may wish it were otherwise, but municipalities have the right to determine what types of development are appropriate within their borders. We are firmly committed to defending that right."

**A New York State Supreme Court** ruled in favor of Dryden in February of 2012. The case was then heard by an appellate court—though with a change in plaintiff. Norse Energy, the U.S. subsidiary of a Norwegian oil and gas company, has replaced

Anschutz Exploration in the litigation—Norse then filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings the following month.

In May 2013, a four-judge intermediate appellate court ruled unanimously in favor of the Town of Dryden, its second court victory against the fossil fuel industry.

Earthjustice and the Town of Dryden now are engaged in a third round of litigation, as the case is now in New York's highest court. Norse is liquidating its assets, and the bankruptcy Trustee is pursuing the final appeal.

The case is being watched closely as towns in other states like Colorado and Ohio pass fracking bans of their own and are threatened with lawsuits by the oil and gas industry. A victory in New York could provide encouragement and hope to communities around the country.

**"The people of Dryden stood up** to defend their way of life against the oil and gas industry. And, against stiff odds, they won," said Deborah Goldberg, managing attorney of Earthjustice's Northeast regional office and an expert on the environmental impacts of industrial gas development.

"The [lower court] ruling makes clear that local officials have the right to decide what industrial activities are appropriate within their communities."

"The Town of Dryden has a very strong case," said Deborah. "Two courts have ruled that localities retain their longstanding power to regulate land use, including by prohibiting industrial activities such as gas development in their communities. We'll do everything we can to ensure this victory stands." ([Read how Dryden later won its fight, in New York's highest court.](#)) 

**From:** John Dale "Zach" Lea [jdzlea@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Patrick Courreges; johnnyadams@la.gov; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** Comments on Helis St Tammany Permit Application JDZ Lea.docx

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh,

The attached document is my comment for the public record relating to the Helis permit application for drilling/fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

John Dale "Zach" Lea, Ph.D.  
Agricultural Economist  
826 Old Landing Rd  
Covington, LA 70433  
Phone 985-871-9407  
Email [jdzlea@hotmail.com](mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,  
Please confirm that this email and attachments will be entered into the public record as a comment on the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, drilling permit application for drilling in St. Tammany Parish, (Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.)

I am requesting that the Department of Natural Resources not issue this permit because the drilling is a test to determine the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” to extract oil and/or gas from St. Tammany Parish and I am opposed to the use of fracking in St. Tammany Parish because:

- Fracking in St. Tammany Parish would violate my property rights as expressed in the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article 1, Section 4.b. where the Constitution states: “Property shall not be taken or damaged by the state or its political subdivisions except for public purposes and with just compensation paid to the owner or into court for his benefit.”
- Fracking would violate my rights to a healthy natural environment as guaranteed by Article IX, Section 1 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, to wit: “The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.”

Please consider:

1. That the operational definition of fracking should include all activities associated with the process and not simply the hydraulic fracturing process taking place thousands of feet underground. Fracking should include the vertical well and well casing, any drilling activity at ground level, any transfer, holding, and disposal of fracking chemicals and waste fracking water, any emission of gases, truck traffic, noise, increased policing costs, etc.
2. That issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of fracking in areas of St. Tammany Parish not zoned for fracking violates Article VI, Section 6 of the Louisiana State Constitution which states: “The legislature shall enact no law the effect of which changes or affects the structure and organization or the particular distribution and redistribution of the powers and functions of any local governmental subdivision which operates under a home rule charter.”
3. That issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of fracking in areas of St. Tammany Parish not zoned for fracking violates Article VI, Section 17 of the Louisiana State Constitution which states, in part: “Subject to uniform procedures established by law, a local governmental subdivision may (1) adopt regulations for land use, zoning, and historic preservation, which authority is declared to be a public purpose;...”
4. That there is a possibility of harming my health is evidenced by court cases in which companies implementing fracking (fracking companies) have paid compensation to individuals claiming to have experienced sickness due to fracking activities in their neighborhood. See for example: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/25/justice/texas-family-wins-fracking-lawsuit/> "By 2009, I was having a multitude of problems," Lisa Parr told CNN. "My central nervous system was messed up. I couldn't hear, and my vision was messed up. My entire body would shake inside. I was vomiting white foam in the mornings."
5. That there is a possibility of harming human and animal health is evidenced by the refereed journal article: IMPACTS OF GAS DRILLING ON HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH. This study involved interviews with animal owners who live near gas drilling operations. The findings illustrate which aspects of the drilling process may lead to health problems and suggest modifications that would lessen but not eliminate impacts. Complete evidence regarding health impacts of gas drilling cannot be obtained due to incomplete testing and disclosure of chemicals, and nondisclosure agreements. Without rigorous scientific studies, the gas drilling boom sweeping the world will remain an uncontrolled health experiment on an enormous scale. See: [http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Bamberger\\_Oswald\\_NS22\\_in\\_press.pdf](http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Bamberger_Oswald_NS22_in_press.pdf)

6. That there is a possibility that animal health may be harmed by fracking is evidenced by the <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20090429/NEWS01/90429036/1002/NEWS%referr%NEWSFRONTCAROUSEL>
7. That there is a possibility of a change in property values associated with fracking is evidenced by Act 369 (HB 494) of the 2013 Louisiana Legislature, which revised the La. Residential Disclosure Form to require a statement of acknowledgment on the following: “Whether or not the purchasing property is within two thousand six hundred forty feet of a solution mining injection well.” This is [www.louisiana.gov](http://www.louisiana.gov) that an Permit Application for fracking should contain a plan for compensating any loss in property values as guaranteed by Article 1 of the State Constitution.
8. That there is a possibility of a fracking accident occurring that could spill harmful fluids or emit harmful gases into the environment is evidenced by the expert testimony of Professor Tony Ingraffea, Professor of Engineering at Cornell University who has said that “the is one serious environmental accident that we’re worried about.”
9. That fracking can have a negative impact on the quality of groundwater has been suggested by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A 2011 EPA study linked fracking to groundwater contamination for the first time. Residents were advised not to drink from their wells due to detected hydrocarbons. See: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/environment/story/2011-12-02/epa-fracking-pollution/51745004/1>
10. That injection of fracking waste water can inadvertently result in contamination of potable water aquifers is evidenced by the report entitled: Billions of Gallons of Oil Industry Wastewater Illegally Injected Into Central California Aquifers Tests Find Elevated Arsenic, Thallium Levels in Nearby Water Wells. See: [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2014/fracking-10-06-2014.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2014/fracking-10-06-2014.html)
11. That fracking can contaminate soil and groundwater is evidenced by a report from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. See news article entitled: State: Fracking waste tainted groundwater, soil at three Washington County sites. See: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/environment/story/2011-12-02/epa-fracking-pollution/51745004/1>
12. That the [www2.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing-improving](http://www2.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing-improving) states: “Although the national study should enhance our scientific knowledge, some concerns associated with overall natural gas and shale gas extraction, including hydraulic fracturing, are already well known. These operations can result in a number of potential impacts to the environment, including:
  - Stress on surface water and ground water supplies from the withdrawal of large volumes of water used in drilling and hydraulic fracturing
  - Contamination of underground sources of drinking water and surface waters resulting from spills, faulty well construction, or by other means
  - Adverse impacts from discharges into surface waters or from disposal into underground injection wells and
  - Air pollution resulting from the release of volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

Because natural gas development is increasing rapidly in many regions, prudent steps to reduce these impacts are essential now even as further research to understand potential risks continues.” See: <http://www2.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing-improving>.

13. That fracking may have an adverse impact on drinking water is evidenced by New York having banned fracking in the watershed from which it draws its drinking water. See: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/09/us/newyorkfracking/>
14. That fracking waste water may be dangerous is evidenced by the following:
- “The New Jersey State Environment and Solid Waste Storage Committee recently approved a measure banning the treatment, disposal or storage of fracking waste water in the state. See: Zoning and Planning Law Report, Vol. 35, No. 2.
  - Massachusetts and Vermont have banned or are attempting to ban fracking and wastewater disposal. In 2012, Vermont became the first state to ban hydraulic fracturing and the collection, storage, or treatment of the wastewater it generates (Vt. Stat. tit. 29, § 571). The Massachusetts legislature is currently considering a bill approved by the Environment Committee that would place a 10-year ban on fracking and the collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of waste from operations in the state (Bill H.3796). See: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/rpt/2013R0469.htm>
  - “Although the state of New York permits road spreading of production brine, many local county and municipal governments have banned fracking and the disposal of fracking waste, including road spreading. These bans, however, have been challenged in court, according to the New York Times. Lower courts have sided with local governments, but the Court of Appeals heard arguments in August 2013 to overturn the bans with a decision expected in 2014.” See: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/rpt/2013R0469.htm>
15. That air pollution associated with fracking can pose health problems is evidenced by the following study: Colborn T, Schultz J, Herrick L, and Swiatkowski C. 2014. An exploratory study of air quality near natural gas operations. Hum Ecol Risk Assess 20(1):6-105. Here is an abstract of the study.
- This exploratory study was designed to assess air quality in a rural western Colorado area where residences and gas wells coexist. Sampling was conducted before, during, and after drilling and hydraulic fracturing of a new natural gas well pad. Weekly air sampling for 1 year revealed that the number of nonmethane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) and their concentrations were highest during the initial drilling phase and did not increase during hydraulic fracturing in this closed-loop system. Methylene chloride, a toxic solvent not reported in products used in drilling or hydraulic fracturing, was detected 73% of the time several times in high concentrations. A literature search of the health effects of the NMHCs revealed that many had multiple health effects, including 30 that affect the endocrine system, which is susceptible to chemical impacts at very low concentrations, far less than government safety standards. Selected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were at concentrations greater than those at which prenatally exposed children in urban studies had lower developmental and IQ scores. The human and environmental health impacts of the NMHCs, which are ozone precursors, should be examined further given that the natural gas industry is now operating in close proximity to human residences and public lands. See: <http://endocrinedisruption.org/chemicals/naturalgasoperations/airpollution>.
16. That air pollution associated with fracking can pose health problems is evidenced by the statements made by Dr. Jerome A. Paulson in his letter to Mr. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. <http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/>. Among other comments, Dr. Paulson wrote:
- “Air pollution occurs during every stage of UGE (unconventional natural gas extraction). In an analysis of all chemicals used in UGE processes, 37% were found to be volatile and

therefore able to aerosolize. Of these volatile chemicals, [1] were found to have adverse effects on the brain and central nervous system [7]

17. That water pollutions associated with fracking can pose health is evidenced by the statements made by Dr. Jerome A. Paulson in his letter to Mr. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. <http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/>.

Among other comments, Dr. Paulson wrote:

- “Water pollution has been documented in association with UGE. While this research focuses on contamination with methane, it is reasonable to think that components of hydraulic fracturing fluids and normally occurring underground toxic substances travel with the methane. Data collected by the Minority Staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the US House of Representatives in 2011, based on data submitted by the 14 leading oil and gas service companies, revealed the use of more than 2,500 hydraulic fracturing products containing 750 chemicals and other components.<sup>11</sup> From the limited information available, it is evident that many of the substances used in hydraulic fracturing fluid are toxic, including some which are known carcinogens. Wastewater, such as the flowback and produced water, can contain a large number of naturally occurring toxic chemicals in addition to the chemicals added to make the hydraulic fracturing fluid. Naturally occurring toxic chemicals may include radioactive material, salts, salts of manganese, chlorides, sodium bromides and heavy metals such as lead and arsenic. Radionuclides shown to be present in natural gas wastes include: radon, 226radium and 228radium and radionuclides of potassium, strontium, lead, thallium, bismuth and thorium. Radium in flowback and produced water often incorporates into solids formed during wastewater treatment, thereby producing low level radioactive waste”

18. That the [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46] [47] [48] [49] [50] [51] [52] [53] [54] [55] [56] [57] [58] [59] [60] [61] [62] [63] [64] [65] [66] [67] [68] [69] [70] [71] [72] [73] [74] [75] [76] [77] [78] [79] [80] [81] [82] [83] [84] [85] [86] [87] [88] [89] [90] [91] [92] [93] [94] [95] [96] [97] [98] [99] [100] [101] [102] [103] [104] [105] [106] [107] [108] [109] [110] [111] [112] [113] [114] [115] [116] [117] [118] [119] [120] [121] [122] [123] [124] [125] [126] [127] [128] [129] [130] [131] [132] [133] [134] [135] [136] [137] [138] [139] [140] [141] [142] [143] [144] [145] [146] [147] [148] [149] [150] [151] [152] [153] [154] [155] [156] [157] [158] [159] [160] [161] [162] [163] [164] [165] [166] [167] [168] [169] [170] [171] [172] [173] [174] [175] [176] [177] [178] [179] [180] [181] [182] [183] 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- “The large-scale use of chemicals with significant toxicity has given rise to a great deal of public concern, and an important aspect of the debate concerns the level of proof required to associate an environmental change with activities associated with gas drilling. Environmental groups typically invoke the pre-cautionary principle [6]. That is, if an action is suspected of causing harm to the environment, then in the absence of a scientific consensus, the burden of proof falls on the individual or organization taking the action. The oil and gas industry has typically rejected this analysis and has approached the issue in a manner similar to the tobacco industry that for many years rejected the link between smoking and cancer. That is, if one cannot prove beyond a shadow of doubt that an environmental impact is due to drilling, then a link is rejected. This approach by the tobacco companies had a devastating and long-lasting effect on public health from which we have still not recovered [7], and we believe that a similar approach to the impacts of gas drilling may have equally negative consequences.”

19. These documents:

- Fracking Wars: Federal, State and Local Conflicts over the Regulation of Natural Gas Activities, Zoning and Planning Law Report, February 2012, Vol. 35, No. 2. <http://www.ourenergypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/FrackingWars.pdf>
- Save Ourselves: The Environmental Case That Changed Louisiana, by Oliver A. Houck. 2012 Louisiana Law Review. “Save Ourselves” is the story of the ten-year fight to stop permitting a polluting waste disposal site in Burnside, La. by a few people, aided by an idealistic lawyer and a courageous state employee who won “unprecedented” to supply critical information that voided the permit. See:

[http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty\\_and\\_Admin/Publications/Houck\\_Save\\_Ourselves.pdf](http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty_and_Admin/Publications/Houck_Save_Ourselves.pdf)

- Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor, by Steve Lerner. See: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/diamond>  
"For years, the residents of Diamond, Louisiana, lived with an inescapable acrid, metallic smell—the "toxic bouquet" of pollution—and a mysterious chemical fog that seeped into their houses. They looked out on the massive Norco Industrial Complex: a maze of pipelines, stacks topped by flares burning off excess gas, and huge oil tankers moving up the Mississippi. They experienced headaches, stinging eyes, allergies, asthma, and other respiratory problems, skin disorders, and cancers that they were convinced were caused by their proximity to heavy industry. Periodic industrial explosions damaged their houses and killed some of their neighbors. Their small, African-American, mixed-income neighborhood was sandwiched between two giant Shell Oil plants in Louisiana's notorious Chemical Corridor. When the residents of Diamond demanded that Shell relocate them, their chances of success seemed slim: a community with little political clout was taking on the second-largest oil company in the world. And yet, after effective grassroots organizing, unremitting fence-line protests, seemingly endless negotiations with Shell officials, and intense media coverage, the people of Diamond finally got what they wanted: money from Shell to help them relocate out of harm's way. In this book, Steve Lerner tells their story.

Around the United States, struggles for environmental justice such as the one in Diamond are the new front lines of both the civil rights and the environmental movements, and *Diamond* is in many ways a classic environmental-justice story: a minority neighborhood, faced with a polluting industry in its midst, fights back. But *Diamond* is also the history of a black community that goes back to the days of slavery. In 1811, Diamond (then the Trepagnier Plantation) was the center of the largest slave rebellion in United States history. Descendants of these slaves were among the participants in the modern-day Diamond relocation campaign."

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,\\_Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,_Louisiana) Morrisonville, Louisiana was a small town in Iberville Parish, Louisiana that was contaminated with industrial pollution from a nearby Dow Chemical Company vinyl chloride factory. The community had been founded during the 1870s by former slaves freed from a plantation near Plaquemine. In the 1920s and 1990s, chemical pollution was discovered in the town's wells. To avoid lawsuits, Dow decided to buy up the town and move its residents away to create a buffer zone around the factory. In 1979, just before the release of a federal report into toxic emissions from the factory, Dow announced that it was going to buy up all the homes and land in Morrisonville, and that if the residents refused their property would be worthless. Although about twenty families refused to move at first, by 1993 the town was eventually abandoned. All that now remains is the graveyard of the former Nazarene Baptist Church and an open-sided prayer site, built of wood, provided by Dow for family members who return to visit the graves. The

residents were transferred to newly built homes at Morrison Acres, but many died before they could settle in. The large number of petrochemical plants producing PVC in the surrounding area, an 80-mile (130 km) stretch between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, first led to it being known as the 'Chemical Corridor' and later as Cancer Alley, and many other communities in the area have been similarly affected by groundwater pollution and other toxic emissions. The town's residents—predominantly African American—were relocated in 1990 to Morrisonville Estates in Iberville Parish and Morrisonville Acres in West Baton Rouge Parish by Dow.

- <http://www.prrac.org/pdf/MayJune2011PRRACRoberts.pdf>. CNN YouTube on Mossville situation. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmklvyMi6hU&feature=youtu.be>
- Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, by Timmons Roberts, Melissa M. Toffolon-Weiss. "Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, first published in 1991, provides a rare glimpse of the environmental justice movement as it plays out in four landmark struggles at the end of the twentieth century. The book describes the stories of everyday people who have decided to take to the streets to battle what they perceive as injustice: the unequal exposure of minorities and the poor to the 'bads' produced by our industrial society. In these struggles residents and local, state, and national environmental and social justice groups are on one side pitted against local and state government representatives and industry on the other. By employing historical and theoretical lenses in viewing these struggles, the book reveals how situations of environmental injustice are created and how they are resolved. These cases bear great similarity to battles occurring across the nation, and are setting precedents for national and state agencies as they handle these cases." Discusses fates of Morrison, Sunrise, and Revilletown, Louisiana. See: [http://books.google.com/books?id=up56ucee&EC=dm&sunrise&louisiana&environmental&justice&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.com/books?id=up56ucee&EC=dm&sunrise&louisiana&environmental&justice&source=gbs_navlinks_s)
- Hydrocarbon Hucksters: Lessons from Louisiana on Oil, Politics, and Environmental Justice, by Ernest Debrowski and Mariah Debrowski Leach, The University Press of Mississippi, 2014. "This is the saga of the oil industry's takeover of the state of Louisiana—its leaders, its laws, its environmental—and the critical thinning of its oil so and of its potential."

Once again, please deny the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, application for a permit to drill a well to test the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and/or gas from land in St. Tammany Parish.

**From:** Jessi James [oljessij2@att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Deny fracking in St. Tammany

Having grown up in a small town that was once on the top of the Superfund list for clean up please deny the Fracking in St. Tammany. They have just ok'd for that to go on here and now my water is no longer safe to drink once again even though it has supposedly been cleaned up.

There are a million reasons I would say to stop this but I won't. I will only say we only have one world with so much natural beauty. As a photographer I would say it is our job to protect it. As a mother I would say it is my job to protect my children and the future world for them and their children etc.

Jessi

Be that change you want to see in the world.  
Mahatma Gandhi

**From:** fatimah shamsi [fatimahgray@live.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:15 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Deny Fracking in St. Tammany

Please don't do any fracking in St. Tammany ! . It's not very nice of you people to do that .

**From:** Megan Taylor [megan.taylor.mnt@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:33 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Deny fracking in St. Tammany.

Please let's not do fracking in St. Tammany Parish. Let's keep nature how it is and not do anymore unnecessary damage to our earth than we have to. Thank you.

**From:** Emily Mabile [emily.mabile@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:01 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Deny Helis Permit

Mr Welsh,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding the drilling permit for Helis Oil and Gas that will lead to the practice of hydraulic fracturing, otherwise known as fracking. I have listed my concerns and below.

Concerns I am concerned that chemicals used in fracking are considered "proprietary" and not subject to public scrutiny. I believe that chemicals used in our neighborhoods should be open to public scrutiny. I am concerned about spills from mishandling waste and inadequate equipment threaten ground and surface water. I am concerned about waste stored in open holding ponds allows evaporation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and methane (a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere.

All residents of Louisiana deserve clean air and fresh safe drinking water. Please deny Helis Oil & Gas their drilling permit and keep St. Tammany healthy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emily Mabile

**From:** Cynthia Brooking [sbelle1@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:33 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil and Gas Permit Application

November 17, 2014

Regarding: Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil and Gas Permit Application

Dear Commissioner Welch,  
I write to you again this evening in an attempt to persuade you to deny the drilling permit.

I realize you are between a rock and a hard place – it would seem to me that no matter which decision you make, the DNR stands a pretty good chance of a long, drawn out legal battle either way.

That being said – since you guys are likely to be sued either way – can I beseech you to err on the side of decency to the people of St Tammany parish, and deny this permit?

The DNR has a duty under Louisiana Constitution, Article 9, section 1 to protect and replenish our natural resources as much as possible consistent with the public welfare. This was interpreted by the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1984 to mean that ANY state agency that was considering permitting an action that affects the environment has to do an Environmental Impact Analysis, which has not been done in this case.

I know that several hundred letters were sent to the DNR requesting this action a few months ago.

I personally never heard back from anyone at the DNR in response to those letters.

So I ask you now – is the DNR is going to act in accordance with the mandate of the Louisiana Supreme Court and perform an Environmental Impact Analysis?

I can be reached at [sbelle1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net), or by phone 713-412-3024 (cell phone). I look forward to your response.

Also, please open this video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1\\_1xOgh83Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1_1xOgh83Y) and take a look at what we don't want in St Tammany. Skip ahead to Dish, TX at about 1:50. This is a very real idea of what St Tammany could look like with 6,000 well sites.

Yours,  
Cindy Brooking  
St Tammany homeowner/resident

**From:** garrett acquistapace [gpace15@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:08 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevant et al No.1 well

**Attachments:** HELIS -- Docket Number 14-626 Drilling permit application.docx

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

PO BOX 94275

BATON Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poiteviant et al No.1 Well

Dear Commisioner:

I would like to offer my thoughts about the Helis proposal for a drilling permit in St. Tammany Parish. I am in full support of the project. I believe being a landowner and the owner of minerals comes the right to be able to lease your property for the possibility of oil production. I believe that is part of the "American Dream". I understand that there has been over 2,000 wells drilled in the Northern part of the State in the Haynesville Shale area, and I have not heard of any major problems. I also understand there are some citizens in St. Tammany who are opposed to the project because of having to drill through the drinking water aquifer, but the same aquifer has been drilled though and hydraulically fractured numerous times in Tangipahoa Parish. I trust the State Department of Natural Resources will do an excellent job of making sure that Helis and any company afterwards that may drill in St. Tammany Parish will abide by all State regulations to extract oil and gas as safely and effectively as possible.

On another note, being a lifelong citizen of St. Tammany Parish I believe the economic impact will be wonderful for the community. I have experienced in my life many people who grew up here leaving to go to Texas and other States to find high paying jobs. I know if the Oil industry were to produce oil here it would bolster the economy and produce many high paying and quality jobs.

Thanks for Your Time,

Garrett Acquistapace

**From:** Donald Lee [donaldplee77@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 9:58 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; michael.v.farabee@urace.mil; Patrick Courreges; Rick Franzo; Terri Lewis Stevens; Marianne Cufone; Melissa Pearson; Ian Somerhalder; Gail Blazek

**Subject:** Donald Lee's DNR comments

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

My name is Donald Lee. I am a resident of St. Tammany Parish (STP). I am also an attorney and volunteer member of Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany's Legal Committee (CCST). I am writing to urge the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reject the Helis Oil & Gas Company's (Helis) September 10, 2014 application for a drilling permit for the EDS Poitevent et al. No. 1 Well. For the reasons set forth below, Helis' application for a drilling permit fails to satisfy the DNR's permit requirements.

Horizontal hydraulic shale fracturing (Fracking) is a heavy, brutal industrial process, fraught with demonstrable environmental and human health risks, and therefore Helis should not be permitted to unleash this dangerous technology into the very heart of our community. Collectively, the State of Louisiana's Constitution, STP's zoning requirements, the increasingly well-documented record of soil, air, and water contamination Fracking is causing throughout the United States of America (including in Bossier Parish), and the DNR's officially documented failure to adequately regulate oil and gas exploration prohibits the DNR from granting Helis' permit application.

Perhaps the best way to proceed is through an evaluation of each of the individual the arguments Helis' advances in support of its drilling application.

The law firm representing Helis in the application process, Liskow & Lewis, submitted a memorandum (the Memorandum) to the DNR on October 23, 2014, which asserts Helis has complied with all DNR's regulatory requirements for issuance of a drilling permit. I reject this assertion. The memorandum observes Helis has submitted its Office of Conservation Form MD-10-R-1, in duplicate, along with the requisite application fee, an Affidavit of Compliance Related to Pre-Entry Notice, and a permit plat of the drill site location prepared by a Louisiana registered surveyor. The surveyor has confirmed there are no residential or commercial structures not owned by Helis, its lessors, or predecessors-in-interest within a 500' radius of the proposed drilling location as required by 30: 28 (D). Beyond meeting these perfunctory requirements, which hardly seem more rigorous than those required to obtain an individual driver's license, and at least with respect to the 500 feet rule are quite literally preposterous, the Memorandum instructs the DNR that Helis will drill and complete the subject well in a way which equals or exceeds all regulatory requirements and employs best practices in the industry. The Memorandum relies on La. R.S. 30:28 (F) to summarily limit the DNR's decision-making jurisdiction from including any land use and zoning rights STP may wish to assert under the Louisiana State Constitution and STP Home Rule Charter (HRC). From Helis' perspective, the referenced statutory provision preempts STP zoning requirements from interfering with the drilling of its test well. In support for this proposition, the Memorandum offers the case of Energy Management Corp. V. City of Shreveport.

Now let's review each of the arguments advanced in the Memorandum.

In its consideration of Helis' drilling permit application, a threshold question the DNR must answer is whether, based upon all the available evidence where fracking has occurred in this country (and not merely Louisiana) over the past decade, does there exist a preponderance of reliable data showing that fracking has caused, or is likely to cause over the course of time, an unacceptable risk of harm to the environment (i.e., air, soil, water) and human health. This question must be answered on the basis of scientific evidence, and particularly through a review of the known environmental and human health consequences of fracking in all the places in the country where it has occurred or is occurring. Based upon its review of the objectively determined scientific record, CCST believes the technology of fracking, notwithstanding current energy industry best practices, including the drilling practices proposed in the current matter by Helis, poses a clear and certain threat to the environment and human health. Many communities throughout the country have banned or are attempting, against bitter industry opposition, to ban fracking, not because their residents necessarily want to continue to live in an area free of heavy industrialization (although that is sometimes also the case), or don't believe in America's goal of energy independence, or are somehow un-American, but rather because fracking, based upon objectively verifiable data, is poisoning their land, air and water, and threatening their human health. In fact, even the United States Environmental Protection Agency now has grave reservations about the potential threats to water sources from fracking and the states' ability to manage those threats, and the agency's Office of Inspector General has determined to launch a wide-scale investigation into the matter.

Helis' paid experts offer testimony and exquisitely colorful, sanitized, and professional exhibits to demonstrate the fracking process does not pose an unacceptable risk to the Southern Hills Aquifer (the Aquifer). The Memorandum notes that over 50 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the aquifer, that thousands of water wells in the parish are in communication with the aquifer, and that hundreds of additional oil and gas wells have been drilled through the aquifer from outside the parish. Apropos of nothing, the Memorandum observes, "Helis is not aware of any incident involving groundwater contamination in relation to any of these oil and gas wells, nor have the opponents made any specific allegations of any such incident."

First, assuming all the wells Helis references are relevant to the matter at hand, which I question, it is neither STP residents or nor CCST's responsibility to provide evidence the referenced wells have caused groundwater contamination; STP residents and CCST should be able to rely on the DNR to inspect the wells for groundwater contamination. Have the wells been inspected? If so, what are the findings? If the DNR has not inspected the wells, then neither Helis nor anyone else can know whether the wells, or some percentage of the wells have groundwater contamination. Indeed, given the magnitude of what is permanently at stake in environmental and human costs, it would be grossly irresponsible and a violation of the agency's drill permit requirements and Constitutional duty for the DNR not to assure itself through testing that the wells are free of groundwater contamination. Second, to the extent Helis is proposing to employ fracking drilling processes commonly used in the industry, there is no rationale basis for the DNR to limit its well survey size to that offered in the memorandum. Hundreds of thousands of wells have been fracked all over the country. The DNR must make a determination about the percentage of these wells which show clear evidence of contamination, and there are

many contaminated wells based upon CCST's review of public reports. Moreover, it is indisputably the case that cement is not a perfectly reliable seal. Over time, with the heat and pressure underground, a percentage of wells casing will fail, and their failure will result in groundwater contamination. In light of the lethal chemicals Helis proposes to inject into the ground, which are not susceptible to any water treatment process, the parish's Aquifer will eventually suffer contamination. The DNR's legal duty to protect the environment and human health from known unacceptable contamination is absolute, whether this contamination occurs in 3 or 5 or 12 or 25 years.

The Memorandum acknowledges that Helis is proposing to drill at a location STP has zoned residential, but the DNR does not have the jurisdictional authority to consider STP zoning requirements in the agency's evaluation of Helis' drilling permit. Specifically, the memorandum offers La. R.S. 30:28 (F), and the case of Energy management V. City of Shreveport as evidence STP is preempted from interfering with Helis' drilling of its test well.

Despite Helis' argument to the contrary, the DNR's duty to protect Louisiana citizens' health, safety, and welfare is clearly recognized in the **The Louisiana State Constitution, Article IX, Section 1**. Additionally, **La. R.S. 33.109.1** stipulates that whenever a parish or municipal planning commission adopts a master plan, state agencies and departments shall consider such adopted master plan before undertaking any activity which would affect the adopted elements of the master plan.

Helis' drilling proposal violates the clear language and intent of STP's Master Plan as well as its Home Rule Charter's residential zoning requirements. Moreover, the referenced Shreveport case does not support Helis' contention that La. R.S. 30:28 (F) preempts the zoning authority granted to STP government under the Louisiana State Constitution, Louisiana Revised Statutes, and the parish's Home Rule Charter. The ordinance the court invalidated in the Shreveport case was authorized under the power of a police jury. The court never decided whether La. R.S. 30:28 (F) would preempt a parish zoning requirement passed under the authority of a Home Rule Charter, and a Home Rule Charter is generally accepted as a legally more powerful fountain of authority than a police jury.

Finally, I'd like to thank the DNR for giving citizens a platform to express their concerns in regard to Helis' application for a drilling permit. As a practical matter, it has been exceedingly difficult for citizens to raise their voice in a meaningful way against the Helis' drilling project.

First, the very nature of legal and environmental controversies are highly technical, and often require the services of lawyers and technical experts most citizens cannot afford. Second, citizens opposed to the Helis drilling project are routinely ridiculed and even subjected to ad hominem attack in the corporate news media, particularly by lazy journalists like James Varney, whose coverage of the drilling controversy is cartoonish in its simplicity, nasty in tone, and arguably rises to the level of propaganda on behalf of the energy industry (See, for example, Varney's November 14, 21014 coverage of the DNR hearing which appeared on NOLA.com). Third, as a matter of public policy, STP government has had a difficult time coming to grips with the vastly complex legal, environmental, social, and cultural issues relative to allowing fracking in the STP. Elected officials are on the horns of a dilemma: under the clear auspices of the

Louisiana State Constitution and STP Home Rule Charter, officials are authorized to ban fracking and protect the health and welfare of parish residents; however, if they do pass a ban on fracking, officials fear the parish will be exposed to the expense of a potential Helis' lawsuit; officials would also risk their personal political fortunes to the immense financial and political power the energy industry and its business lobby would wield against them. On the other hand, officials can fall on their political sword and pursue a path of accommodation and capitulation where they effectively eviscerate resident's legal rights and offer earnest but ultimately worthless assurances the parish will work with Helis to implement safety measures adequate to protect the environment and citizens health.

In the end, the energy industry has come to amass immense financial and political power in this country, and especially in Louisiana. This explains why Helis, even as a bit player in the energy industry's exploitation of the country's mineral resources, is in a position to wield Louisiana oil and gas law like a medieval cudgel to manipulate Louisiana energy industry regulators, strong arm St. Tammany Parish elected officials, and trample on the basic human rights of ordinary citizens. I have no confidence the DNR will have the courage to deny Helis' drilling permit; nor do I have confidence STP officials will have the good sense and courage to pass a ban on fracking in the parish. Ultimately it will left to ordinary citizens to act through the courts and the ballot box to protect their environment and well-being. This is what happens when such enormous concentrations of financial and political power are placed in the hands of a single industry.

**From:** Stefanie Maessen [maessenstefanie@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:24 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Don't frack St. Tammy Parish

Dear Mr. Welsh!

I want to use my voice and say NO to fracking in St. Tammy Parish. It's not good for this beautiful place. Please don't start fracking.

The environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing includes land use, risk of earthquakes, noise pollution, air emissions, water consumption, water contamination, risk of secondary accidents, and health effects on humans from environmental effects. Noise pollution from hydraulic fracturing can affect residents and local wildlife each well pad needs during preparatory and hydraulic fracturing process about 800 to 2,500 days of noisy activity, which affect both residents and local wildlife. In addition, noise is created by transport related to the hydraulic fracturing activities.... Water also can be determined and risk the health of the people who living there and the wildlife. Water and air pollution are the biggest risks to human health from hydraulic fracturing!!

I don't want this to happen. Please DO NOT frack St. Tammy Parish.

Stefanie Maessen

**From:** Susan Tyler [susanjune09@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:12 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Mr. James "Jim" H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
LA DNR/Office of Conservation  
[225-342-5540](tel:225-342-5540)  
[Jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.welsh@la.gov)

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Thank you very much for holding the hearing in Mandeville regarding the application of Helis Oil and Gas to employ hydraulic fracturing in St. Tammany Parish. As I am certain you absorbed from the hearing, the residents of St. Tammany are overwhelmingly against this project. We are very frustrated that this permit will clearly benefit one man/one company over the desires and safety of an entire Parish, and we are very concerned for our drinking water and air quality for many years to come.

There may be other areas in the state where this type of oil/gas extraction and exploration is welcomed, but St. Tammany is not one of them. The desires of the people who will be most affected should be the primary consideration if the conservation of natural resources--all natural resources that we share--is your responsibility.

Please do not put our environment at great risk for the benefit of a few. You have an opportunity to set a precedent here that will greatly benefit the citizens of Louisiana, whom your agency is charged to protect, above all other interests. I hereby respectfully request that you deny any and all permit applications for Helis Oil to drill in St. Tammany Parish.

Regards,

Susan Tyler  
Madisonville, LA

**From:** Scott Tammy [tscott@san.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 12:17 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Just say "NO" to the Fracking Permit.

The US does not need any further permits to for Fracking. This is Not about energy this is about the almighty "\$".

Renewable energy is here in many different forms and it is here to stay. We do not need Hydraulic Fracturing. It has been shown to be detrimental to the environment.

1. Pollutes the air
2. Pollutes the water with toxic elements
3. Wastes fresh drinking water. The water they use to Frack is fresh and most people are aware several states are in severe draught. Don't make yours one of them on purpose.
4. Causes Seismic activity.

This is just the beginning of what fracking can and will do to your home.

Did you know that over 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel was used to frack for oil without mandatory federal permits.

Or How about in California 3 billion gallons of fracking sludge was illegally dumped into California's drinking water, and farm irrigation aquifers. This sludge contained toxins include high levels of lethal arsenic (carcinogenic and immunodisruptive), thallium (an ingredient in rat poison) and nitrates (highly toxic to cattle and other ruminants).

This dumping of toxic sludge from fracking went uncovered by large media. Why is that? One of the largest water using states in the US has been poisoned and it was not covered.

What will happen when the fracking begins in your area. Your Aquifers, ground water, environment. If it was covered up in California what do you think will happen in your area. You don't want to live in one of those city/towns that had to pick up and move/disappear because your homeland has become to poison to live in.

More import than the dollars these companies will make is our world. Our environment. Everything we do has a cause and effect. When our world suffers so does every tree, animal and person.

If not for yourself think of the future.

For those of you who live near and in St. Tammany Parish stand up and say "NO" permits. "NO to Fracking" save your beautiful spot in our world. To all others keep watch and if it comes to your part of the world "JUST SAY NO"

For St. Tammany this is the email and docket number I found to email. If an email or letter can help lets help.

dnrinfo@la.gov

Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

For those who make the decisions on these permits this is NOT the right things to do. Say no and veto the permit and approvals.

Thank you for your time and Consideration

Tammara Scott

“Individually we are unique, as a team we are unstoppable”

**From:** John Rice [brtmarine@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:47 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et. al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** Helis Permitting.docx

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John Rice  
Byrne, Rice & Turner, Inc.  
jrice@BRTMarine.com  
[www.BRTMarine.com](http://www.BRTMarine.com)  
800-725-3787  
Fax# 504-525-6303

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**John B. Rice  
1172 Camp St.  
New Orleans, La. 70130  
504-421-8339**

**Date:11/19/14**

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

I am the president of a marine supply company in New Orleans. We have been serving the marine industry for two generations over a 67 year period. Our family has owned property in St. Tammany parish for over 100 years. The property is located along River Road and Hosmer Mill Road close to the Abbey. The Bogue Falaya river runs through the property. We believe in being good stewards of the land and would not want to see anything that would harm St. Tammany. We strongly believe that the issuance of the drilling permit to Helis Oil and Gas will not be harmful to the parish and that it actually would be very beneficial for economic growth.

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## **THE US SHALE REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS**

A short five years ago, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional gas production declined in the United States, it seemed that this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta.

The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States, where producers have taken advantage of two newly viable technologies to unlock resources once deemed commercially infeasible: horizontal drilling, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations.

The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between 2007 and 2012,

U.S. shale gas production rose by over 50 percent each year, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from five percent to 9 percent. Terminals once intended to bring foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG) to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to export U.S. LNG abroad. Between 2007 and 2012, fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which grew by 50 percent between 2008 and 2012. Thanks to these developments, the U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.

The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has wide-reaching geopolitical consequences. Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers have wielded for decades. Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain.

The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since 1971, when U.S. oil production peaked, energy has been construed as a strategic liability for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad. But that logic has been upended, and the newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled "Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution", which I ask be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

## **THE TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE IN LOUISIANA**

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) is a sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin (Volume 7) of the LSU-Basin Research Institute (BRI) Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf67ce4fb80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf67ce4fb80f)

TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Florida Parishes in southeastern Louisiana—which includes St. Tammany Parish-- within an approximate depth range of 11,000 feet to the north to more than 15,000 feet to the south. It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit form your office.

The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons [oil and gas] originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock [TMS] which is now being explored for oil and [or li]uid hydrocarbons with advanced [horizontal]drilling and completion [hydraulic fracturing, called fracking]

## **THE US SHALE REVOLUTION'S IMPLICATIONS FOR ST. TAMMANY**

The highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott just completed a very significant economic report on the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

It is the engine that makes the difference. For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana.

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following very significant economic benefits flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

- Louisiana is the nation's **number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas** among the 50 states.
- Louisiana ranks **number two among the states in petroleum refining** capacity.
- Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry **supported \$73.8 billion in sales in Louisiana firms, generated over \$20.5 billion in household earnings for Louisianans, and supported 287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.**
- The [20.5 billion in earnings represented 11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/uscaloosa/20Marine/20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?nid=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

- On average **the job multiplier for these three industries was 4.4**. That is, for every job created in these sectors 4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state. The job multiplier for the oil and gas extraction industry is about 6 and for the very capital-intensive refinery industry it is about 9.0.
- Louisiana's energy industry directly paid **nearly \$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees** in FY2010 or about 14.6 % of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected.
- Through the \$20.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an additional \$1,488,000,000 in taxes, **for a total boost to the state treasury of \$2.9 billion**.
- A very conservative estimate is that Louisiana's energy industry directly paid **\$410 million in ad valorem taxes to local governments** in the state in 2010--a 7.5% increase over 2009. In 40% of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 22 parishes the number exceeded \$5 million.

It is important to note that that the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

It is also important to note that all of the following regional business groups representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

## **OBJECTIONS TO HELIS' PERMIT ARE UNFOUNDED**

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface  
**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues [principally related to zoning] are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Ramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Ramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, 4.05 [B] [M]

Louisiana law provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 10:28 [B] [Emphasis Added.]

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 97 F.3d 297 [5th Cir. 2005]; 467 F.3d 471 [5th Cir. 2006]

The State of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also

deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I strongly urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Rice

**From:** Tyler Gray [tyler.gray@lmoga.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Jim Welsh; Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Helis Permit Application Comments  
**Attachments:** Helis Permit Application Comments (11-19-2014).pdf

Please find attached LMOGA's comments on Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Original to follow by U.S. Mail.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Tyler Patrick Gray  
General Counsel  
La. Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
www.lmoga.com  
730 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Office: (225) 387-3205  
Cell: (225) 505-3459  
Fax: (225) 344-5502

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730 NORTH BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802 • TELEPHONE (225) 387-3205 FAX (225) 344-5502

November 19, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Public Comment on Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC's  
Drilling Permit Application**

Commissioner Welsh:

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (“LMOGA”) respectfully submits the following comments to the Office of Conservation (“OOC”) in support of the Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC’s (“Helis”) permit application. These comments are submitted in response to the OOC’s September 30, 2014, public notice inviting comments following the public hearing held on November 12, 2014.

LMOGA supports the approval of Helis’ permit application for the following reasons:

- 1) The application satisfactorily complies with Louisiana law governing permit application approval
- 2) The hydraulic fracturing method proposed in the application for permit does not pose any additional proven environmental risks
- 3) The project will substantially improve economic development for the parish and the state

LMOGA offers the following comments discussing each of these reasons below.

**1) The Helis Application Complies with Governing Louisiana Law**

Pursuant to the Louisiana Revised Statutes, “the commissioner has jurisdiction and authority over all persons and property necessary to enforce effectively the provisions . . . and all other laws relating to the conservation of oil and gas.”<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, LMOGA recognizes and understands that the Commissioner of Conservation possesses the sole authority and jurisdiction to approve or disprove applications for drilling permits. Using this authority, the Commissioner must evaluate applications to determine their compliance under current Louisiana law.

Here, the Helis permit application complies with all laws; thus, the Commissioner has no legally sound reason to deny the permit application. The opposition’s concerns go beyond the scope of the Commissioner’s criteria used in evaluating whether to grant permit applications, as outlined in all applicable revised statutes and the Louisiana Administrative Code. Therefore, LMOGA fully supports the granting of the permit application.

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<sup>1</sup> La. Rev. Stat. 30:4(A).

Next, many critics of the Helis permit application are not located or do not have an interest in the proposed drilling unit. Since those in opposition have failed to make, nor have they been required to make, any claim justifying their legal standing or proprietary interest related to this issue. LMOGA must assume these opposing parties have no proprietary interest in the proposed well. For example, Abita Springs is over seven miles away from the drill site and never established their legal interest in the proposed well. Thus, LMOGA cautions the OOC in considering these comments and creating an expectation for all future drilling permit procedure.

Additionally, some critics and those in opposition of the approval of the Helis permit cite the Louisiana Supreme Court decision in *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Env'tl. Control Comm'n.* in support of their position, however, LMOGA submits this case is inapplicable to the Helis application. In *Save Ourselves*, the Court held the Louisiana Constitution requires a balance between environmental protection consistent with the "health, safety, and welfare of the people" and "economic, social, and other factors."<sup>2</sup> The court further reasoned that the legislative intent of this provision "was to implement and perpetuate the constitutional rule of reasonableness."<sup>3</sup> Here, Helis is distinguishable from the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves*. For example, the Helis application fully complies with the OOC's standards, company representatives have publicly commented on the environmental soundness of the proposed well, and the proposed well is designed to meet and exceed applicable regulatory standards unlike the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves* who failed to provide testimony or evidence that their project would avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the OOC should approve the Helis permit application because it complies with all governing statutes, rules, and regulations and because Helis has provided information to the OOC and public as to how it plans to minimize adverse environmental effects in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

## 2) Hydraulic Fracturing

Much of the opposition to the Helis permit application comes from parties concerned with the environmental risks, specifically the risk to drinking water contamination as a result of hydraulic fracturing. However, while this topic has become very contentious for those in opposition, to date, there is no reliable scientific data or research linking hydraulic fracturing to the contamination of drinking sources.

Furthermore, there have been wells successfully and responsibly drilled through freshwater zones in St. Tammany's neighboring parishes, Tangipahoa and Washington. Additionally, several hydraulically fractured wells have been drilled and completed in freshwater zones, similar to Helis' proposed well, in Mississippi. There is no evidence these wells caused any damage to the freshwater zones. Given the close proximity to St. Tammany and the similarity of Helis' project to the wells in Mississippi, LMOGA supports the approval of the Helis permit.

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<sup>2</sup> *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Env'tl. Control Comm'n.*, 452 So. 2d 1152, 1156-57 (La. 1984) (citing La. Const. art. IX § 1).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1157.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1160.

### 3) The Helis Permit Application Benefits the State and Parish Economy

Louisiana's oil and gas industry is a driving force for Louisiana's statewide economy as well as oil and gas producing parishes' local economy. On the state level, leading economists have observed the correlation of Louisiana's economy and the future of the oil and gas industry. The oil and gas industry generates over \$20 billion annually in household income in Louisiana as well as a positive economic impact of approximately \$73 billion annually.<sup>5</sup>

All parishes reap the benefit from collection of severance taxes, local property taxes, and significant direct and indirect economic development, such as job creation and increased sales taxes. These resources allow the parish to use them toward essential infrastructure improvements and social services for its citizens. Additionally, St. Tammany already has many oil and gas operations within its boundaries. Based on these proven economic benefits and resources the oil and gas industry in Louisiana creates for the state and parish governments, this permit should be approved.

In conclusion, LMOGA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Helis application permit. The OOC has gone above and beyond what is required under the rules and regulations to take additional comments at a second, unnecessary and unprecedented, off-site public hearing. Because of the economic benefits the proposed project would bring to the state and parish, the application's compliance with state law, and the lack of proven environmental risks, LMOGA fully supports the approval of Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Respectfully,

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association



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Tyler Gray  
General Counsel

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<sup>5</sup> See, Loren Scott, Ph.D., "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" (2014).

**From:** Patrick Martin [mart139@bellsouth.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 4:37 PM

**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

**Attachments:** PHM letter in support.pdf

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Attached please find my letter in support of the drilling permit application.

I am also sending the same by U. S. mail.

My previous transmittal was unsigned; this one is corrected and should be the copy for the record.

Pat Martin

PATRICK H. MARTIN

*Attorney at Law*  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: [mart139@bellsouth.net](mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net)

By email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov).

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patrick H. Martin*

**From:** Stacey Martinez [smartinez@steeglaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 3:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Stacey Martinez  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

As a resident of Jefferson Parish, I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyprotect.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPSbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis in St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well.

What means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

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I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas--diminished the US reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer-- the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St. Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 1,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis' well will be 800 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac50216k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/11/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

\_\_\_\_\_

### Helis' Success

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic

Engine for the Louisiana Economy<sup>[1]</sup> is report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.louisianacoalition.com/blog/p2/content/uploads/2012/02/LorenScottStudy.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Delis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Delis' well by the Northshore Business Council<sup>[2]</sup> representing 22 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Delis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the best St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 2,222 members and their 22,222 employees, which also strongly supports Delis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Delis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Delis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of Terre Orleans and the River Region
- Greater Terre Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- Terre Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[3]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://www.gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Delis has agreed to go above and beyond already established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Delis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Delis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Zimmer Martine

1111 Cousins Boulevard

Tharrero, Louisiana 70077

**From:** H Elder Brown Jr [hebrownjr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** H Elder Brown Jr  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I would like to take the opportunity to write to you concerning the captioned Drilling Permit Application in St. Tammany Parish

I am sixty one years old, married with three grown children. My family has lived in this Parish for close to 100 years. We have built businesses, employed hundreds of our fellow citizens here, raised our families here, worshipped and educated our children here, buried family members here and have been a positive influence and contributed to the welfare of our community here continuously throughout the last century. We love St. Tammany, its people and the life we have and will live here for many years to come. Ironically, much of what we enjoy in this and neighboring Parishes are as a direct result of Louisiana's strong oil and gas economy.

I have studied, as a layman, the issue at hand carefully and believe the practices and procedures being used in today's oil and gas exploration on land, especially "fracking" to be safe. I have read that there are over 1,000 wells already drilled in the very aquifer that those few who are opposed to drilling the well that a permit is being sought. I am unaware of a single instance where any of the previously drilled wells have contaminated or polluted any of our aquifers. My family drinks from the very aquifer that this small unruly minority are voicing their opposition. They are not the only people who drink from St. Tammany's water wells. I suspect many of the "few" do not even live in the Parish and perhaps not even in the State of Louisiana.

I also want to make sure that my land owner rights are not taken away from me via those who would, without question, like to steal from my family those land owner's rights which are guaranteed to us via the State's Constitution. I am vehemently opposed to those who would use any means and methods to take those rights from me on the local and State levels where the law is so clearly in the exclusive hands from the State level - not the local level.

The economic benefit to “all” of St. Tammany’s citizens should oil and gas be found in this Parish will be enormous and will only ensure a much better life style for all future generations. This is not limited to just land owners but to everyone who considers St. Tammany their home as my family has for so many years.

I respectfully ask that the State of Louisiana grant the permit that is being sought for by the Helis Corporation and which is overseen at the State level exclusively. I am disappointed at the lack of leadership that our local Parish leaders have displayed in this regard and the waste of the Parish tax dollars being spent in the frivolous politically driven patronizing lawsuit which, is not representative of the majority of this Parish’s residents but more for the vocal, rude and incredibly unruly minority who are against most any positive growth opportunities for our area. Some people simply want to oppose anything and everything and in the process, greatly diminish the opportunity for the majority of those who have worked so hard to make St. Tammany home.

Please do not allow these few naysayers to be seen as representative of the majority in this Parish and whose sole purpose is to diminish the value that I and many others have worked so hard to build for our families and colleagues in my Parish. Finally, I would not react to those who attended to the recent meeting held last week in my Parish. They do not speak for the majority. Not every person in this Parish will take the time that I have taken to write to you but I can most assuredly tell you that their silence is not to be mistaken for opposition. People are simply too busy to write and most sane people would not attend meetings such as last week’s where they were mocked and treated so inconsiderately.

Respectfully,

H. Elder Brown, Jr.  
22496 Elderberry Lane  
Bush, LA. 70431

**From:** H Elder Brown Jr [ebrown@fidelismarine.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:23 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Elder Brown  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

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Respectfully,

H. Elder Brown, Jr.  
22496 Elderberry Lane  
Bush, LA. 70431



**H. Elder Brown, Jr. | Fidelis Group Holdings, LLC**  
**President & CEO | [www.cultd.com](http://www.cultd.com)**  
2235 N. Hwy 190 | PO Box 2070 | Covington, LA 70434  
Office (985) 898-5300 ext. 104 | Fax (985) 898-5324

**From:** Anne B. Pablovich [apablovich@stpgov.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:12 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well  
**Attachments:** dnr comments.pdf

Please see attached. If you require further information please let me know. Thanks and have a great day.



Anne B. Pablovich  
Assistant to the President

St. Tammany Parish Government  
Office of the President  
985-898-2362  
[apablovich@stpgov.org](mailto:apablovich@stpgov.org)  
[www.stpgov.org](http://www.stpgov.org)

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## PAT BRISTER, PARISH PRESIDENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

P. O. Box 628  
COVINGTON, LA 70434

985-898-2362

FAX: 985-898-5237

E-MAIL: [PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG](mailto:PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG)

WEB SITE: [HTTP://STPGOV.ORG](http://STPGOV.ORG)

November 19, 2014

Via email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Honorable James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al  
No. 1 Well

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

On behalf of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for holding a public hearing for the above mentioned project here in St. Tammany Parish. Doing so allowed for civic engagement and public discourse of the issue. It also provided residents the opportunity to hear first-hand the details of Helis Oil & Gas' proposal along with testimony from Helis' consultants, and from geologists and engineers with the State Department of Natural Resources' Office of Conservation.

I am also appreciative of the cooperation we have received from Helis in terms of the additional regulatory oversight Parish Government intends to implement should this project move forward. My research of Helis has produced a longstanding track record of compliance with both legal and regulatory requirements and I am confident in their commitment to continue to do so here in St. Tammany Parish. We have identified various safeguards pertaining to impacts that could be felt by a proposal such as theirs. In anticipation of this we are in the process of creating ordinances to address these issues including but not limited to the following:

1. Mandate pre-drilling water quality testing to establish baseline data, as well as require periodic additional tests during drilling, and for as long as the well is operational, to measure any and all water quality impacts. This will not be done by any oil company, but paid for by the driller, and will be conducted by the Parish, the State, or a third party contractor.
2. Create and enforce an ordinance to limit the hours of operation of any oil & gas drilling project.

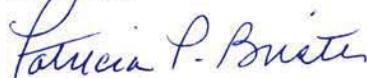
**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

3. Create noise ordinance specific to this type of operations to limit the decibel levels during the drilling phases, and compel sound attenuation, especially if drilling activity is near residential areas.
4. Establish strict restrictions on truck traffic routes, weights and standards, hours of operation, and truck marshalling to prevent negative impacts on area bridges and roads. We will also work with the St. Tammany Parish School Board to address the concerns of impacts to Lakeshore High School.
5. Mandate buffers, plantings and setbacks to reduce visual conflicts and screen production activity from public view.
6. Require the creation of a mitigation plan to be submitted to the Parish before drilling occurs.
7. Require all water to be used in the drilling life cycle be brought in from outside the Parish, and more importantly, any and all fluids that are extracted from a well be sent outside the Parish for disposal.
8. Dictate that every drilling project be bonded at a rate proportionate to the unitization granted by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, through a Performance Bond, Certificate of Deposit, or a Letter of Credit.

Helis has also agreed to additional safeguards in the construction of their well by building three concentric strings of casings – one more than the legal requirement – along with three layers of cement to provide additional protection of the Southern Hills Aquifer.

Our goal has always been to protect the resources of St. Tammany Parish and we appreciate the opportunity given for the citizens of St. Tammany to address their concerns.

Sincerely,



Patricia P. Brister  
Parish President

**From:** Daniel Rinehart [daniel\_t\_rinehart@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the

many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis’ St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis

will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy

industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Daniel Thomas Rinehart

**From:** Lem Sanders [lemsanders@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**CC:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Thank you,

Lem Sanders

**From:** Betsy Rinehart [betsyprinehart@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:45 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

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its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Operators' Association.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 22 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

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the same time over 2,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 20 years with no resulting contamination.

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tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Professor Scott entitled "The Energy Sector Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" which report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 62 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,200 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans:

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- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://www.gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

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Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth P. Finehart

**From:** Edward F. LeBreton, III [lebreton@frfirm.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:18 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al. No. 1 Well

I am a resident of Louisiana and write in support of the drilling application.

The concerns about fracing and horizontal drilling are exaggerated. Many wells in Louisiana have been safely drilled this way – even in the same water aquifer.

Local disruption will be no more than any other construction project, and the state clearly has the authority to proceed. Indeed, one reason for state regulation of mineral development is so that decisions are made by experienced regulators on a rationale and informed basis.

An objective analysis will show that the application should be approved.

Edward F. LeBreton, III  
[lebreton@frfirm.com](mailto:lebreton@frfirm.com)  
Cell 504 458 7293  
3219 Chestnut St.  
New Orleans, La 70115

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**From:** J. Ollie Edmunds [ollie@deltapac.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:34 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; dnrinfo@lal.gov  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I support those who have urged you to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

I am a retired orthopaedic surgery professor at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans. I have invested in pine forestland with mineral rights in St. Tammany Parish near the proposed Helis well. The anti-fracking arguments against this well are spurious. Your office in the state government is the proper agency to make this decision, not the Parish or local government.

I encourage you to grant this application for drilling.

J. Ollie Edmunds, MD  
Professor of Orthopaedics  
Chief of Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery  
Tulane University School of Medicine  
Suite 1500 Tidewater Place  
1440 Canal St.  
New Orleans, LA, 70112  
Office 504-558-0103  
Cell 504-919-3502  
[ollie@deltapac.com](mailto:ollie@deltapac.com)

**From:** Ben Tiller [BTiller@thebergerco.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:21 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; dnrinfo@lal.gov  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am an interested citizen and land owner in St. Tammany Parish and am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.

**I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application as Helis' well is in the public interest and will benefit the State of Louisiana and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish and will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin B. Tiller

100 Conti Steet  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Office: (504)586-7410  
Cell: (504)579-3250

**From:** Lucius Butts [lbutts@TransFinancialCo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:10 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No.14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well  
**Attachments:** Letter to Office of Conservation.pdf

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Please find attached my correspondence regarding my support to issue a drilling permit on the above referenced project.

Thank you,

**Lucius M. Butts**  
**7922 Picardy Ave**  
**Baton Rouge , LA 70809**  
**225-761-4300**

**Lucius M. Butts**  
**7922 Picardy Avenue**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application,  
Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment regarding my support in issuing a permit to drill the well known as the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1.

The State of Louisiana is and has been the sole authority to regulate drilling for oil and gas in the State. It is expressly prohibited for any other agency or political subdivision to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well by a holder of a drilling permit. The State has the responsibility to make realistic assessments during the permitting process to protect the public interest.

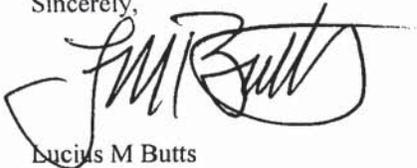
The fact is that drilling for oil and gas, including using hydraulic fracturing methods has been extraordinarily safe. Regulations are in place to assure the protection of the environment and people.

There has been a lot of sensationalism regarding "fracking" which has lead to uninformed people panicking and fanning the flames of hysteria. It is vital for the State of Louisiana to be the voice of experienced reason and ignore the hue and cry.

The company seeking a permit, Helis Oil and Gas, is a proven Louisiana company with a long stellar track record of safety and compliance. The landowners are totally dedicated to the health and prosperity of St. Tammany Parish.

It is important for the Office of Conservation to tune out the hysteria and proceed with the issuance of the drilling permit in its traditional business like manner.

Sincerely,



Lucius M Butts

**From:** Ren Clark [rylaur@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**CC:** Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Commissioner Jim Welsh  
Louisiana Office of Conservation

Ref: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, drilling permit application for drilling in St. Tammany Parish, (Engineering Docket14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.)

Dear Sir:

I attended the Public Hearing last Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the Lakeshore Sr. High gym. I think most people understood that your office was under no obligation to site an opportunity for public input in St. Tammany Parish. Thanks to you and to your staff for extending that consideration to the people of St. Tammany.

I sat through most, but not all, of the nearly 8 hours of proponent claims of safety and remoteness juxtaposed to opponent concerns for the health, safety and welfare of the people who actually live in St, Tammany Parish.

I won't repeat opposition themes - with which I agree in almost every instance. I'll just say that the proposed site is in no way "remote" and that the proponent claims of safety are not borne out by experience (BP Macondo, Bayou Corme, Lake Peigneur put a name to only a fraction of the safety counterpoints).

However, there was one consideration that was not directly addressed by the proponents or opponents and that is the effect of changing 10 acres of a landscape from wetland agro-forest to compacted industrial site.

Basically, the onset of the drilling activity you permit is going to change the "c" in the famous runoff equation:  $Q = cIA$ . And when that c-coefficient is changed (e.g. from .25 to .75 or higher), cu.ft./sec of runoff, with who knows what substances in suspension, will double or triple. The direction of that runoff in a very flood-prone place is toward more wetlands and the headwaters of scenic and protected bayous. That the paid spokesmen, for the absent permit applicant, demonstrated no concern (or awareness) in this area should be considered a major technical shortcoming.

None of us who live in St. Tammany are under any illusion that this permit is for an isolated "geo-science project" as the proponents were certainly trying to suggest. We all know that this is the first domino in a long, long line that will start falling with continuously compounding consequences for our soil, air and water.

By approving this permit, you will set in motion a process of industrialization from which St. Tammany will not easily (if ever) recover. And I must note that those responsible for environmental damages will likely skate on any 'recovery' obligations.

I respectfully ask you to reject this permit application in order to save one of Louisiana's unique places from irreparable industrial scarring.

Thank you,

Ren Clark  
420 Carroll St.  
Mandeville, Louisiana

**From:** Ashley Calafiore [ashley\_calafiore@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:04 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Frack No More in St. Tammy  
**Attachments:** BrZ1HSlCAAlyQyU.jpg

Dear Mr Welsh,

Do you know the term "if it's not broke don't fix it"

This seems to run perfectly with the chaos and uproar that is happening in your neck of the woods. For the longest time the residents have lived peacefully and undisturbed, but now Helis Oil company is rolling on in acting as if they are the bosses and wanting to create a change that is not welcomed.

Fracking

The term alone is enough to make you flinch just thinking of the millions, millions and millions of gallons of fluid, mix of water, sand and chemicals (some of these chemicals known for causing cancer) that are injected underground at a high pressure. Land owners aka your own people fear that chemicals such as this might end up reaching and poisoning their ground water causing it to be a hazard to their families and loved ones health.

You Mister Welsh are a commissioner of conservation which means that you live by a code. That code recognizes the public meaning that it is your job to make the right and wise decisions for the good of YOUR people. I'm not from Louisiana, but I know what is happening there, so much so that I felt drawn into say something. You have so many residents who are raising their voices and speaking up for a good cause, and that cause is to stop fracking, because they don't need it and better yet they don't want it. It is YOUR job to do what is right for your people and what is right for these residents is taking the time to listen to them. If you take the time to listen to these individuals then you without even asking should know where they stand on this fracking matter.

It is your job to improve the environment for those presently living there and for others who will be calling it home in the future. You were a geologist so you are more than aware of the ins and outs of fracking and the negative effects that it can cause. These residents put their faith and trust in you that the choices you make will keep them and their families safe and protected.

This is about YOU

This is about YOUR home

You have bullies that are rolling on in wanting to create and make change, change that could be hazardous and have its negative effects on you and your loved ones.

They are coming onto YOUR turf and suddenly laying down the rules

This is YOUR home

Fight for YOUR home

You have the chance to make a difference; you can prove to others who are fighting this battle that it is possible to win. You can show that even the underdogs can come out of the battle victorious.

*"The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices."*

I sincerely hope that you continue to live by this mission.

Thank you for taking the time to read and have a wonderful night

-Ashley C

NOLAS King Says NoFrack  
#NoFrackLA



Drill Somewhere Else  
Kindly  
**Frack Off!!!**

**From:** Linda [ilovedestin10@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:21 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking

Please no Fracking in St Tammany Parish!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Mely [melanie.reinhardt1@gmx.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:10 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking

Dear mr Jim Welsh,

please no Fracking in St. Tammy Parish. It's a beautiful place and Fracking is harmful to the people who live there.

please, Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Rebecca Green [rebeck1217@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:36 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** fracking

Please stop the fracking , it can damage our water supply and the environment. Thank you for considering about what we are doing to Global welfare. I hope one day that my great grand children will not have the excessive fracking.  
Once again thank you for your time. Please email me back with a solution .

Sincerely ,

Rebecca Green

**From:** Kimberly Picou [kimberly.picou@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:10 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking by Lakeshore High School

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Dear Mr. Welsh,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concerns regarding the practice of hydraulic fracturing, otherwise known as fracking. I have listed my concerns below.

#### Concerns

- Hydraulic Fracturing is exempt from Federal regulation mandated by the Fresh Drinking Water Act.
- Chemicals used in fracking are considered "proprietary" and not subject to public scrutiny.
- Spills from mishandling waste and inadequate equipment threaten ground and surface water.
- Waste stored in open holding ponds allows evaporation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and methane (a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere.
- Water needed for farming, ranching and household use faces risks of contamination.

Due to these factors, I am opposed to hydraulic fracturing happening adjacent to the Lakeshore High School campus where I teach off of Highway 1088. It is incomprehensible that this well should be drilled so close to the property where over 900 students attend classes five days a week each school year, not to mention all of the administrators, teachers, as well as the other employees that work at Lakeshore on a daily basis.

No method of fracking is 100% safe, so if there were any kind of accident on site, it would jeopardize everyone in that vicinity with us first on the receiving end. There are also residents who live off of our side of Highway 1088, as well as all of the other neighborhoods just on the other side of I-12. Why would we want to risk our lives or the student's lives for the illusion of extra tax revenue? Neither should we risk contaminating the aquifer that supplies not only our school water, but the water of St. Tammany Parish where I live with my husband and our two young children. It is also the aquifer that supplies the water of many other surrounding parishes. The stakes are enormous. We can not afford the woes that hydraulic fracturing would bring us, and potentially permanently contaminate all of our irreplaceable water supply. We should learn from the mistakes that have already been made in California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

All St. Tammany residents deserve clean air and fresh safe drinking water. Please ensure a healthy environment for all of us in St. Tammany and in Louisiana for us and for our children. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Picou

2120 Ohio Road Abita Springs, LA 70420

**From:** BS Picou [brian.s.picou@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:00 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking Hwy 1088 Lakeshore High

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concerns regarding the practice of hydraulic fracturing, otherwise known as fracking. I have listed my concerns below.

#### Concerns

- Hydraulic Fracturing is exempt from Federal regulation mandated by the Fresh Drinking Water Act.
- Chemicals used in fracking are considered "proprietary" and not subject to public scrutiny.
- Spills from mishandling waste and inadequate equipment threaten ground and surface water.
- Waste stored in open holding ponds allows evaporation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and methane (a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere.
- Water needed for farming, ranching and household use faces risks of contamination.

Due to these factors, I am opposed to hydraulic fracturing happening adjacent to the Lakeshore High School campus where I teach off of Highway 1088. It is incomprehensible that this well should be drilled so close to the property where over 900 students attend classes five days a week each school year, not to mention all of the administrators, teachers, as well as the other employees that work at Lakeshore on a daily basis.

No method of fracking is 100% safe, so if there were any kind of accident on site, it would jeopardize everyone in that vicinity with us first on the receiving end. There are also residents who live off of our side of Highway 1088, as well as all of the other neighborhoods just on the other side of I-12. Why would we want to risk our lives or the student's lives for the illusion of extra tax revenue? Neither should we risk contaminating the aquifer that supplies not only our school water, but the water of St. Tammany Parish where I live with my husband and our two young children. It is also the aquifer that supplies the water of many other surrounding parishes. The stakes are enormous. We can not afford the woes that hydraulic fracturing would bring us, and potentially permanently contaminate all of our irreplaceable water supply. We should learn from the mistakes that have already been made in California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

All St. Tammany residents deserve clean air and fresh safe drinking water. Please ensure a healthy environment for all of us in St. Tammany and in Louisiana for us and for our children. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brian Picou

2120 Ohio Road, Abita Springs, LA 70420

11/19/2014

**From:** theresa deleon [isfhouston2014@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:08 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking in St Tammany Parish

November 17, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Helis Oil & Gas

It is with great honor that I travel back and forth from Houston to St. Tammany every week. I have been doing this now for a few months. In the beginning, it was to move back to my hometown of Abita Springs, now it is to save my hometown. It is with great discernment that I write you this letter today, as I am in disgust at the lack of action being taken by St. Tammany Officials. Your office is "suppose" to be in charge of rules and regulations when it comes to the oil & gas industry. It is also your "job" to protect the innocent people, who know no better when it comes to the harmful effects of this billion dollar industry.

When my feet hit the floor every morning, I begin my mission finding out what else St. Tammany citizens can do to protect themselves. I have held many events here and will continue to hold them. I am now a resident back in St. Tammany and my voice will be heard. For you to sit back and try to paint hydraulic fracturing as a "safe" means to pulling natural resources is ludicrous. In the following paragraphs I will tell you just who I am and why I will fight this, down to laying under the pump with my body, if I have to, to get my point across. Before you read any further, I want you to think about your children, if you have any, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. This is not a fictitious story, this is my reality and will be your too if you don't get off your ass and put a stop to this madness.

My name is Theresa DeLeon. As stated above, I am an Abita native. I was moved from here when i was 14 years old and moved to Houston for my dad's job...in the oil industry. We were moved to a town called Deer Park, Texas. In your spare time, not defending the public, you can Google Earth it. It is one of the largest industrial districts in the Houston area. I lived there for 14 more years, had children and got married. I thought Deer Park was so amazing because it was such a small town. The only people who lived there are the people who worked for the refineries. Long story short, when I was 28 years old, I was working as a nurse in the world renowned, Houston Medical Center. I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. This was shocking to me as I lived a healthy life and there is no history of cancer in my family. I was too emotional from going through menopause and dealing with the reality that I would have no more children, I didn't question it at first. Six months later, I was diagnosed with cancer again, this time in my uterus and cervix. At the same time a mass was found on my left lung. Just like that I was back in surgery. Because of me being so young, hormones were not an option because of long term side effects, so I was 29 years old and on 19 medications at this point and I would have no more children.

At this point, I was furious and demanded more testing. When my blood work came back, my doctor asked me how many PACKS of cigarettes I smoked a DAY and for how many YEARS had I been doing this. I was taken back by this considering I'm not a smoker and have never been one. I mentioned that I lived in an industrial area for 14 years and asked if that could have anything to do with the chemicals/toxins they found in my blood...response was no, highly unlikely. So I took matters into my own hands and asked scientists I had gone to school with to help me go about getting my water and air tested for whatever...I didn't even know what I was looking for. The results took 2 months, but they were jaw dropping. The high amounts of carbon monoxide, arsenic, acetone butane, methanol, lead, and formaldehyde were found in my water and air, along with 100's of other toxic chemicals. This explained my 2 young children's asthma and chronic bronchitis. That's right, my 9 year old son missed 39 days of school this past year due to hospital visits and is now 7 medications. Most of his life is indoors because his lungs aren't strong enough to withstand the pollution outdoors. My 6 years old daughter is also on 3 medications for asthma as well.

We moved 50 miles north to a "safe" area and it has now been taken over by tracking companies and in 2011, I was diagnosed with Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Muscular Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Adrenal Insufficiency. I am now on 27 medications, including a high dose of steroids, all of which I will be on the rest of my life.

To you this may be a sad, little story. To me, this is hell and my families reality. Do you think Shell or Chevron pay my medical expenses or my pharmacy bills? Are you going to pay them? I am unable to work due to my conditions, so I ask you to put yourself in my shoes, put your children in my kids shoes. What would you do? Would you sell your soul to devil for money even if you knew it was going to kill you and all the people you loved?

My point is this: The Surgeon General requires tobacco warning labels that state the product contains Carbon Monoxide and causes lung disease, emphysema, heart attack, and stroke. They also require you be 18 years of age to make the decision yourself

to jeopardize your life. If this is the case for the tobacco companies, why is it ok for Helix Oil & Gas to come in, near our children, none the less, and leave them exposed to chemicals found in tobacco plus 743 more cancer causing agents? Who are you to put a dollar amount on a life, especially the life of a child?

I ask you to reach into your hearts and not your pockets for this decision. It may take money to fight money, but it takes heart to fight for life and the rights to live it!

Thank You,

--

**Peace, Love, Recycle!**

**Theresa DeLeon**

**Registered Crew Founder ISF Go Green or Go Home**

**[www.facebook.com/isftheresa](http://www.facebook.com/isftheresa)**

**281-948-2051**

**"Life is what happens, while you're busy making other plans." -John Lennon**

**From:** floflo chichi [floflochichi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:32 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** fracking in st tammy parish

hello Mr Welsh,  
you don't know me and I don't know you. I apologize for the approximate english. I was on internet when I saw a message from Ian Somerhalder about a fracking. I don't understand immediatly so I made some research and when I understood I decided to send you this message: you can't do this, our planet is our life if we kill her we kill ourself. And all that for what?? Just to have a more simple life. People dying every day in horrible condition and you, you do that, it's so revolting. Our planet is sick and you kill her a little bit more every day. Think of our future, the future of our childs. Please stop this before it's too late. I'm almost sure you will not listen to my advice, I'm sure I'm not the only one to tell you this and I hope you will make the good choice. With all my respect.

**From:** Victoria Lewis [slavegirl1966@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:32 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking in St Tammy Parrish

Mr. Welsh,

As a concerned citizen this Fracking needs to stop. It is destroying our planet. It is causing earthquakes in the mid west and in St Tammy Parrish if something were to go wrong it would destroy their water source. Is that worth it? I think not. Look at the damage done in West Virginia, from the coal mining. We only have one planet and we need to protect her. We need to look to other ways to get the things we think we need but destroying our planet is not a option. I suggest that we keep looking if we can spend billions on war and sending people and objects into space why can we not spend it on looking into saving our planet and find other ways to get what we need then through destroying our home.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Lewis  
[slavegirl1966@gmail.com](mailto:slavegirl1966@gmail.com)

**From:** Patty Weston [sammigirl48@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:27 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking in St. Tammany Parish

Dear Mr. Welsh,

As a 20 year resident of this area, I have watched us evolve into a pristine parish with many concerns about the environment and keeping it as natural as possible. I was here after, Katrina, Gustav, Issac and many others before these at which we all endured and came back even better each time.

Now we are faced with oil companies who want to frack in our family oriented community, as we are forced into a battle to keep our area clean, safe, intact and undamaged by the oil companies.

I stand with the others of my town and ask for help in this serious matter.

Thank you,

Patti Weston  
Concerned Citizen of St. Tammany

**From:** Grace Grazier [graceag@hotmail.co.uk]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:30 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fracking in ST.TAMMY

Dear MR Jim Welsh My name is mason and I'm nearly 10 years old and I am writing you this email to ask for a really big favour. Please no Fracking In ST.Tammy Parish it's really beautiful and a big part of nature and the people that live there. Fracking has a lot of bad side effects that is harmful to the people that love there and even you. Like this list

- Contamination of groundwater
- Methane pollution and its impact on climate change
- Air pollution impacts
- Exposure to toxic chemicals
- Blowouts due to gas explosion
- Waste disposal
- Large volume water use in water-deficient regions
- Fracking-induced earthquakes
- Workplace safety
- Infrastructure degradation

I would like St.Tammy to stay clean and green and beautiful and for everyone and you to be healthy and well, There is lots of cleaner and greener ways and I pray you choose them.

Thank you Mr Welsh for listening  
Mason :)

**From:** Rita McDonald [rvmdonald@icloud.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 7:51 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** FRACKING MEETING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Dear Mr. Welsh:

I have written you several emails, but you seem to **ignore ME**. Therefore, I will need to come to talk to you in person.

You are not taking into consideration how this will destroy wildlife and fish. Someone announced in the meeting that this will destroy the beautiful **woodpeckers (birds), frogs and fish**. In fact, hundreds/thousands of fish were destroyed recently around Shreveport. So, St. Tammany Parish is a place to fish in Lake Pontchartrain and other areas for our **Catfish**. **This would greatly interfere with our food and water.**

If I remember correctly, there is a **federal law**, that no one can interfere with an **individual's ways/means of living**. Also, **YOU DO** understand that there is only having **ONE (1) WATER AQUIFER, and once this is destroyed that there are over 240,000 people here in beautiful St. Tammany Parish that will have no water, that will plan on VISITING YOUR OFFICE.**

I also in prior emails discussed about the health issues that fracking causes, but I can see you are ignoring them, as well.

**Silicosis - Lung Disease**  
**Benzene - Childhood Leukemia**

**\*\*\*\*\*THIS SITE IS ABSOLUTELY TOO CLOSE TO LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL, 1,600 STUDENTS\*\*\*\*\***

Mr. Welsh, I receive both the Times Picayune and New Orleans Advocate newspaper. I have read the information about Helis Oil & Gas Company in today's paper and it looks like, that you are for Helis and not the residents and people of the State of Louisiana.

Please plan on ME dropping in one (1) day next week.

Thank you,  
Rita M. McDonald  
St. Tammany Community Leaders  
[rvmdonald@icloud.com](mailto:rvmdonald@icloud.com)

**PS Also, I heard that your office does not keep up and test these Oil Companies and that you just give them what they want. This was stated at the meeting, exactly what your office does.**

**Since you are a STATE Office, you are controlled and regulated by the Louisiana Government. See you next week to discuss more of this Fracking in the Parish of St. Tammany Parish by Helis Oil & Gas Company.**

**St. Tammany Community Leaders**

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 2:14 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: (HELIS COMMENT)

fyi

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**From:** seanburke [mailto:kemss1943@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 2:11 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:**

Department of Natural Resources  
Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626  
St. Tammany Parish

I am concerned about the opposition the Parish of St. Tammany is mounting on opposition to the Helis application on the Eads Poitevent land. Horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing is reducing our dependence upon foreign oil and providing substantial employment. If it were banned nationwide our country and our economy would be in much greater danger. I am a resident of St. Tammany. I have seen the proposed location from the highway and fail to see how it will cause undue inconvenience to anyone. If hydraulic cannot be done there where can it be done.

Sean G. Burke  
909 Bonfouca Place

Mandeville, LA

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Attn: Patrick Courreges

---

**From:** Marta Badon [mailto:mab700@ya0o.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Attn: Patrick Courreges

Dear Mr Courreges

We would like to know if any drilling permits have been denied by the DNR (other than for clerical error). Specifically, we are interested in knowing about hydraulic fracturing drilling permits. Is this information available from you? If not, how may I obtain this information? We'd like to know if the DNR has EVER denied any drilling permits based on environmental concerns, public opinion, etc. Thank you for your response,

Marta and Bill Badon

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:13 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Attn: Patrick Courreges Docket No. 14-626

**Importance:** High

Patrick- Dave Easley is requesting a response indicating that his emails have been received and put in the record.

Please know that these DNR Info-emails have been forwarded to you, Jim, Gary but I am not responding to them.

---

**From:** Dave Easley [mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:09 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Attn: Patrick Courreges Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Hi, Patrick, Cynthia Brookings told me I should send my comments "Attn: Patrick Courreges" so that I can receive an email receipt. Sorry if you get this same letter twice. Please let me know that you've received it and recorded it as a comment against the permit. Thank you!

Dave Easley

To: Patrick Courreges, Jim Welch and Jeff Wells,

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA  
70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

**Hi, again. Thanks for coming to Lakeshore High School! Please confirm that you've received my emails and entered them into the record as speaking against the issuance of this permit. Though I've written you two previous emails during this comment period, now that we've had the hearing, the latter part of which we did get to hear, I want to comment on some matters that came up in the hearing and some that may not have been discussed thoroughly enough. (By the way, I'm really embarrassed that I made the microphones squeal for you. I think I really did make a slight improvement in audibility for a second or two but, when I tried to get the level just a little bit higher the squealing got out of hand for which I sincerely apologize.)**

I can't remember all the speaker's names but there was a particular fellow wearing white shrimp boots. One of his memorable comments was to the effect that the vast majority of attendees, (clearly and resoundingly against fracking in St. Tammany Parish) was made up of kool-aid drinkers. I actually try to avoid sugary, artificially flavored beverages and prefer pure, un-contaminated water but the argument that was entered into the record by his speaking it which I'd like to address now is the assertion that car drivers and energy consumers who are against fracking are hypocrites. So, let me talk about the oil dependence aspect.

A motor vehicle is, for most people who reside in communities without highly sophisticated mass-transit, a necessity. If people want to participate in society they must go to work, and buy groceries. Many carry the tools or instruments of their trades in cars or trucks. For most people vehicular transportation is the second biggest investment of their lives after their homes. Some small, all-electric cars are gradually moving into an affordable price-range. A person without too many trees shading his house can act individually on energy issues by installing solar panels and using that electricity to charge an electric vehicle but many cannot afford to act individually and these people, if they wish to move away from oil dependence, must do so at the pace of the society they live in. However, they still have the right, in a democratic society, to attempt to influence the direction of that societal movement. When the Rockefellers decide to divest from oil and re-invest in renewables it's time to stand and take notice. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29310475>

It doesn't escape me that, just as having Helis monitor it's own pollution is a bit of the fox guarding the hen-house, when citizens asked you to consider the Legislative Performance Audit of Regulation of Oil and Gas Wells and Management of Orphaned Wells with it's inspections once every three years, they were asking you to take a good look at your own over-crowded hen house. But are you the fox or the farmer? Doesn't the farmer also eat chickens and take eggs just like the fox? Many opposed to the drilling have the opinion that, whichever car they drive, this is a zoning issue, a state vs. parish issue, a Louisiana Constitution, article IX section I issue. I agree with all that. But the kool-aid man's comment brings to mind that there are some amongst us who would prefer that your jobs not exist, that there were no oil fields to regulate, drilling permits to approve and that you very competent gentlemen could find lucrative employment elsewhere. Upton Sinclair ran for Governor of California, was beaten by big money and name-calling, (If our shrimp boot friend had been there he would have called him a cool-aid drinker.) and wrote a book about the experience in which appeared the famous quote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding."

In light of the fact that some can afford to go totally "off grid" while some, taking the best current science into account, would very much like to but can't, and in light of the fact that the most of the people who do go off grid would prefer that the rest of society follow them off grid, the shrimp-boot-Kool-aid-man's comment brings us to the whole area of anthropomorphic global warming, arctic ice-melt and the plausibility of moving, on a large scale, to solar, wind and alternative fuels. Here, for the record, is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences paper on anthropomorphic global warming consensus:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/107/27/12107.full>

and also a paper on the Arctic ice melt:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=wVVEAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA100&lpg=PA100&dq=PNAS+arctic+ice+melt&source=bl&ots=FOLuQj6l9w&sig=zssdONBkaEwHcTiNkOuJsDg-sPU&hl=en&sa=X&ei=exNlVPPaHouwyATdm4JI&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=PNAS%20arctic%20ice%20melt&f=false>

and one on how Arctic ice melt contributes to global warming because water is more absorptive as opposed to ice which is more reflective:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/9/3322.full.pdf>

and one on the "tipping point", how water that was formerly ice, and methane released from thawing permafrost are liable to bring us to a point of no return in irreversible global warming:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/6/1786.full>

Now here's wikipedia on helio-static power: (mirrors reflecting sunlight, creating very high temperatures in a central tower, driving a turbine to generate massive commercial amounts of electricity as opposed to photo-voltaic power production such as what you see on rooftops)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_power\\_tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_power_tower)

and a list of solar thermal power stations:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_solar\\_thermal\\_power\\_stations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_solar_thermal_power_stations)

Here's a 2005 chart from the Energy Information Administration: (in 7 out of the ten countries listed the onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than what was consumed in 2005. In all ten countries the combined offshore and onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than 2005 consumption. And this is just wind, not solar.)

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933/T1.expansion.html>

Those nations in the chart are the ten biggest energy consuming countries in the world. It's clear that with two kinds of solar, and on-shore and off-shore wind there is plenty enough potential to not have to use dangerous, methane-emitting methods to extract hydro-carbons.

here's the accompanying paper for the above chart:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933.full.pdfhtml>

and here's a paper on the net energy of ethanol from switchgrass:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/2/464.full.pdf+html>

As you can see, another very promising source of energy.

Though it's not affordable for everyone on an individual basis, it could be very possible to, as a society, move much more quickly towards an all renewables energy economy if we can possibly escape the grasp of Big Money that buys campaigns, controls the flow of information (The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences is not as popular as FOX News or CNN) and owns politicians. The Rockefellers have seen the writing on the wall. It's possible other Big Money will

follow. I didn't foresee that I would get so far into this topic in this comment period. I'm thankful to my outspoken fellow citizen for leading me into this area of discussion that does pertain to a fallacious motive for drilling, that our society necessarily needs oil. Just as having two presidential candidates, one of whom is elected, doesn't mean that anyone really likes either one, having a choice between oil, gas and coal doesn't necessarily mean that anyone likes any of them. It may just mean that bought and paid for politicians and possibly their appointed bureaucrats are controlled by oil, gas and coal.

I couldn't possibly do a better job than Tulane Mathematician, Maurice Dupre and the guys who brought up the 1994 horizontal severance tax exemption of highlighting the ignorance of the position stated jointly by the Northshore Business Association and Greater New Orleans Inc. So, if you have all that in the record, I stand with Professor Dupre.

We heard in Concerned Citizen's of St. Tammany's expert testimony about the inevitable flow-back of the highly pressurized drilling fluids with the various chemical mixtures. In John A. Connor's testimony he admitted to the possibility of a spill and described the berm that would contain any such spill as being a few feet high motioning with his hand on a level that looked to be less than waist-high. John looked to be an average sized man.... Well, I guess hurricanes don't make it up as far as Stanford University very often. (Though, with global warming, we've now had a major hurricane in New York and New Jersey.) But this is Louisiana and this berm is woefully inadequate!

Perhaps due to the fact that you guys and all the very busy professionals who made up the crowd can't afford the time to come to a hearing on every one of the thousands of wells that the oil men want to drill in St. Tammany, you did hear testimony on possible future wells. But I couldn't help noticing that John A. Connor attempted to feign ignorance of any other possible future area wells besides this one. Six hundred people in the room knew that this well, if successful, is intended to be the first of many. But Helis's own expert environmental witness claimed ignorance on that matter. This sort of selective knowledge should strike a person as devious and I would think would cause one to doubt the sincerity of John's testimony, testimony such as, "I care about protecting the water" and "best available technology" or that they will do their best to "minimize impacts". Add that to the fact that, as one speaker pointed out, John carefully selected his knowledge of Helis's operations to exclude the very serious blowout in the Gulf, the blowout of which I managed to recall the exact date, July 13, 2001 off of the top of my head. And I didn't go to Stanford and don't claim to be anyone's expert witness. But check it out for yourself. As the speaker pointed out, it was in drilling in sand that they had the problem. No disagreement on

sand in St Tammany. Both sides agreed, we have a lot of sand underground here. (conclusions on pages 15 and 16).

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/)

When someone's teaching a little kid how to hit a baseball he says, "Ok, you missed that one but try swinging at this one. I'm gonna throw it nice and easy." When you're a company of grown men asking to drill through a single source aquifer, you've had problems before which resulted in a confusing, panicked, escape situation that resulted in death, and your expert paid witness skips over that trifling matter, thinking we won't notice, the safest answer is, "Sorry, no dice." (couldn't resist the gambling metaphor!)

The very last speaker from the community expressed the idea that a man should be able to do whatever he wants on his own property. This brings me to zoning restrictions, public annoyance, and public endangerment. Funny to think that one of the speakers, architect, Terri Lewis Stevens, would have a much harder time getting a permit to build a clothing store at the Helis site than such comparatively minor red tape as what a driller goes through on most wells. As many have said already, thanks for this hearing and comment period!

It's widely known that the area is zoned residential. There's been a lot of people speaking very effectively on public annoyance. Let's talk a little more about public endangerment. Though air didn't get discussed nearly as much as water I've already sent you info available to the public about dangerously high levels of carcinogens in the air around fracking sites. I don't know if you've seen this study yet from the Colorado School of Health and Brown University linking high rates of birth defects to fracking.

(Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale) , the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out," So we know that industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are expecting a high gas content in this play.)

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/1/ehp.1306722.pdf>

Airborne carcinogens and high rates of birth defects = public endangerment and, in a truly civilized world, if you know about the danger, you stop the activity that causes the danger.

Considering the DNR's stated mission, "to preserve and enhance the nonrenewable natural resources of the state, consisting of land, water, oil, gas, and other minerals, through conservation, regulation, management and development to ensure that the state of Louisiana realizes appropriate economic benefit from its asset base." it seems like the main question here is, is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that endangers other natural resources and the health of its inhabitants? In the 3 emails I've sent during this comment period you've been informed about dangerous levels of airborne carcinogens and alarmingly high rates of birth defects near fracking sites. I've already sent you the link to the PNAS noble gasses paper that proved the contamination through faulty fracking equipment of several aquifers. In many other comments from people I know you've been informed of many other dangers to water and to human and animal health. You've been informed about global warming and arctic ice melt. We need to talk about methane emissions at fracking sites, the heat trapping properties of methane, rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that contributes to the shrinking of it's own coastline?

Here, for the record, is an article from OilPrice.com about higher than expected methane emissions from fracking sites.

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/New-Study-Finds-Higher-Methane-Emissions-from-Fracking.html>

and one from the EPA on the heat trapping properties of methane, 20 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100 year period.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/ch4.html>

here's National Geographic on global warming caused sea level rise and the dangers to low-lying areas.

<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-sea-level-rise/>

It wasn't just in Upton Sinclair's time that Big Money usually would win. The same way they spin things around in the courtroom they spin them in the media they own. They buy the politicians. They can

convince you that up is down and down is up. They might have you convinced. What do you think killed all those cows in North Louisiana?

<http://www.propublica.org/article/16-cattle-drop-dead-near-mysterious-fluid-at-gas-drilling-site-430>

Why was this man burned over 30 to 50% of his body?

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/10/25/guernsey-fracking-site-explosion.html>

Gentlemen, please deny this permit!

Can you please direct me to the transcript of the proceedings? Also, please extend the comment period another 30 days so that CCSTs attorneys, who didn't receive any materials from the Helis team in advance, and the rest of the public can have adequate time to comment.

Thank you!

Dave Easley  
310 E. 35th Ave  
Covington LA  
70433

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:09 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Attn: Patrick Curreges

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**From:** gmail showing acct [mailto:samsu29@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** gmail showing acct  
**Subject:** Attn: Patrick Curreges

Mr Curreges

I am looking for specifics on denied hydrofracturing drilling permits for reasons OTHER than clerical errors. Any and all help with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

JM Naquin

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**From:** andbettymiceli@charter.net [mailto:andbettymiceli@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 12:12 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comment on DNR Office of Conservation Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.**

I am a 20+ year resident of St. Tammany parish, settling in Quail Creek subdivision and raising my kids. They attend Lakeshore High School and my house is probably a little over a mile from the drilling site. We chose to live here because it is a family community and pay very high property taxes which fund the best school district in the state. THAT IS WHY WE LIVE HERE.

Our home rule charter states that the citizens have the right to determine zoning requirements. The parish master plan & re-zoning does NOT ALLOW FRACKING. This site is zoned residential.

Relaters are already stating that our property values will plummet 30%. I paid off my \$220k house & will lose \$66,000.00 dollars.

The chemicals heavy metal pollutants are odorless, colorless, & tasteless. Some can not be detected at all. Helis has not disclosed what they will pump into the well. It will penetrate our sole source of drinking water!!!

What about the unexpected? Namely, an explosion, fire, toxic gas release. You have 1000 kids at the high school barely a mile away and 20,000 residents living in a 5 mile radius. Does this sound rational?

All we have from Helis is promises, not backed by the power of law. They haven't even put their proposal into a legally binding document. Fracking brings to my beautiful neighborhood heavy equipment traffic on an already overburdened highway, the prospect of car accidents with high school teenage driver's and water/tanker trucks, noise-air-light-water pollution, severe loss of property values, higher incidents of cancer, Parkinson, & death rates, increased taxes to improve fire department training & equipment, earthquakes as reported today in a Kansas oil field that was fracked. It goes on and on.....

I saw an economic evaluation that estimates the value of St. Tammany parish at \$20 billion dollars. Let require Helis put up a bond for that amount in the event of real threat of poisoning our sole source aquifer and rendering the parish unusable. But, not all the money in the world will bring back our dead spouses and children. Sounds incredible? Remember that this is the industry that brought us the Deep Water Horizon disaster.... which was in the Gulf, not literally in our back yards!

Really, this is a no-brainer!!! When you consider this permit, think about if you lived in my house, and **█████E N█████ ██████E█████ Socket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.**

Sincerely,

John S. Miceli III  
Betty E. Miceli  
Katie L. Miceli  
Nicholas J. Miceli

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** Comments on Helis St Tammany Permit Application JDZ Lea.docx

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**From:** John Dale "Zach" Lea [mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:50 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Patrick Courreges; johnnyadams@la.gov; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Comment on Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Dear Mr. Jim Welsh,  
The attached document is my comment for the public record relating to the Helis permit application for drilling/fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

John Dale "Zach" Lea, Ph.D.  
Agricultural Economist  
826 Old Landing Rd  
Covington, LA 70433  
Phone 985-871-9407  
Email [jdzlea@hotmail.com](mailto:jdzlea@hotmail.com)

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Dear Mr. Jim Welsh, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,  
Please confirm that this email and attachments will be entered into the public record as a comment on the Helis Oil & Gas, LLC, drilling permit application for drilling in St. Tammany Parish, (Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.)

I am requesting that the Department of Natural Resources not issue this permit because the drilling is a test to determine the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” to extract oil and/or gas from St. Tammany Parish and I am opposed to the use of fracking in St. Tammany Parish because:

- Fracking in St. Tammany Parish would violate my property rights as expressed in the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article 1, Section 4.b. where the Constitution states: “Property shall not be taken or damaged by the state or its political subdivisions except for public purposes and with just compensation paid to the owner or into court for his benefit.”
- Fracking would violate my rights to a healthy natural environment as guaranteed by Article IX, Section 1 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, to wit: “The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.”

Please consider:

1. That the operational definition of fracking should include all activities associated with the process and not simply the hydraulic fracturing process taking place thousands of feet underground. Fracking should include the vertical well and well casing, any drilling activity at ground level, any transfer, holding, and disposal of fracking chemicals and waste fracking water, any emission of gases, truck traffic, noise, increased policing costs, etc.
2. That issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of fracking in areas of St. Tammany Parish not zoned for fracking violates Article VI, Section 6 of the Louisiana State Constitution which states: “The legislature shall enact no law the effect of which changes or affects the structure and organization or the particular distribution and redistribution of the powers and functions of any local governmental subdivision which operates under a home rule charter.”
3. That issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of fracking in areas of St. Tammany Parish not zoned for fracking violates Article VI, Section 17 of the Louisiana State Constitution which states, in part: “Subject to uniform procedures established by law, a local governmental subdivision may (1) adopt regulations for land use, zoning, and historic preservation, which authority is declared to be a public purpose;...”
4. That there is a possibility of harming my health is evidenced by court cases in which companies implementing fracking (fracking companies) have paid compensation to individuals claiming to have experienced sickness due to fracking activities in their neighborhood. See for example: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/25/justice/texas-family-wins-fracking-lawsuit/> "By 2009, I was having a multitude of problems," Lisa Parr told CNN. "My central nervous system was messed up. I couldn't hear, and my vision was messed up. My entire body would shake inside. I was vomiting white foam in the mornings."
5. That there is a possibility of harming human and animal health is evidenced by the refereed journal article: IMPACTS OF GAS DRILLING ON HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH. This study involved interviews with animal owners who live near gas drilling operations. The findings illustrate which aspects of the drilling process may lead to health problems and suggest modifications that would lessen but not eliminate impacts. Complete evidence regarding health impacts of gas drilling cannot be obtained due to incomplete testing and disclosure of chemicals, and nondisclosure agreements. Without rigorous scientific studies, the gas drilling boom sweeping the world will remain an uncontrolled health experiment on an enormous scale. See: [http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Bamberger\\_Oswald\\_NS22\\_in\\_press.pdf](http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Bamberger_Oswald_NS22_in_press.pdf)

6. That there is a possibility that animal health may be harmed by fracking is evidenced by the report that “An unidentified substance that apparently flowed from a natural gas drilling site into a pasture is being eyed as a potential cause of the deaths of 19 head of cattle Tuesday evening, according to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.” See <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20090429/NEWS01/90429036/1002/NEWS&referrer=NEWSFRONTCAROUSEL>
7. That there is a possibility of a change in property values associated with fracking is evidenced by Act 369 (HB 494) of the 2013 Louisiana Legislature, which revised the La. Residential Disclosure Form to require a statement of acknowledgment on the following: “Whether or not the purchasing property is within two thousand six hundred forty feet of a solution mining injection well.” This implies that any Permit Application for fracking should contain a plan for compensating any loss in property values as guaranteed by Article 1 of the State Constitution.
8. That there is a possibility of a fracking accident occurring that could spill harmful fluids or emit harmful gases into the environment is evidenced by the expert testimony of Professor Tony Ingraffea, Professor of Engineering at Cornell University who has said that “there is one serious environmental accident for every 100 wells”
9. That fracking can have a negative impact on the quality of groundwater has been suggested by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A 2011 EPA study linked fracking to groundwater contamination for the first time. Residents were advised not to drink from their wells due to detected hydrocarbons. See: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/environment/story/2011-12-02/epa-fracking-pollution/51745004/1>
10. That injection of fracking waste water can inadvertently result in contamination of potable water aquifers is evidenced by the report entitled: Billions of Gallons of Oil Industry Wastewater Illegally Injected Into Central California Aquifers Tests Find Elevated Arsenic, Thallium Levels in Nearby Water Wells. See: [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2014/fracking-10-06-2014.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2014/fracking-10-06-2014.html)
11. That fracking can contaminate soil and groundwater is evidenced by a report from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. See news article entitled: State: Fracking waste tainted groundwater, soil at three Washington County sites. See: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/environment/story/2011-12-02/epa-fracking-pollution/51745004/1>
12. That the EPA web page October 2014 states: “Although the national study should enhance our scientific knowledge, some concerns associated with overall natural gas and shale gas extraction, including hydraulic fracturing, are already well known. These operations can result in a number of potential impacts to the environment, including:
  - Stress on surface water and ground water supplies from the withdrawal of large volumes of water used in drilling and hydraulic fracturing
  - Contamination of underground sources of drinking water and surface waters resulting from spills, faulty well construction, or by other means
  - Adverse impacts from discharges into surface waters or from disposal into underground injection wells and
  - Air pollution resulting from the release of volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

Because natural gas development is increasing rapidly in many regions, prudent steps to reduce these impacts are essential now even as further research to understand potential risks continues.” See: <http://www2.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturingimproving>.

13. That fracking may have an adverse impact on drinking water is evidenced by New York having banned fracking in the watershed from which it draws its drinking water. See: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/09/us/new-york-fracking/>
14. That fracking waste water may be dangerous is evidenced by the following:
- “The New Jersey Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Storage Committee recently approved a measure banning the treatment, disposal or storage of fracking waste water in the state.” See: Zoning and Planning Law Report, Vol. 35, No. 2.
  - Massachusetts and Vermont have banned or are attempting to ban fracking and wastewater disposal. In 2012, Vermont became the first state to ban hydraulic fracturing and the collection, storage, or treatment of the wastewater it generates (Vt. Stat. tit. 29, § 571). The Massachusetts legislature is currently considering a bill approved by the Environment Committee that would place a 10-year ban on fracking and the collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of waste from operations in the state (Bill H.3796). See: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/rpt/2013-R-0469.htm>
  - “Although the state of New York permits road spreading of production brine, many local county and municipal governments have banned fracking and the disposal of fracking waste, including road spreading. These bans, however, have been challenged in court, according to the New York Times. Lower courts have sided with local governments, but the Court of Appeals heard arguments in August 2013 to overturn the bans with a decision expected in 2014.” See: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/rpt/2013-R-0469.htm>
15. That air pollution associated with fracking can pose health problems is evidenced by the following study: Colborn T, Schultz J, Herrick L, and Swiatkowski C. 2014. An exploratory study of air quality near natural gas operations. Hum Ecol Risk Assess 20(1):76-105. Here is an abstract of the study.
- This exploratory study was designed to assess air quality in a rural western Colorado area where residences and gas wells co-exist. Sampling was conducted before, during, and after drilling and hydraulic fracturing of a new natural gas well pad. Weekly air sampling for 1 year revealed that the number of non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) and their concentrations were highest during the initial drilling phase and did not increase during hydraulic fracturing in this closed-loop system. Methylene chloride, a toxic solvent not reported in products used in drilling or hydraulic fracturing, was detected 73% of the time—several times in high concentrations. A literature search of the health effects of the NMHCs revealed that many had multiple health effects, including 30 that affect the endocrine system, which is susceptible to chemical impacts at very low concentrations, far less than government safety standards. Selected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were at concentrations greater than those at which prenatally exposed children in urban studies had lower developmental and IQ scores. The human and environmental health impacts of the NMHCs, which are ozone precursors, should be examined further given that the natural gas industry is now operating in close proximity to human residences and public lands. See: <http://endocrinedisruption.org/chemicals-in-natural-gas-operations/air-pollution>.
16. That air pollution associated with fracking can pose health problems is evidenced by the statements made by Dr. Jerome A. Paulson in his letter to Mr. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. <http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/>. Among other comments, Dr. Paulson wrote:
- “Air pollution occurs during every stage of UGE [unconventional natural gas extraction]. In an analysis of all chemicals used in UGE processes, 37% were found to be volatile and

therefore able to aerosolize. Of these volatile chemicals, [12] were found to have adverse effects on the brain and central nervous system[13]

17. That water pollutions associated with fracking can pose health is evidenced by the statements made by Dr. Jerome A. Paulson in his letter to Mr. E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. <http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/>.

Among other comments, Dr. Paulson wrote:

- “Water pollution has been documented in association with UGE. While this research focuses on contamination with methane, it is reasonable to think that components of hydraulic fracturing fluids and normally occurring underground toxic substances travel with the methane. Data collected by the Minority Staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the US House of Representatives in 2011, based on data submitted by the 14 leading oil and gas service companies, revealed the use of more than 2,500 hydraulic fracturing products containing 750 chemicals and other components.<sup>11</sup> From the limited information available, it is evident that many of the substances used in hydraulic fracturing fluid are toxic, including some which are known carcinogens. Wastewater, such as the flowback and produced water, can contain a large number of naturally occurring toxic chemicals in addition to the chemicals added to make the hydraulic fracturing fluid. Naturally occurring toxic chemicals may include radioactive material, salts, salts of manganese, chlorides, sodium bromides and heavy metals such as lead and arsenic. Radionuclides shown to be present in natural gas wastes include: radon, 226radium and 228radium and radionuclides of potassium, strontium, lead, thallium, bismuth and thorium. Radium in flow-back and produced water often incorporates into solids formed during wastewater treatment, thereby producing low level radioactive waste[14]

18. That the [15] [16] responsibility to uphold the Louisiana State Constitution guarantees relating to public health should be guided by the sentiment expressed in the following statement from the article entitled IMPACTS OF GAS DRILLING ON HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH mentioned above, namely:

- “The large-scale use of chemicals with significant toxicity has given rise to a great deal of public concern, and an important aspect of the debate concerns the level of proof required to associate an environmental change with activities associated with gas drilling. Environmental groups typically invoke the pre-cautionary principle [6]. That is, if an action is suspected of causing harm to the environment, then in the absence of a scientific consensus, the burden of proof falls on the individual or organization taking the action. The oil and gas industry has typically rejected this analysis and has approached the issue in a manner similar to the tobacco industry that for many years rejected the link between smoking and cancer. That is, if one cannot prove beyond a shadow of doubt that an environmental impact is due to drilling, then a link is rejected. This approach by the tobacco companies had a devastating and long-lasting effect on public health from which we have still not recovered [7], and we believe that a similar approach to the impacts of gas drilling may have equally negative consequences.”

19. These documents:

- Fracking Wars: Federal, State and Local Conflicts over the Regulation of Natural Gas Activities, Zoning and Planning Law Report, February 2012, Vol. 35, No. 2. <http://www.ourenergypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Fracking-Wars.pdf>
- Save Ourselves: The Environmental Case That Changed Louisiana, by Oliver A. Houck. 2012 Louisiana Law Review. “Save Ourselves” is the story of the ten-year fight to stop permitting a polluting waste disposal site in Burnside, La. by a few people, aided by an idealistic lawyer and a couple of courageous state employees working “under cover” to supply critical information that voided the permit. See:

[http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty\\_and\\_Admin/Publications/Houck\\_Save\\_Ourselves.pdf](http://www.law.tulane.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty_and_Admin/Publications/Houck_Save_Ourselves.pdf)

- Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor, by Steve Lerner. See: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/diamond>  
“For years, the residents of Diamond, Louisiana, lived with an inescapable acrid, metallic smell—the "toxic bouquet" of pollution—and a mysterious chemical fog that seeped into their houses. They looked out on the massive Norco Industrial Complex: a maze of pipelines, stacks topped by flares burning off excess gas, and huge oil tankers moving up the Mississippi. They experienced headaches, stinging eyes, allergies, asthma, and other respiratory problems, skin disorders, and cancers that they were convinced were caused by their proximity to heavy industry. Periodic industrial explosions damaged their houses and killed some of their neighbors. Their small, African-American, mixed-income neighborhood was sandwiched between two giant Shell Oil plants in Louisiana's notorious Chemical Corridor. When the residents of Diamond demanded that Shell relocate them, their chances of success seemed slim: a community with little political clout was taking on the second-largest oil company in the world. And yet, after effective grassroots organizing, unremitting fenceline protests, seemingly endless negotiations with Shell officials, and intense media coverage, the people of Diamond finally got what they wanted: money from Shell to help them relocate out of harm's way. In this book, Steve Lerner tells their story.

Around the United States, struggles for environmental justice such as the one in Diamond are the new front lines of both the civil rights and the environmental movements, and *Diamond* is in many ways a classic environmental-justice story: a minority neighborhood, faced with a polluting industry in its midst, fights back. But *Diamond* is also the history of a black community that goes back to the days of slavery. In 1811, Diamond (then the Trepagnier Plantation) was the center of the largest slave rebellion in United States history. Descendants of these slaves were among the participants in the modern-day Diamond relocation campaign.”

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,\\_Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrisonville,_Louisiana) Morrisonville, Louisiana was a small town in Iberville Parish, Louisiana that was contaminated with industrial pollution from a nearby Dow Chemical Company vinyl chloride factory. The community had been founded during the 1870s by former slaves freed from a plantation near Plaquemine. In the 1980s and 1990s, chemical pollution was discovered in the town's wells. To avoid lawsuits, Dow decided to buy up the town and move its residents away to create a buffer zone around the factory. In 1989, just before the release of a federal report into toxic emissions from the factory, Dow announced that it was going to buy up all the homes and land in Morrisonville, and that if the residents refused their property would be worthless. Although about twenty families refused to move at first, by 1993 the town was eventually abandoned. All that now remains is the graveyard of the former Nazarene Baptist Church and an open-sided prayer site, built of wood, provided by Dow for family members who return to visit the graves. The

residents were transferred to newly built homes at Morrison Acres, but many died before they could settle in. The large number of petrochemical plants producing P&C in the surrounding area, an 80-mile 130 km stretch between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, first led to it being known as the 'Chemical Corridor' and later as Cancer Alley, and many other communities in the area have been similarly affected by groundwater pollution and other toxic emissions. The town's residents - predominantly African American - were relocated in 1990 to Morrisonville Estates in Iberville Parish and Morrisonville Acres in West Baton Rouge Parish by Dow.

- Mossville, Louisiana: A Community's Fight for the Human Right to a Healthy Environment. <http://www.prrac.org/pdf/MayJune2011P&ACRoberts.pdf> . CNN YouTube on Mossville situation. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmklvyMi7h4&feature=youtu.be>
- Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, by Timmons Roberts, Melissa M. Toffolon-Reiss. "Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline, first published in 1991, provides a rare glimpse of the environmental justice movement as it plays out in four landmark struggles at the end of the twentieth century. The book describes the stories of everyday people who have decided to take to the streets to battle what they perceive as injustice: the unequal exposure of minorities and the poor to the 'bads' produced by our industrial society. In these struggles residents and local, state, and national environmental and social justice groups are on one side pitted against local and state government representatives and industry on the other. By employing historical and theoretical lenses in viewing these struggles, the book reveals how situations of environmental injustice are created and how they are resolved. These cases bear great similarity to battles occurring across the nation, and are setting precedents for national and state agencies as they handle these cases." Discusses fates of Morrison, Sunrise, and Devilletown, Louisiana. See: [http://books.google.com/books?id=77uP77ucee-P&dq=sunrise+louisiana+environmental+justice&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.com/books?id=77uP77ucee-P&dq=sunrise+louisiana+environmental+justice&source=gbs_navlinks_s)
- Hydrocarbon Bucksters: Lessons from Louisiana on Oil, Politics, and Environmental Justice, by Ernest Debrowski and Mariah Debrowski Leach, The University Press of Mississippi, 2012. "This is the saga of the oil industry's takeover of the state of Louisiana---its leaders, its laws, its environment, and the critical thinking skills of so many of its voters."

Once again, please deny the Delis Oil Gas, LLC, application for a permit to drill a well to test the feasibility of using hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and/or gas from land in East Tammany Parish.

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 9:11 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Comments In SUPPORT of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** Helis Drilling Permit Support Bullets 10 1 2014.docx

FYI

**From:** Mark E. Inman, CCIM [mailto:marki@cbtec.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 2:40 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comments In SUPPORT of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I am writing in support of the attached document and allowing Helis to drill on its property. Prohibiting this type of activity a taking of their property and their rights in the property.

Mark Inman

Mark E. Inman, JD, CCIM  
Vice President  
1010 Common Street, Suite 2750  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504) 566-1777 (Office)  
(504) 293-1329 (Fax)



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Comments submission deadline: **5 p.m. on November 19, 2014**

**MAILING ADDRESS OF COMMENTS**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**RE: Comments in Support of Issuance  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
Bayou Lacombe Field  
Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
St. Tammany Parish, LA**

- In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increased energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world,
- In the event of successful development of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale throughout St. Tammany Parish, the positive economic impact would be extremely significant to the Parish, the region and the State accelerating economic growth, thus leading directly and indirectly to increased government revenues that can be used for the public's general welfare including the building of infrastructure and providing important services such as education and health care,
- No studies or historical data substantiate that hydraulic fracturing well completion methods, much less simply drilling a vertical well, creates unprecedented or unreasonable risk to the environment,
- The vertical subsurface separation between the fresh water aquifers and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval (+/- 13,000' subsea) is a substantially greater linear distance, approximately 9,500 linear feet, then found in most other shale exploration and development areas throughout the country,
- Compared to Marcellus Shale (+/- 5,500' – 8,500' subsea) in Pennsylvania; Barnett Shale (+/- 6,500' to 8,500' subsea) in suburban Texas; Eagle Ford Shale (+/- 6,000' – 9,000' subsea) in Texas, the areas of development for shale resources in Louisiana are preferable due to the deeper depth of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (+/- 13,000' subsea) and Haynesville Shale intervals,
- The absence of natural faulting in St. Tammany Parish further reduces the already low possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids migrating beyond the designed tolerance of a few hundred feet above the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale interval found at +/- 13,000' subsea,
- Based on the facts, circumstances and the specifics of the reference drilling permit application failure to issue the permit would unreasonably and unnecessarily usurp landowner rights and directly result in a taking of minerals under private property,
- The authority to grant this routine permit rest solely with the Office of Conservation and should not be unduly influenced by parochial issues or special interest groups expressing concerns that are not based on facts or science,
- Due to the fact that the current permit application seeks only the authorization to drill a vertical well, there is no basis for delay in issuance. As the permit was submitted, drilling a horizontal lateral in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale will require an amendment to the current permit. Permits to drill vertical wells are issued routinely and in a timely manner by the Office of Conservation.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Comments in Support of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

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**From:** Tom Himes [mailto:pbft1957@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 11:20 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Comments in Support of Issuance Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

**MAILING ADDRESS OF COMMENTS**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**RE:       Comments in Support of Issuance  
          Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
          Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
          Bayou Lacombe Field  
          Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
          St. Tammany Parish, LA**

My name is Brian Thomas Himes. I support of the issuance of the Helis St Tammany Ph drilling permit. I have been a resident of St Tammany Ph for 32 years and own property and mineral rights (like most of the citizens in St Tammany). I have worked for over 30 years in Louisiana as a professional petroleum geologist and I am very familiar with the subsurface geology in St Tammany Ph. My knowledge of the geology in St Tammany Ph compels me to make the following statements.

First, there have been a number peer reviewed scientific studies that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. In some areas outside of Louisiana there are rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented . In the areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to Oil and Gas operations, naturally occurring shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers. There are no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Ph as evidenced by electric logs run in wells previously drilled in St Tammany and by the fact that no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water.

The potential for the casing to leak has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills aquifer. Here it can be argued that oil will be separated from the aquifer by three layers of pipe and three layers of cement and extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. The problem with the opposition to the subject well is they on focus on extremely unlikely scenarios. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen years after the well was placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the aquifer, therefore if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the aquifer.

Earthquakes caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel, but there is some evidence that quakes have been generated near the location of a few waste water disposal wells. Here again it's location, location, location. Helis has stated that waste water from the operation of the subject well will not be disposed of in St Tammany and even if it were, the geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Ph is different from the geology in the areas where some quakes have occurred. It appears that the quakes have taken place in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana because the unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.

There has been much said about the Southern Hills aquifer being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Ph. and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm the aquifer. The problem with this argument is two fold. First the Southern Hill aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for hundreds of thousands of people while at the same time over 1000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination that I am aware of. Second, an argument can be made that the Southern Hills aquifer is not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub surface fresh water zone made up of 10-15 separate fresh water sands. These sands are separated by impermeable shales and are therefore isolated from each other. This fact makes it all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole. The DNR & DEQ have the expertise, knowledge and experience to know what regulations are necessary for the Oil and Gas industry to safely conduct drilling and extraction activities. The fact that the Southern Hills aquifer has not been damaged after over 50 years of oil and gas activity is testament to that. Keep up the good work and issue the Helis permit.

The subject well will be located within a commercial pine tree farm. This property covers over 40,000 acres and has only been used as agricultural timber land for over 100 years. The current operator of the pulp wood enterprise is Weyerhaeuser, and their lease to operate an agricultural business on the surface of the 40,000 acres is in effect

for another 30 years. The St Tammany Ph Government zoned most of this 40,000 acres as possible future residential use years ago, but as of today no such residential development exists on this property and any future development other than agricultural and oil & gas would be many years away. The dual use of the subject land (agriculture and mineral development) would seem to me to be the most appropriate use at this time.

Finally, some people opposed to the drilling permit put forth the narrative that St Tammany Ph is an oasis separated from the oil and gas industry and they want to keep it that way. The reality is St Tammany Ph is a vital link in the daily oil and gas operations for the Nation. There are numerous oil and natural gas interstate pipelines that cross St Tammany. These pipelines are located directly over the Southern Hills aquifer and have caused no issues with water quality or the quality of life in the Parish after being in service for decades. The Helis operations would make for beneficial synergies between the existing oil and gas transportation infrastructure and oil field development.

Brian Thomas Himes  
Slidell La.

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: correction, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

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**From:** Dave Easley [mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 1:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information [jim.welch@la.gov]; Jeff Wells [dnr.info@la.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: correction, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

4th from last paragraph: should be "up is down and down is up"

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From: [davefeasley@hotmail.com](mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com)  
To: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov); [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov); [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov); [dnr.info@la.gov](mailto:dnr.info@la.gov)  
Subject: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Date: Fri, 14 Nov 2014 18:29:38 +0000

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

**Hi, again. Thanks for coming to Lakeshore High School! Please confirm that you've received my emails and entered them into the record as speaking against**

**the issuance of this permit. Though I've written you two previous emails during this comment period, now that we've had the hearing, the latter part of which we did get to hear, I want to comment on some matters that came up in the hearing and some that may not have been discussed thoroughly enough. (By the way, I'm really embarrassed that I made the microphones squeal for you. I think I really did make a slight improvement in audibility for a second or two but, when I tried to get the level just a little bit higher the squealing got out of hand for which I sincerely apologize.)**

I can't remember all the speaker's names but there was a particular fellow wearing white shrimp boots. One of his memorable comments was to the effect that the vast majority of attendees, (clearly and resoundingly against fracking in St. Tammany Parish) was made up of kool-aid drinkers. I actually try to avoid sugary, artificially flavored beverages and prefer pure, un-contaminated water but the argument that was entered into the record by his speaking it which I'd like to address now is the assertion that car drivers and energy consumers who are against fracking are hypocrites. So, let me talk about the oil dependence aspect.

A motor vehicle is, for most people who reside in communities without highly sophisticated mass-transit, a necessity. If people want to participate in society they must go to work, and buy groceries. Many carry the tools or instruments of their trades in cars or trucks. For most people vehicular transportation is the second biggest investment of their lives after their homes. Some small, all-electric cars are gradually moving into an affordable price-range. A person without too many trees shading his house can act individually on energy issues by installing solar panels and using that electricity to charge an electric vehicle but many cannot afford to act individually and these people, if they wish to move away from oil dependence, must do so at the pace of the society they live in. However, they still have the right, in a democratic society, to attempt to influence the direction of that societal movement. When the Rockefellers decide to divest from oil and re-invest in renewables it's time to stand and take notice. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29310475>

It doesn't escape me that, just as having Helis monitor it's own pollution is a bit of the fox guarding the hen-house, when citizens asked you to consider the Legislative Performance Audit of Regulation of Oil and Gas Wells and Management of Orphaned Wells with it's inspections once every three years, they were asking you to take a good look at your own over-crowded hen house. But are you the fox or the farmer? Doesn't the farmer also eat chickens and take eggs just like the fox? Many opposed to the drilling have the opinion that, whichever car they drive, this is a zoning issue, a state vs. parish issue, a Louisiana Constitution, article IX section I issue. I agree with all that. But the kool-aid man's comment brings to mind that there are some amongst us who would prefer that your jobs not exist, that there were no oil

fields to regulate, drilling permits to approve and that you very competent gentlemen could find lucrative employment elsewhere. Upton Sinclair ran for Governor of California, was beaten by big money and name-calling, (If our shrimp boot friend had been there he would have called him a cool-aid drinker.) and wrote a book about the experience in which appeared the famous quote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding."

In light of the fact that some can afford to go totally "off grid" while some, taking the best current science into account, would very much like to but can't, and in light of the fact that the most of the people who do go off grid would prefer that the rest of society follow them off grid, the shrimp-boot-Kool-aid-man's comment brings us to the whole area of anthropomorphic global warming, arctic ice-melt and the plausibility of moving, on a large scale, to solar, wind and alternative fuels. Here, for the record, is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences paper on anthropomorphic global warming consensus:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/107/27/12107.full>

and also a paper on the Arctic ice melt:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=wVVEAAAQBAJ&pg=PA100&lpg=PA100&dq=PNAS+arctic+ice+melt&source=bl&ots=FOLuQj619w&sig=zssdONBkaEwHcTiNkOuJsDg-sPU&hl=en&sa=X&ei=exNlVPPaHouwyATdm4JI&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=PNAS%20arctic%20ice%20melt&f=false>

and one on how Arctic ice melt contributes to global warming because water is more absorptive as opposed to ice which is more reflective:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/9/3322.full.pdf>

and one on the "tipping point", how water that was formerly ice, and methane released from thawing permafrost are liable to bring us to a point of no return in irreversible global warming:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/6/1786.full>

Now here's wikipedia on helio-static power: (mirrors reflecting sunlight, creating very high temperatures in a central tower, driving a turbine to generate massive commercial amounts of electricity as opposed to photo-voltaic power production such as what you see on rooftops)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_power\\_tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_power_tower)

and a list of solar thermal power stations:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_solar\\_thermal\\_power\\_stations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_solar_thermal_power_stations)

Here's a 2005 chart from the Energy Information Administration: (in 7 out of the ten countries listed the onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than what was consumed in 2005. In all ten countries the combined offshore and onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than 2005 consumption. And this is just wind, not solar.)

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933/T1.expansion.html>

Those nations in the chart are the ten biggest energy consuming countries in the world. It's clear that with two kinds of solar, and on-shore and off-shore wind there is plenty enough potential to not have to use dangerous, methane-emitting methods to extract hydro-carbons.

here's the accompanying paper for the above chart:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933.full.pdfhtml>

and here's a paper on the net energy of ethanol from switchgrass:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/2/464.full.pdf+html>

As you can see, another very promising source of energy.

Though it's not affordable for everyone on an individual basis, it could be very possible to, as a society, move much more quickly towards an all renewables energy economy if we can possibly escape the grasp of Big Money that buys campaigns, controls the flow of information (The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences is not as popular as FOX News or CNN) and owns politicians. The Rockefellers have seen the writing on the wall. It's possible other Big Money will follow. I didn't foresee that I would get so far into this topic in this comment period. I'm thankful to my outspoken fellow citizen for leading me into this area of discussion that does pertain to a fallacious motive for drilling, that our society necessarily needs oil. Just as having two presidential candidates, one of whom is elected, doesn't mean that anyone really likes either one, having a choice between oil, gas and coal doesn't necessarily mean that anyone likes any of them. It may just mean that bought and paid for politicians and possibly their appointed bureaucrats are controlled by oil, gas and coal.

I couldn't possibly do a better job than Tulane Mathematician, Maurice Dupre and the guys who brought up the 1994 horizontal severance tax exemption of highlighting the ignorance of the position stated jointly by the Northshore Business Association and Greater New Orleans Inc. So, if you have all that in the record, I stand with Professor Dupre.

We heard in Concerned Citizen's of St. Tammany's expert testimony about the inevitable flow-back of the highly pressurized drilling fluids with the various chemical mixtures. In John A. Connor's testimony he admitted to the possibility of a spill and described the berm that would contain any such spill as being a few feet high motioning with his hand on a level that looked to be less than waist-high. John looked to be an average sized man.... Well, I guess hurricanes don't make it up as far as Stanford University very often. (Though, with global warming, we've now had a major hurricane in New York and New Jersey.) But this is Louisiana and this berm is woefully inadequate!

Perhaps due to the fact that you guys and all the very busy professionals who made up the crowd can't afford the time to come to a hearing on every one of the thousands of wells that the oil men want to drill in St. Tammany, you did hear testimony on possible future wells. But I couldn't help noticing that John A. Connor attempted to feign ignorance of any other possible future area wells besides this one. Six hundred people in the room knew that this well, if successful, is intended to be the first of many. But Helis's own expert environmental witness claimed ignorance on that matter. This sort of selective knowledge should strike a person as devious and I would think would cause one to doubt the sincerity of John's testimony, testimony such as, "I care about protecting the water" and "best available technology" or that they will do their best to "minimize impacts". Add that to the fact that, as one speaker pointed out, John carefully selected his knowledge of Helis's operations to exclude the very serious blowout in the Gulf, the blowout of which I managed to recall the exact date, July 13, 2001 off of the top of my head. And I didn't go to Stanford and don't claim to be anyone's expert witness. But check it out for yourself. As the speaker pointed out, it was in drilling in sand that they had the problem. No disagreement on sand in St Tammany. Both sides agreed, we have a lot of sand underground here. (conclusions on pages 15 and 16).

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/)

When someone's teaching a little kid how to hit a baseball he says, "Ok, you missed that one but try swinging at this one. I'm gonna throw it nice and easy." When you're a company of grown men asking to drill through a single source aquifer, you've had problems before which resulted in a confusing, panicked, escape situation that

resulted in death, and your expert paid witness skips over that trifling matter, thinking we won't notice, the safest answer is, "Sorry, no dice." (couldn't resist the gambling metaphor!)

The very last speaker from the community expressed the idea that a man should be able to do whatever he wants on his own property. This brings me to zoning restrictions, public annoyance, and public endangerment. Funny to think that one of the speakers, architect, Terri Lewis Stevens, would have a much harder time getting a permit to build a clothing store at the Helis site than such comparatively minor red tape as what a driller goes through on most wells. As many have said already, thanks for this hearing and comment period!

It's widely known that the area is zoned residential. There's been a lot of people speaking very effectively on public annoyance. Let's talk a little more about public endangerment. Though air didn't get discussed nearly as much as water I've already sent you info available to the public about dangerously high levels of carcinogens in the air around fracking sites. I don't know if you've seen this study yet from the Colorado School of Health and Brown University linking high rates of birth defects to fracking.

(Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale) , the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out," So we know that industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are expecting a high gas content in this play.)

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/1/ehp.1306722.pdf>

Airborne carcinogens and high rates of birth defects = public endangerment and, in a truly civilized world, if you know about the danger, you stop the activity that causes the danger.

Considering the DNR's stated mission, "to preserve and enhance the nonrenewable natural resources of the state, consisting of land, water, oil, gas, and other minerals, through conservation, regulation, management and development to ensure that the state of Louisiana realizes appropriate economic benefit from its asset base." it seems like the main question here is, is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that endangers other natural resources and the health of its inhabitants? In the 3 emails I've sent during this comment period you've been informed about dangerous levels of airborne carcinogens and alarmingly high rates of birth defects near fracking sites. I've already sent you the link to the PNAS noble gasses paper that proved the contamination through faulty fracking equipment of several aquifers. In many other comments from people I know you've

been informed of many other dangers to water and to human and animal health. You've been informed about global warming and arctic ice melt. We need to talk about methane emissions at fracking sites, the heat trapping properties of methane, rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that contributes to the shrinking of its own coastline?

Here, for the record, is an article from OilPrice.com about higher than expected methane emissions from fracking sites.

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/New-Study-Finds-Higher-Methane-Emissions-from-Fracking.html>

and one from the EPA on the heat trapping properties of methane, 20 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/ch4.html>

here's National Geographic on global warming caused sea level rise and the dangers to low-lying areas.

<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-sea-level-rise/>

It wasn't just in Upton Sinclair's time that Big Money usually would win. The same way they spin things around in the courtroom they spin them in the media they own. They buy the politicians. They can convince you that up is up and down is down. They might have you convinced. What do you think killed all those cows in North Louisiana?

<http://www.propublica.org/article/16-cattle-drop-dead-near-mysterious-fluid-at-gas-drilling-site-430>

Why was this man burned over 30 to 50% of his body?

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/10/25/guernsey-fracking-site-explosion.html>

Gentlemen, please deny this permit!

Can you please direct me to the transcript of the proceedings? Also, please extend the comment period another 30 days so that CCSTs attorneys, who didn't receive any materials from the Helis team in advance, and the rest of the public can have adequate time to comment.

Thank you!

Dave Easley  
310 E. 35th Ave  
Covington LA  
70433

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:30 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: deny Helis Oil Permit

**From:** CATCH PATTON [mailto:catchpatton@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:59 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** deny Helis Oil Permit

Dear Mr. Courreges:

I am a property owner living in St. Tammany Parish just outside Abita Springs.

As you know, the VAST MAJORITY of citizens living in our parish are opposed to any fracking here. The site of Helis Oil's proposed well is one of the worst locations imaginable.

The price of oil is so low, the probability of oil being attained through fracking so low, and the risks to the aquifer so great that this permit does not meet the criteria for acceptance that DNR must use in approving a permit request.

Please deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Patton  
24254 Lowe Davis Rd.  
Covington, LA 70435

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: DNR DENIED DRILLING PERMITS INFORMATION

**From:** Kevin Drews [mailto:soundlodge@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:43 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** DNR DENIED DRILLING PERMITS INFORMATION

Dear Mr Courreges,

I am writing to ask for specifics on any and all drilling permits that have been denied by the DNR (other than for clerical error). Specifically, I am interested in knowing about hydraulic fracturing drilling permits.

Is this information available from you? If not, how may I obtain this information? I am basically interested in knowing if the DNR has EVER denied any drilling permits based on environmental concerns, public opinion, etc.

Thank you for your response,

Kevin Drews  
[soundlodge@gmail.com](mailto:soundlodge@gmail.com)  
15407 Tchefuncte Dr.  
Covington, LA 70433  
(760)774-2606

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 9:52 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket # 14-626 Eads Poitevent et al ANo. 1 well

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**From:** Alicia Breaux [mailto:awbreaux@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:55 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket # 14-626 Eads Poitevent et al ANo. 1 well

Dear Sirs,

The people of St. Tammany have spoken well and true about the long term dangers associated with fracking. We will not have it.

Considering the availability and quality of water alone, Helis refuses to answer questions about the sources of potable water needed in their own estimated 500 million gallons per well. They refuse to say exactly where the ponds are located, though they state water will be from “ponds” already contracted. We all know they plan hundreds to thousands of wells in St. Tammany, yet they refuse to answer ANY questions about the number planned. They refuse to answer questions about chemicals to be used and have lied about the chemicals’ effects on the environment.

Citizens hope your knowledge about the fracking disasters in the US and across the world will inform your decision and you will NOT grant Helis any permits to destroy our environment in St. Tammany. The “failure” of BP’s concrete happened when those responsible for ensuring its quality deliberately ignored its shortcomings. The fracking industry’s own experts have stated that 50% of the cement will fail sooner or later. We cannot afford the odds or the outcome of such failures.

The state of Louisiana has insufficient rules or punishments for those who destroy the environment. Although Helis has promised to “monitor” water quality before, during and after drilling, neither your agency nor Helis has stated how disastrous failures can be redressed. The fact is that such disasters cannot be mitigated. Do not leave us vulnerable to yet another oil and petroleum industry disaster.

Do not grant a permit.

Thank you,  
Alicia Breaux  
74355 Highway 437  
Covington, LA 70435

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626

**Importance:** High

[Read this request](#)

**From:** Sandra Slifer [mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket #14-626

Eads Poitevent Well No. 1  
Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch,  
I am writing to ask that you extend the comment period on Docket #14-626 for an additional thirty days. We deserve a chance to review the information that Helis presented at the meeting held in Mandeville on November 12. It was very difficult to hear. Please post the information presented online and give us time to review it.

Thank you,

**Sandra Slifer**  
**President, League of Women Voters of Louisiana**

[sandraslifer@gmail.com](mailto:sandraslifer@gmail.com)

116 Tulip Drive, Covington, LA 70434  
985-875-9388 985-285-3552 - text please!

League of Women Voters of Louisiana, President, <http://lwvofla.org>

League of Women Voters of St. Tammany, Voter Services Chair, <http://lwvofst.org>

Association of Associations (AOA),

Convener, <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofAssociations>

Women of Infinite Possibilities, <http://womenofwip.org>

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:55 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** Fritts\_Docket 14-626.pdf; ATT00001.htm

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**From:** Shannon Fritts [mailto:shanfritts@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:21 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh@la.gov; LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** e@itevent@iteventla.com  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626

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**Shannon and Daniel Fritts**  
**144 Colin P. Kelly Drive**  
**Minden, LA 71055**

November 12, 2014

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am not a citizen or resident of St. Tammany Parish; however, as an interested citizen in the energy development opportunities within Louisiana I am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.

**I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

**THE US SHALE REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICA**

A short five years ago, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional gas production declined in the United States, it seemed that this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta.

The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States, where producers have taken advantage of two newly viable technologies to unlock resources once deemed

commercially infeasible: horizontal drilling, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations.

The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between 2007 and 2012, U.S. shale gas production rose by over 50 percent each year, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from five percent to 39 percent. Terminals once intended to bring foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG) to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to export U.S. LNG abroad. Between 2007 and 2012, fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which grew by 50 percent between 2008 and 2013. Thanks to these developments, the U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.

The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has wide-reaching geopolitical consequences. Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers have wielded for decades. Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain.

The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since 1971, when U.S. oil production peaked, energy has been construed as a strategic liability for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad. But that logic has been upended, and the newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled "Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution", which I ask be filed into the record of these proceedings. I

strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

### THE TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE IN LOUISIANA

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) is a sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin (Volume 7) of the LSU-Basin Research Institute (BRI), Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Florida Parishes in southeastern Louisiana—which includes St. Tammany Parish-- within an approximate depth range of 11,000 feet to the north to more than 15,000 feet to the south. It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit from your office.

The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons (oil and gas) originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock (TMS) which is now being explored for oil and /or liquid hydrocarbons with advanced (horizontal) drilling and completion (hydraulic fracturing, called fracking).<sup>3</sup>

### THE US SHALE REVOLUTION'S IMPLICATIONS FOR ST. TAMMANY

The highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott just completed a very significant economic report on the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

It is the engine that makes the difference." For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/Tuscaloosa%20Marine%20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana.

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following very significant economic benefits flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

- Louisiana is the nation's number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas among the 50 states.
- Louisiana ranks number two among the states in petroleum refining capacity.
- Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry supported \$73.8 billion in sales in Louisiana firms, generated over \$20.5 billion in household earnings for Louisianans, and supported 287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.
- The \$20.5 billion in earnings represented 11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level.
- On average the job multiplier for the petroleum industry in Louisiana was 4.4; that is, for every job created in these sectors 3.4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state.
- Louisiana's energy industry directly paid nearly \$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees in FY13, or about 14.6 % of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected.
- Through the \$20.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an additional \$1,438,000,000 in taxes, for a total boost to the state treasury of \$2.9 billion.
- A very conservative estimate is that Louisiana's energy industry directly paid \$410 million in ad valorem taxes to local governments in the state in 2013---a 37.5% increase over 2009. In 43 of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 22 parishes the number exceeded \$5 million.

It is important to note that that the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

It is also important to note that all of the following regional business groups representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>5</sup>

I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

#### **HELIS HAS AN OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORD**

Helis' has drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past, and these types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. Helis has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters.

Helis also has years of experience drilling in sensitive environments, such as wildlife and always has the highest regard for its surroundings. Well in advance of being required to do so for its offshore operations, Helis voluntarily implemented the now mandatory Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for all of its operations—offshore and onshore. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

Helis has received the following commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells:

1. Federal offshore regulators have nominated Helis for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record.
2. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality commended Helis' work for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, recognizing that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts.
3. The US Coast Guard has commended Helis for its environmental protection efforts.
4. Helis also has received numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.<sup>6</sup>

#### **OBJECTIONS TO HELIS' PERMIT ARE UNFOUNDED**

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of, as follows:

- Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)

- Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.
- Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

- Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

- Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).
- The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as Helis' lessors and

hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

### HELIS WILL DRILL AND PRODUCE ITS WELL IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE WAY

Objections to Helis' application based on water pollution are also utterly unfounded for the following reasons:

1. Helis will also employ an extra string of casing so that the aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the required two strings of casing—along with three layers of cement.
2. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)
3. Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer.
4. Thousands of wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, fracking projects through this same aquifer are already taking place in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish.
5. There are literally thousands of fracked wells in Louisiana—about two thousand seven hundred (2,700) in the Haynesville Shale area in North Louisiana and some thirty-five (35) in Tangipahoa Parish and other areas near to St. Tammany. See <http://videos.loga.la/home>. According to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials in those areas, there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana.
6. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the report in the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html> In some areas outside of Louisiana there are rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented. In areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to oil and gas operations, naturally occurring shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity

to the fresh water aquifers. There are, however, no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Parish, as evidenced by electric logs run in wells previously drilled in St Tammany and by the fact that no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water.

7. A study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found in fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas contains chemicals found in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. Though the fluid is mostly water and sand, many critics of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, say chemicals added to the fluid contaminate groundwater. The new study suggests that additives found in one component, surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted, are no more toxic than common household items. University researchers collected samples from fracking fluid surfactants in five states — Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Texas. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners.<sup>7</sup>
8. The potential for the casing to leak has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills Aquifer. Here, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.
9. Earthquakes caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel. While this may have occurred near a few waste water disposal wells, Helis has stated that wastewater from the operation of its well will not be disposed of in St Tammany. And, even if it were, the geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Parish is different from the geology in the areas where the few earthquakes have occurred, as those that have taken place have occurred in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana underlying the wellsite

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and also see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

because the unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.

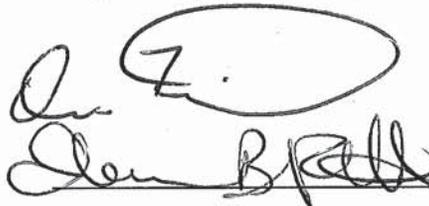
10. Much has been made by opponents of Helis' well about the Southern Hills Aquifer being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Parish and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm it. This argument has two major problems: first, the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for hundreds of thousands of people while at the same time over 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years, with no resulting contamination; second, the Southern Hills Aquifer may not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub-surface fresh water zone made up of 10-15 separate fresh water sands. These sands are separated by impermeable shales and are therefore isolated from each other. This fact makes it all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole.

11. Fracking is also not new to this area of Louisiana. Major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away through the same aquifer in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations will begin soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany Parish.

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

For all of the reasons set forth in this letter, I strongly urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application as Helis' well is in the public interest and will benefit the State of Louisiana and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish and will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "B".

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:14 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

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**From:** Spaar, John R [mailto:John.Spaar2@bakerhughes.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 10:36 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

On November 12, 2014 I attended the Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well public hearing. I strongly believe Helis Oil and Gas has gone far and above the requirements set by the state of Louisiana in the permitting of this well. As an Application Engineer with almost 40 years in the industry specializing in well construction in the Louisiana drilling environment I find their well construction practices more than adequate to insure a safe drilling environment and protect the surrounding environment. I am also a 30 year resident of St. Tammany Parish and very concerned with protecting the pristine environment of the area. I do not see any flaws in their proposal and in my professional opinion I feel the permit should be granted to Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,

**John Spaar** | Applications Engineer/ Drilling Advisor  
**Baker Hughes** | Louisiana | Gulf of Mexico Region  
Office: 985-590-6475  
Cell: 985-773-0866 [john.spaar2@bakerhughes.com](mailto:john.spaar2@bakerhughes.com)  
<http://www.bakerhughes.com> | *Advancing Reservoir Performance*

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

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**From:** lenny schmidt [mailto:lenny@rscno.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:31 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

Docket 14-626, Eads poitevent et al No1 well

I attended the meeting in the Lakeshore Gym on Wednesday night Nov 12. My comments are as follows.

If there is any concern over the safety of the construction process of the well, it is not up to Hellis to decide if it should be allowed. The neighbors are generally the ones who have to agree to allow the construction to proceed. If the location was zoned for the construction of a well that would not be the case, but I understand it is not.

Has a variance been applied for and approved by the parish to construct a well on this property? If not that process should be completed before the DNR gives Hellis a permit.

Leonard Schmidt  
CEO



5736 Citrus Blvd Suite 101  
New Orleans, La. 70123

[www.rscno.com](http://www.rscno.com)

504-734-3773



Please print only as needed

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error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: DOCKET No. 14-626

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**From:** Isabel Sanders [mailto:isabelwsanders@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Docket No. 14-626

To whom it concerns:

Along with the Greater New Orleans Business Association and the Northshore Business Council, I support the request of Helis Oil to drill in St Tammany Parish. I am in favor of responsible oil and gas exploration in Southeastern Louisiana.

Respectfully,

Isabel Sanders  
1217 Washington Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70130

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Docket No. 14-626/Helis

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**From:** Peter B. Waters [mailto:watersanddavid@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket No. 14-626/Helis

I write this email in support of granting a drilling permit for Helis Oil Company's project in St. Tammany.

For such a highly publicized project and community hearing, Wednesday night's very low turnout of 300 permit opponents seems to indicate that the majority of the Parishes 250,000 plus residents are okay with allowing Helis to move forward.

Furthermore, as a landowner of several small parcels of land in Caddo, Natchitoches and St. Tammany Parishes my belief is that by denying the permit, the Office of Conservation could thus usurp my mineral rights in a similar circumstance.

Helis is a responsible company and has demonstrated it has every legal right to receive a drilling permit from your office.

Thank you,  
Peter B. Waters

Waters & David Co.  
504-866-8484  
[www.watersanddavid.com](http://www.watersanddavid.com)

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:11 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Drilling permit in St. Tammany Parish

**From:** bornenorthshore@aol.com [mailto:bornenorthshore@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 7:21 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Drilling permit in St. Tammany Parish

Hi Mr. Patrick Courreges

My name is Paula Borne. I am a business owner and a real estate agent. I am writing to ask you not to give the permit to Helis Oil. What I do realize you hold my life in your hands. If the permit is given to Helis Oil

- #1 My Real estate investments I need to get rid of because I believe prices will go down.
- #2 I will have to move, it took me 2 years to find this place that me and my husband agreed upon for retirement.
- #3 My children, Grand Children and Great Grandchildren health and well being.

Can I ask you where are my rights. Put this before the people and see how they would vote.

I'm not sure you understand how much people are upset over this. We have done the research and we know this is full of problems. I have to ask, have you ever denied a permit?

I hope this is not falling on deaf ears.

Best Regards,  
Paula Borne

Best Regards  
Paula Borne  
[bornenorthshore@aol.com](mailto:bornenorthshore@aol.com)  
Plantation Properties  
Licensed by the Louisiana Real Estate Commission,  
Licensed in Mississippi

504-858-9293 - cell  
985-646-6096 - office

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 9:55 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Drilling permit request by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626

**From:** Margie Vicknair [mailto:nolamargie@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** Scott Eustis; Matt Rota  
**Subject:** RE: Drilling permit request by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626

Please add my input to the Public Comments regarding the drilling permit requested by Helis Oil in St. Tammany Parish, Engineering Docket 14-626.

St Tammany is basically a suburban community in a semi-rural setting. Allowing fracking here is tantamount to setting us up for another "worst disaster" scenario. One toxic spill or explosion could easily affect thousands. We do not want an oil and gas-based industry in St. Tammany Parish.

Statewide, the oil and gas industry has meant a windfall for a handful of non-citizens, jobs for a few thousand, and poverty and pollution for the rest of the state. Oh, I forgot, a nice boon for a handful of politicians, as well.

It is about time that DNR did what it is constitutionally bound to do, and that is PROTECT the resources of Louisiana, not sell them to outsiders who don't care about the long-term destructive impact on our once beautiful and resource-rich state.

As a retired oil and gas safety officer, I know for a FACT that there are natural gas wells capped off all across this country due to lack of a strong market (i.e. high prices). To say that this particular oil and gas must be retrieved right now is a joke, and both you and the industry know it. The ONLY reason to rush this development through is because once the "Halliburton Loophole" (Part of the Bush Administration's Energy Policy Act of 2005), is closed, fracking will be illegal and treasonous (poisoning of ground water and aquifers qualifies as a terrorist activity).

There is NO OTHER VALID REASON to push this toxic and dangerous technique as it is currently being promoted. There WILL be spills, as there is no oil and gas Operator on Earth who can say that there will not be any spills. And there will be accidents, because there is no Operator who can say that they will never have an accident.

Helis, in particular, has a checkered history of accidents and disregard for safety and the environment. Saying that, they are probably about average for the oilfield, which gives me a cold chill when I think of the toxins such as Acrylonitrile (HazMat#1093 - a tanker of which I saw in a Nabors fracking convoy in Tangipahoa earlier this year), and other similarly hazardous chemicals being pumped through our aquifer and dumped into open-air waste pits by Helis' contractors.

The citizens of southeast Louisiana deserve better than the disastrous lack of foresight in planning by our governmental agencies that we have received to date. Your directive as an agency is to protect our resources, not to act as protectorate for oil and gas interests.

Please stop all drilling and fracking permits in St. Tammany Parish. If you will do the job that you are legally bound to do, you will do the same for the rest of the Florida Parishes.

Sincerely,

Margie Vicknair-Pray

27400 John Lane

Lacombe, LA 70445  
985-373-7097

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

**From:** Serena [mailto:itsg2bq@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 5:13 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

Commissioner Welch, Please extend the time we have to submit comments for thirty additional days. We need time to review the new information Helis submitted last night at the DNR hearing in Mandeville.

Thank You.  
Serena Westberry, John Gonzales, Stephen Kaup, Sarah Kaup  
Covington, LA 70433

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"The definition of quality: Doing the right thing, and only the right thing, at the right time, all the time".

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 8:24 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No 14-626  
**Attachments:** draft.welsh.docx

FYI

**From:** Susan Tyler [mailto:susanjune09@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 02, 2014 2:43 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Susan Tyler

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Susan J. Tyler  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

dnrinfo@la.gov

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the above-named application by Helis Oil & Gas, to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a resident and property owner, I am very concerned about the potential short and long-term negative effects to the health and safety of St. Tammany's residents. We cannot allow the dangerous and largely unregulated practice of hydraulic fracturing to take place in our parish. By Helis's own admission, the project has only a 50/50 chance of success. With those odds, why would we risk the safety of our air quality and drinking water for the short-term gains of a few parties? The following are just a few of my concerns:

Although the industry repeatedly tells us that fracking is "safe," a quick online search will turn up scores of documented instances of ground water contamination in the states presently allowing the practice. Studies have shown that new wells leak approximately 6% of the time, and 50% of wells fail at some point. The Southern Hills Aquifer is the sole source of St. Tammany's drinking water. Once an aquifer is poisoned, there is no remedy.

Because of the dire risks to our only source of drinking water, we request that you prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the potential wide-spread effects on St. Tammany's air, water, wildlife, ecosystems, endangered species and fragile wetlands from hydraulic fracturing activity. Please bear in mind that if one well is permitted and is "successful," our parish will be inundated with applications for hundreds of wells. The impacts to our fragile ecosystems would be devastating.

St. Tammany is prone to flooding during mere rain events, not to mention during hurricanes. A "waste water pond," outgassing toxic chemicals and vulnerable to flooding during storm events, would be an accident waiting to happen. Additionally, to my knowledge, Helis has not indicated where they will obtain the millions of gallons of fresh water needed for fracking operations, nor have they stated where they will be disposing of the resulting toxic waste water. While many states are currently suffering historic droughts, these millions of gallons of water will be unusable, permanently poisoned, and unavailable to the water cycle. Fracking waste water is permanently contaminated with radioactive elements (that should remain underground) and with cancer-causing chemicals.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Another concern is the location of the proposed site: 1,000 feet from Lakeshore High School in a densely populated area. This area, along with much of the parish, already suffers from major traffic congestion problems. The idea of adding countless trucks hauling hazardous materials at all hours of the day and night to our already traffic-burdened roads is appalling. The number of traffic fatalities in the area will rise exponentially.

The proposed site is zoned A-3—residential use only. Heavily industrial activities, with their contingent flammability and chemical spill hazards, are strictly prohibited in residentially-zoned areas. We do not want these types of hazards in St. Tammany Parish at all, as our zoning reflects.

The industry touts jobs and potential revenues accruing to the area, but instead, with these types of operations, outside labor is imported (as we have seen in Mississippi,) and any revenues gained will be to a few non-resident landowners and to Helis. The parish and state are unlikely to profit due to Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling.

Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

Another major concern is the lack of contingency planning. Has Helis Oil submitted any type of plan to handle a catastrophic accident in St. Tammany Parish? Recent events in Louisiana, such as the disastrous BP Oil Spill and the Bayou Corne Sinkhole, as well as in many other parts of the country, have proven that the oil and gas industry is very short on contingency planning for bad or worst-case scenarios. In June of 2014, a fire on a drill pad in Ohio burned for five days, exposing the volunteer fire department responders to toxic chemical exposures as well as exposure to radioactive elements. Additionally, during the Ohio incident, waterways were also fouled and 70,000 fish were killed. How would St. Tammany handle such an event? (Please see <http://www.theoec.org/sites/default/files/Eisenbarth%20well%20pad%20fire.pdf>).

Industries cannot be counted on to self-regulate, and hydraulic fracturing is no exception. State agencies do not have the resources to adequately monitor their activities. Instead we, the residents, are told to involuntarily assume all the risks of permanent damage, for no gain.

As a property owner whose water is supplied by a well, I have a simple question: why should my drinking water, along with that of all of my fellow St. Tammany residents, be put at risk for permanent damage without my/our consent? If our water is damaged, our health is at risk and our property values go to nil.

We are fundamentally entitled to clean air, clean water and a safe environment. A clean, safe and poison-free environment is necessary for our constitutionally-protected rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No industry has the right to enter our parish and trample on those rights. The risks to the safety and health of the residents, communities and ecosystems of St. Tammany Parish should far outweigh any potential gains to a few individuals and one company, none of whom reside in our parish. We, the residents, have everything to lose. We would be risking our health, property and peace of mind to gain nothing, again, without our consent. Please respect the wishes of St.

Tammany's residents, and deny any and all permits requests by Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Tyler

Links to Articles:

Compendium compiled by Concerned Health Professionals of New York:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

Two links on a very recent study on well contamination:

<http://www.neomatica.com/2014/09/24/trace-isotope-analysis-reveals-fracking-contaminating-well-water-3-ways/>

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/39/14076.abstract> (with link to supporting info.)

Interesting article on how local governments suffer after effects of fracking:

<http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-frackings-financial-losers.html>

Hydraulic Fracturing Fluid kills 18 cows in Louisiana:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2009/04/30/726340/-Hydraulic-Fracture-Fluid-Kills-18-Cattle-Near-Chesapeake-Well-in-LA>

US Fish & Wildlife Service Report on (produced water) sludge pit contamination/death of migratory birds and wildlife:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/contaminants/documents/reservepits.pdf>

Conclusive link between fracking and aquifer contamination found in Texas:

<http://www.southernstudies.org/2014/06/conclusive-link-between-fracking-aquifer-contamina.html>

And just released from U.S. News & World Report:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/30/toxic-chemicals-and-carcinogens-skyrocket-near-fracking-sites-study-says>

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 03, 2014 8:25 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** draft.cws.welsh.docx

FYI

**From:** Charles Sapp [mailto:cwssjt08@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 02, 2014 2:31 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Charles Sapp

---

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Charles W. Sapp  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

[dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the above-named application by Helis Oil & Gas, to drill in St. Tammany Parish. As a resident and property owner, I am very concerned about the potential short and long-term negative effects to the health and safety of St. Tammany's residents. We cannot allow the dangerous and largely unregulated practice of hydraulic fracturing to take place in our parish. By Helis's own admission, the project has only a 50/50 chance of success. With those odds, why would we risk the safety of our air quality and drinking water for the short-term gains of a few parties? The following are just a few of my concerns:

Although the industry repeatedly tells us that fracking is "safe," a quick online search will turn up scores of documented instances of ground water contamination in the states presently allowing the practice. Studies have shown that new wells leak approximately 6% of the time, and 50% of wells fail at some point. The Southern Hills Aquifer is the sole source of St. Tammany's drinking water. Once an aquifer is poisoned, there is no remedy.

Because of the dire risks to our only source of drinking water, we request that you prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the potential wide-spread effects on St. Tammany's air, water, wildlife, ecosystems, endangered species and fragile wetlands from hydraulic fracturing activity. Please bear in mind that if one well is permitted and is "successful," our parish will be inundated with applications for hundreds of wells. The impacts to our fragile ecosystems would be devastating.

St. Tammany is prone to flooding during mere rain events, not to mention during hurricanes. A "waste water pond," outgassing toxic chemicals and vulnerable to flooding during storm events, would be an accident waiting to happen. Additionally, to my knowledge, Helis has not indicated where they will obtain the millions of gallons of fresh water needed for fracking operations, nor have they stated where they will be disposing of the resulting toxic waste water. While many states are currently suffering historic droughts, these millions of gallons of water will be unusable, permanently poisoned, and unavailable to the water cycle. Fracking waste water is permanently contaminated with radioactive elements (that should remain underground) and with cancer-causing chemicals.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Another concern is the location of the proposed site: 1,000 feet from Lakeshore High School in a densely populated area. This area, along with much of the parish, already suffers from major traffic congestion problems. The idea of adding countless trucks hauling hazardous materials at all hours of the day and night to our already traffic-burdened roads is appalling. The number of traffic fatalities in the area will rise exponentially.

The proposed site is zoned A-3—residential use only. Heavily industrial activities, with their contingent flammability and chemical spill hazards, are strictly prohibited in residentially-zoned areas. We do not want these types of hazards in St. Tammany Parish at all, as our zoning reflects.

The industry touts jobs and potential revenues accruing to the area, but instead, with these types of operations, outside labor is imported (as we have seen in Mississippi,) and any revenues gained will be to a few non-resident landowners and to Helis. The parish and state are unlikely to profit due to Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling.

Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

Another major concern is the lack of contingency planning. Has Helis Oil submitted any type of plan to handle a catastrophic accident in St. Tammany Parish? Recent events in Louisiana, such as the disastrous BP Oil Spill and the Bayou Corne Sinkhole, as well as in many other parts of the country, have proven that the oil and gas industry is very short on contingency planning for bad or worst-case scenarios. In June of 2014, a fire on a drill pad in Ohio burned for five days, exposing the volunteer fire department responders to toxic chemical exposures as well as exposure to radioactive elements. Additionally, during the Ohio incident, waterways were also fouled and 70,000 fish were killed. How would St. Tammany handle such an event? (Please see <http://www.theoec.org/sites/default/files/Eisenbarth%20well%20pad%20fire.pdf>).

Industries cannot be counted on to self-regulate, and hydraulic fracturing is no exception. State agencies do not have the resources to adequately monitor their activities. Instead we, the residents, are told to involuntarily assume all the risks of permanent damage, for no gain.

As a property owner whose water is supplied by a well, I have a simple question: why should my drinking water, along with that of all of my fellow St. Tammany residents, be put at risk for permanent damage without my/our consent? If our water is damaged, our health is at risk and our property values go to nil.

We are fundamentally entitled to clean air, clean water and a safe environment. A clean, safe and poison-free environment is necessary for our constitutionally-protected rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No industry has the right to enter our parish and trample on those rights. The risks to the safety and health of the residents, communities and ecosystems of St. Tammany Parish should far outweigh any potential gains to a few individuals and one company, none of whom reside in our parish. We, the residents, have everything to lose. We would be risking our health, property and peace of mind to gain nothing, again, without our consent. Please respect the wishes of St.

Tammany's residents, and deny any and all permits requests by Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Sapp

Links to Articles:

Compendium compiled by Concerned Health Professionals of New York:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

Two links on a very recent study on well contamination:

<http://www.neomatica.com/2014/09/24/trace-isotope-analysis-reveals-fracking-contaminating-well-water-3-ways/>

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/39/14076.abstract> (with link to supporting info.)

Interesting article on how local governments suffer after effects of fracking:

<http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-frackings-financial-losers.html>

Hydraulic Fracturing Fluid kills 18 cows in Louisiana:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2009/04/30/726340/-Hydraulic-Fracture-Fluid-Kills-18-Cattle-Near-Chesapeake-Well-in-LA>

US Fish & Wildlife Service Report on (produced water) sludge pit contamination/death of migratory birds and wildlife:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/contaminants/documents/reservepits.pdf>

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<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/30/toxic-chemicals-and-carcinogens-skyrocket-near-fracking-sites-study-says>

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:11 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**From:** Barbara Jackson [mailto:barbinabita@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:04 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
  
**Department of Natural Resources**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:24 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** 53 in opposed to Eads #1, Engineering Docket 14-626.pdf

**From:** Barbara Jackson [mailto:barbinabita@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 11:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626

To: Department of Natural Resources

Attn.: James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Attached please find 53 signatures in opposition to the above permit application.

Thank you.

Barbara Jackson  
22052 8th Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

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## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Allen R Little</i> ALLEN L. LITTLE	106 W. Hall Ave Sulley La	11-8-14
2	<i>Mary C. Reams</i> Mary C. Reams	306 Goldenwood St Madenville	11/8/14
3	<i>Elizabeth Van Sant</i> Wanda A	603 W 24th Covington	11/8/14
4	<i>Nick Blady</i> NICK BEADY	306 Goldenwood Mobile	11/8/14
5	<i>Doreen Picone</i> Doreen Picone	71476 Parc Wood Dr E.	11/8/14
6	<i>Sharon Edward</i>	1532 Boyd Amos St Elidell	11-8-14
7	<i>FRBD MARCHIN</i> James Marchin	307 Humblebrook Sulley LA 70460	
8	<i>Kara Jordan @ fulbright.org</i>	1933 Willow St NOLA	
9	<i>James Harrison</i> James M. Harrison	} 8 Log Cabin Lane Pearl River La 70452	
10	<i>Shirley J W</i> Shirley J W		4020 Cleveland NOLA
11	<i>Jan P. Jomonville</i> Jan P. Jomonville	24 Magnolia Gardens Dr. Covington La 70435	1-8-14
12			

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

TO: Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
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Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Maura Lee</i>	<i>826 Old Landing Rd Covington, LA</i>	
2	<i>Sandra Slifer</i> <i>Pandra Slifer</i>	<i>116 Tulip Dr. Covington, LA 70433</i>	
3	<i>LeAnn Pinniga Magee</i>	<i>22195 Green St Orbita Springs, LA 70120</i>	<i>11/5/14</i>
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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 Department of Natural Resources  
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 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

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 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Janet B. Cascio</i> Janet B. Cascio	407 West 15th Ave. Covington, LA 70433	11/1/14
2	<i>Alison Cook</i> Alison Cook	70482 Tenth St Covington LA 70433	11/1/14
3	<i>Elaine Pale</i>	68775 Merion 70471	11-1-14
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	ADRIANA TORRES Joaquin Torres	20219 Helenbieg RD Covington LA 70433	
2	Sharon Revere Sharon Revere	414 E. JESSIE JONES COVINGTON, LA 70433	
3	Amanda Hosbach Am A	103 Beau Soleil Place, Mandeville LA 70471	11/1/14
4	Pat Carroll	20204 River Parc Dr Cov. LA. 70433	11/1/14
5	Merion Lea	526 Old Landing Rd Covington, LA 70423	11/1/14
6	Jaret Wing Jaret Wing	58408 Holly Dr Slidell, LA 70460	11/1/14
7	Carol Olsen CAROL OLSEN	16309 E. Beauvoir Rd., Apt F242 Covington, LA 70433	11/1/14
8	F W COOPER F W COOPER	27144 HWY 40 BUSH, LA 70431	11.1.14
9	Heather Wright	314 LISBON ONE COVINGTON LA 70433	
10	David F. Easley David F. Easley	310 E. 35th Ave Covington LA 70433	11/4/14
11	RICHARD ROBERTSON	73223 ABITA SPRINGS DR ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	11/4/14
12	Esther O'Hare	82121 Hwy 1082 Bush, La	11/5/14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

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## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

TO: Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Sandra Doney</i> Sandra Doney	3807 Brookwood Dr., Slidell, LA 70458	10/29/14
2	<i>Barbara Jackson</i> Barbara Jackson	22052 8th Street Abita Springs LA 70420	10-31-14
3	<i>J. Lewis Steven</i> TERRI LEWIS STEVEN	725 DOVE PK RD COVINGTON, LA 70433	10-31-14
4	<i>Cynthia A. Brookings</i> Cynthia A. Brookings	23015 Hwy 1084 Covington LA 70435	10/31/ 14
5	<i>Thomas R Cash</i> Thomas R Cash	131 Hickory St Covington LA 70433	10/31/ 2014
6	<i>Laura Metevia</i> Laura Metevia	19684 Jerald Rd Covington, LA 70435	10-31-14
7	<i>V. Elizabeth</i> V. Elizabeth	19684 Jerald Rd Covington, LA 70435	10/31/14
8	<i>Keith Reynolds</i> Keith Reynolds	27 Ellen Dr Covington LA 70433	10/31/14
9	<i>Belinda FitzSimons</i> Belinda FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10/31/14
10	<i>Sherman FitzSimons</i> Sherman FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10-31-14
11	<i>Xavier C.D. FitzSimons</i> Xavier C.D. FitzSimons	14280 E. FitzSimons Rd. Covington, LA 70433	10/31/14
12	<i>Martha D. Cooper</i> Martha D. Cooper	27144 Hwy 40 Bushy, LA 70431	10-31-14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

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 Engineering Docket No. 14-626

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	MAURICE J. DUPRE <i>Maurice Dupre</i>	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS, LA 70420	28 OCT 2014
2	Louis C. Henschel LOUIS C. HENSCHEN	22168 6TH ST ABITA SPRINGS, LA 70420	OCT 28 2014
3	Catherine O'Haire Catherine O'HAIRE	82181 OLD MILITARY BUSH LA	10/28/14
4	Susan Tyler <i>Susan Tyler</i>	786 Brewster Rd. Madisonville, LA 70447	10/28/14
5	Charles Sapp <i>Charles Sapp</i>	786 Brewster Rd, Madisonville	10/28/14
6	Cynthia Rester Cynthia Rester	64328 Fish Hatchery Rd Lacombe La, 70445	10/28/14
7	Dyane Mitchell Dyane Mitchell	1427 clover st Mandeville, La 70448	10/28/14
8	Cassata Krebs <i>Cassata Krebs</i>	50 Pine St. Covington LA 70433	10/28/14
9	Martha Badon William Badon	59591 Badm Rd Stidell La 5959 BADON Rd 1170460	10/28/14
10	Margie Dicknair-Pray Margie Dicknair-Pray	27400 JOHN LANE LACOMBE, LA 70445	10/28/14
11	Barbara Jackson Barbara Jackson	22052 8th St. Abita Springs LA 70420	10-28-14
12	Drane Casteel Drane Casteel	1111 Carroll St. Mandeville LA 70448	10/29/14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 9:55 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket # 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

**From:** Mark Sagerholm [mailto:marksagerholm@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 10:58 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket # 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

attn: La DNR Office of Conservation  
Re: Engineering Docket 14-626 / Helis Drilling Permit

Dear La DNR - I am a six-year resident of Mandeville, living at 2615 N Causeway Blvd, C-59, Mandeville. I am IN FAVOR of approval of the Helis drilling permit.

Unlike the Lava Lamp Luddites that think the world will end with nearby fracking, I did my research and am well aware that hydraulic fracturing activity leaves a very small footprint and has no negative impact on the environment.

The Helis project will bring needed high-paying industrial jobs into our area and benefit our economy. It also helps reduce our need to import hydrocarbon fuels from overseas countries run by anti-American dictators.

Please approve Helis's drilling permit immediately.

Sincerely,  
Mark Sagerholm  
Mandeville, LA

---

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 9:50 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering docket 14-626  
**Attachments:** 07b341\_5c03f3084b50430685b32b5f8d93a3ea.pdf

FYI

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**From:** Victoria Benitez [mailto:vbenitez@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 9:50 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering docket 14-626

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/07b341\\_5c03f3084b50430685b32b5f8d93a3ea.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/07b341_5c03f3084b50430685b32b5f8d93a3ea.pdf)

I agree with the following statement.  
No fracking in St. Tammany Parish!!!!

Sent from my iPad

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*Jan P. Jumonville*

24 Magnolia Gardens Drive  
Covington, LA 70435

Telephone (985) 892-8191  
Email: [jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net](mailto:jjumonvilleatty@bellsouth.net)

October 25, 2014

**Email:** [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Hellis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In [Science Daily](#) the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells."

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 2 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 3 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).
2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2).

**Email: dnrinfo.la.gov**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 4 of 5

**Email: Jeff.Wells@la.gov**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

3. Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(I).
4. Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump vales that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).
5. Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11 (G).
6. Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).
7. Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CPR § 112.11G).
8. Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).
9. Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.1 I(O).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
October 25, 2014  
Page 5 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

10. Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated its lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poiteviant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jan P. Jumonville  
JAN P. JUMONVILLE

JPJ/jpj  
cc: Mr. Patrick Courreges, [Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LSA.GOV)

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:16 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitenent et al No. 1 well

---

**From:** CHRISTINE KIVETT [mailto:chriskivett@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 3:33 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitenent et al No. 1 well

Christine Kivett  
31106 Watts Thomas Rd  
Bush, LA 70431

November 14, 2014

ref: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

To Whom it May Concern:

I am not a native of St. Tammany Parish but have had connections here all of my life. I moved to Covington in 1972 and have lived on the Northshore since that time. As you can imagine I have seen tremendous changes. What once was to me a paradise with marshes, swamps, miles of trees. amazing pine smell in the air and diverse plants is becoming a shadow of itself, in many instances unrecognizable (think West Bank Expressway or Veterans Blvd. in the New Orleans area) I have seen flooding where sensibly no development should have been allowed and places flooding that had never done so. This is my home and I have seen it decimated, I miss some of the places of beauty I once knew.

This parish and it's government has consistently sided with developers and ignored pleas from many of it's citizens. Now we are faced with the possibility of Helis Oil Company drilling a hydraulic fracturing well in between two areas of heavy commercial and residential populations along an extremely busy I-12 corridor which by the way is known for numerous accidents. The area linking the West St. Tammany and the East is ever growing and expanding with development. If Helis is granted permit to drill, I feel that this parish will be subjected to more than urban sprawl.

I attended the meeting at Lakeshore High School and heard nothing from Helis representatives to ease any fears to citizens. Fracking is a relatively new industry where still is much to be learned. We were never given a direct answer as to exactly where their water sources where to be obtained, only by local ponds. What ponds, where? Many of the ponds I am familiar with are fed by underground springs. Would that affect the aquifer? Where would toxic waste go, if it is trucked off, where to? What other community will be affected by it. The traffic situation will only get worse. How many trucks and how much noise will be created. A Helis representative pointed to an existing road through the proposed property but at some point they will be traveling our highways. This is one site, how many other sites will this open up? This proposal is also in an area that is also wetlands which in my understanding no activity such as fracking should be allowed. I find it extremely ironic and hypocritical that the powers that be in Louisiana fight for monies for wetland restoration and then continue to bow to development and oil interests that destroy wetlands! All of the wetlands, the trees are critical to minimizing flooding and thus insurance costs.

Other communities across the nation are now experiencing problems with their environment, including earth tremors and the most recent earthquake of 4.8 magnitude in Kansas, scientists are beginning to question the impact fracking may have concerning the increased tremors in Kansas and surrounding states where fracking has increased. Most of it from what I have learned may be induced by injecting the toxic waste from well sites into deep wells. Will the waste from this site be disposed of in this manner, thereby creating problems somewhere else? Helis says it will maintain a safe well, I am sure BP said the same, or perhaps Sunoco that experienced two environmental disasters just this year involving pipeline spills. In the March Ohio spill, cleanup is still in progress, in north Louisiana near Shreveport it will take months..

To the members of DNR, please consider that quality of life has value, our environment has value beyond dollar signs, People who are informed will not want to live, work and raise their children near an industrial area. They will leave just as easily as they came in the first place. This is not just a not in my backyard opinion. This is fact. Please deny this permit and honor the zoning that is in place. Please for once do not side with special interests.

Sincerely,

Christine Kivett

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:24 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Zapata [<mailto:amy.zapata@charter.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:55 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Please do not approve the fracking proposal in our north shore community.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

**From:** Renate Heurich [mailto:renateheurich350@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 2:17 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

I am voicing my opposition to the above project. No fracking in St. Tammany nor anywhere else.

Clean water and a livable climate!

Sincerely,

Renate Heurich

1407 Napoleon Ave, Apt. B

New Orleans, LA 70115

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:15 PM  
**To:** Gary Ross; Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Mislove [<mailto:mikemis@bellsouth.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2014 8:04 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Cc: Mike Mislove  
Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Office of Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Sirs:

I am writing about the hydraulic fracture drilling operation that Helios Oil proposes to initiate in St Tammany Parish. I believe the permit application should be denied, but even more, I believe your Office needs to implement a process to ensure that all constituencies that would be affected by this proposed operation have been heard, and that their concerns have been adequately addressed. State law reserves to your Office - and your Office alone - the power to decide whether a drilling permit should be granted. With that power comes the responsibility to weigh all aspects carefully, and to give all affected parties due consideration.

In weighing a decision, your Office must consider the setting in which this operation would take place. The area is undeveloped land, but close by are numerous subdivisions that have sprung up over the past several years. Moreover, while Lakeshore High School is just over 1 mile away, the drilling operation could reach the land on which the school sits. St Tammany parish is no longer rural, but is now part of a broad suburban region - indeed, St Tammany has promoted itself a bedroom community for the New Orleans area, and has encouraged housing developments all across the parish. What began 40 years ago as small neighborhoods mostly strung along the lakeshore and along the arteries going north has now spread to envelope virtually the entire lower two-thirds of the parish.

This did not happen in a vacuum - as incentive, the parish established comprehensive zoning regulations for the parish that enhance its suburban nature and aimed at assuring its quality of life will not be downgraded by heavy industrial developments that could adversely affect the environment.

Despite what's asserted by proponents, the Helis project would threaten that quality of life in the parish - the threat to neighborhood developments located nearby and those slated for suburban development is obvious. Equally obvious is the fact that the state rules requiring drilling operations to have a 500-foot buffer are insufficient in this situation. Furthermore, the assurances by Helis that their proposed additional precautions would ensure the aquifer will not be adversely affected cannot be taken on face value and require close scrutiny. Those who live in the parish deserve proof that those precautions will be adequate and effective, and adequate procedures need to be established and enforced to deal with any unforeseen eventuality. The BP catastrophe is an example of what can happen, and requiring Helis to post a sizable bond - like the \$20B fund BP created - to ensure adequate funds are available to pay for a cleanup and to compensate victims in case of an accident would be a prudent precaution. Given the threat this operation poses to the environment and the sole source of drinking water for the entire parish (and beyond), all this seems quite reasonable.

Unfortunately, Helis has refused to meet openly to discuss and debate their plans. The only way to force

communication to reach an agreement acceptable to all concerned - if such is to be had - is to deny the current application and require the parties to the table where open discussions can explore the possibility. While state law excludes the local governments from having a direct say in developments like the proposed drilling activity, that does not mean your Office, which has the power to decide these issues, can do so without appropriate consideration of the local interests, including those expressed in zoning regulations. While the decision to hold a public hearing on this application was appropriate, and was a step in the right direction, it alone is insufficient. The concerns expressed at the hearing and in other forums need to be answered in detail, and elected representatives of those who live in the area deserve the right to question Helis about the details of their proposals to address those concerns. They also deserve the right to propose added requirements that would ensure the environment and the quality of life in St Tammany is protected. In short, it is difficult to see how a credible decision to allow drilling to go forward can flow from a process in which local concerns are not discussed and debated openly between representatives of the competing parties.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of these comments, Michael Mislove  
46 Deloaks Drive  
Madisonville, LA 70447

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:27 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

-----Original Message-----

From: kim coblentz [<mailto:kpc39466@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:39 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

RE: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

I live just across the state line in Mississippi now, but am native to St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. My family still resides in St. Tammany and I am against fracking in this parish. Please No Fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

Kim Coblentz  
146 Dick Kennedy Road  
Picayune, MS. 39466

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** DNR letter from Barras.wps

**From:** cajdance@aol.com [mailto:cajdance@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 10:56 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

We have attached our letter regarding our plea to deny Helis' permission to explore for oil in St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Paulette Barras  
3235 Rama Street  
Slidell, LA  
70458

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.  
**Attachments:** Comments to DNR.docx

**From:** philcynth@aol.com [mailto:philcynth@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 3:16 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** re: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

November 17, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

To Whom It May Concern:

The following are my comments regarding the permit request referenced above.

As a long-standing member of the St. Tammany Parish community, I have been concerned about this request for fracking and/or any drilling permits in this parish, for a variety of reasons, primarily because we are a community where a single-source aquifer is the basis for our water. When I attended the hearing regarding this, I heard that there is still a chance, no matter how small, that the aquifer could be contaminated. (The anti-fracking witness, Mr. Quarles, said that the aquifer is stratified into various layers of rock and sand, and there were no guarantees as to safety in the drilling at all, as any piece along the pipe and casing could fail.) While many believe that we are desperate for oil and gas, we truly will die as a community without water. Even the phrase "Water is the new oil" was the basis for a news article this week on "60 Minutes".

Another reason for the concern is that the oil company mentioned that 5.8 million gallons of water are used on each individual well (and we still have no idea about how many wells that they might be interested in drilling). There also was a puzzle (no definitive answers given from Helis) as to from where this water would be obtained. A vague answer of "ponds on the land" was given, yet no one seemed to have an answer as to where these were located, how many there "might" be, how much water "might" be in them, or if indeed they might be fed from any of our beautiful waterways - streams, bayous and rivers - or even if any ponds existed at all! This in and of itself was alarming and cause for pausing for further answers and/or investigation by the DNR.

If indeed the DNR protects our natural resources, let us not forget about the soil, forests, wetlands, abundant wildlife and other plants on these 20,000 acres that would be polluted and contaminated for generations to come. As the St. Tammany League of Women Voters expressed, St. Tammany is NOT "an industrialized parish", and this community does not

want to become one either. (see bogle Earth tour of well pads clustered in other areas for what this would look like to this Parish if allowed to go forward .<https://www.youtube.com/watch?noredirect=1&v=7jN6TSSPZwU&app=desktop>)

Furthermore, while no mention was made regarding earthquakes, how ironic that, the day after the DNR hearing, there was a magnitude 4.8 earthquake in the region of 3 states where hydraulic fracturing is most active! (see USA Today - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/12/kansas-oklahoma-earthquake/18939417/>).

With an acknowledged 50-50 chance for success in this operation; with no answers regarding from where water would come to drill the well; with any chance, no matter how remote, that our precious aquifer could be contaminated; and with a community clearly against these operations, there is no way that the State could authorize any such permits for fracking and/or drilling in this area.

Please consider the needs and values of this community and that water IS the most precious resource we have here, in so many ways. And please come take a ride on the Bayou with us, to see first-hand the true beauty, values and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Schmidt  
59275 Pine Bay Lane  
Lacombe, LA 70445

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November 17, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-020 Pads Poitevent et al No. well

To Whom It May Concern:

The following are my comments regarding the permit request referenced above.

As a long-standing member of the St. Tammany Parish community, I have been concerned about this request for fracking and/or any drilling permits in this parish, for a variety of reasons, primarily because we are a community where a single-source aquifer is the basis for our water. When I attended the hearing regarding this, I heard that there is still a chance, no matter how small, that the aquifer could be contaminated. (The anti-fracking witness, Mr. Quarles, said that the aquifer is stratified into various layers of rock and sand, and there were no guarantees as to safety in the drilling at all, as any piece along the pipe and casing could fail.) While many believe that we are desperate for oil and gas, we truly will die as a community without water. Even the phrase "Water is the new oil" was the basis for a news article this week on "60 Minutes".

Another reason for the concern is that the oil company mentioned that 5.8 million gallons of water are used on each individual well (and we still have no idea about how many wells that they might be interested in drilling). There also was a puzzle (no definitive answers given from Celis) as to from where this water would be obtained. A vague answer of "ponds on the land" was given, yet no one seemed to have an answer as to where these were located, how many there "might" be, how much water "might" be in them, or if indeed they might be fed from any of our beautiful waterways - streams, bayous and rivers - or even if any ponds existed at all! This in and of itself was alarming and cause for pausing for further answers and/or investigation by the DNR.

If indeed the DNR protects our natural resources, let us not forget about the soil, forests, wetlands, abundant wildlife and other plants on these 20,000 acres that would be polluted and contaminated for generations to come. As the St. Tammany League of Women Voters expressed, St. Tammany is NOT "an industrialized parish", and this community does not want to become one either. (see Bogale Earth tour of well pads clustered in other areas for what

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

this would look like to this Parish if allowed to go forward

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w...>)

Furthermore, while no mention was made regarding earthquakes, how ironic that, the day after the DNR hearing, there was a magnitude 4.8 earthquake in the region of 3 states where hydraulic fracturing is most active! (see USA Today - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/12/kansas-oklahoma-earthquake/18939417/>).

With an acknowledged 50-50 chance for success in this operation; with no answers regarding from where water would come to drill the well; with any chance, no matter how remote, that our precious aquifer could be contaminated; and with a community clearly against these operations, there is no way that the State could authorize any such permits for fracking and/or drilling in this area.

Please consider the needs and values of this community and that water IS the most precious resource we have here, in so many ways. And please come take a ride on the Bayou with us, to see first-hand the true beauty, values and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Schmidt  
59275 Pine Bay Lane  
Lacombe, LA 70445

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:59 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

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**From:** Scott Tammy [mailto:tscott@san.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:35 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Just say "NO" to the Fracking Permit.

The US does not need any further permits to for Fracking. This is Not about energy this is about the almighty "\$".

Renewable energy is here in many different forms and it is here to stay. We do not need Hydraulic Fracturing. It has been shown to be detrimental to the environment.

1. Pollutes the air
2. Pollutes the water with toxic elements
3. Wastes fresh drinking water. The water they use to Frack is fresh and most people are aware several states are in severe draught. Don't make yours one of them on purpose.
4. Causes Seismic activity.

This is just the beginning of what fracking can and will do to your home.

Did you know that over 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel was used to frack for oil without mandatory federal permits.

Or How about in California 3 billion gallons of fracking sludge was illegally dumped into California's drinking water, and farm irrigation aquifers. This sludge contained toxins include high levels of lethal arsenic (carcinogenic and immunodisruptive), thallium (an ingredient in rat poison) and nitrates (highly toxic to cattle and other ruminants).

This dumping of toxic sludge from fracking went uncovered by large media. Why is that? One of the largest water using states in the US has been poisoned and it was not covered.

What will happen when the fracking begins in your area. Your Aquifers, ground water, environment. If it was covered up in California what do you think will happen in your area. You don't want to live in one of those city/towns that had to pick up and move/disappear because your homeland has become to poison to live in.

More import than the dollars these companies will make is our world. Our environment. Everything we do has a cause and effect. When our world suffers so does every tree, animal and person.

If not for yourself think of the future.

For those of you who live near and in St. Tammany Parish stand up and say "NO" permits. "NO to Fracking" save your beautiful spot in our world. To all others keep watch and if it comes to your part of the world "JUNE 2014 NO"

For St. Tammany this is the email and docket number I found to email. If an email or letter can help lets help.

[dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Engineering Docket 14-022, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**For those who make the decisions on these permits this is NOT the right things to do. Say no and veto the permit and approvals.**

Thank you for your time and Consideration

Tammara Scott

"Individually we are unique, as a team we are unstoppable"

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:10 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

**From:** Jim Darkling [mailto:brandy2720@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:17 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well.

Just say "NO" to the Fracking permit. For those who make the decisions on these permits this in NOT the right thing to do. Say no and veto the permits and approvals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 9:50 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: ENGINEERING DOCKET 14-626, Helis Oil Drilling Permit

**To:** Bruce Daryl Barton [mailto:baddoggy@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2014 4:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** ENGINEERING DOCKET 14-626, Helis Oil Drilling Permit

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**This is to request that the proposed drilling permit for Helis Oil for a Fracking site located off Hwy. 1088 in Mandeville, Louisiana NOT be issued, for the following reasons:**

- 1. The proposed well would be located in a wetlands area. NO mitigation can change that. Wetlands are wetlands.**
- 2. The proposed well casing would penetrate many layers of the Southern Hills aquifer, which is the SOLE source of drinking for the City of Mandeville, among others.**
- 3. Even if the first well is drilled "successfully" (i.e., NOT polluting the aquifer), there are sure to be many others soon to follow, and the aquifer may not be so lucky with all of them.**
- 4. The Aquifers supplying water to the area of the drilling operation, generally flow in a southern direction, toward the City of Mandeville. It is not a good idea to endanger the SOLE source of drinking water for the several cities located within the area of this proposed operation.**
- 5. Helis Oil has options on approximately 65,000 acres adjacent to this proposed drilling site. What about the aquifer penetrations that will come from many other drilling operations?**

**Granting this Permit is just not a good idea, no matter how many jobs and tax revenues it is purported to generate.  
Please DENY this drilling permit.  
Thank you for your consideration.**

**Bruce Barton  
1111 Carroll Street  
Mandeville, Louisiana 70448**

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 8:22 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

For the record

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**From:** Dave Easley [mailto:davefeasley@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information [jim.welch@la.gov]; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Mr. Welch and Mr. Wells (Oh, no, that name mightn't bode well for my request today! Maybe your ancestors were named after water wells and not oil wells!)

We don't want Helis's well in St. Tammany Parish! People on both sides of the issue are touting the recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences as being in support of their side.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/110/28/11250.full.pdf+html><http://www.pnas.org/content/110/28/11250.full.pdf+html>

One author even created a fanciful headline stating that the study proved that fracking doesn't contaminate drinking water which would beg the question, who is going to frac without annuluses (annuli), production casings and underground wells, the man-made elements of fracking found by the study to have failed in instances of contamination. The study clearly traced the contaminated water they studied to fracking projects in the areas affected. Only by an **impossibly strict** definition of fracking, one which includes the fracturing of rock but not any of the actions of men, chemicals and equipment that cause the fracturing, can it be said that fracking did not contaminate the water.

So, basically, a company that has been perfect in the past and has plans in place to remedy failures in the future might be expected to drill without problems in St. Tammany. Helis is neither such company. I guess you are familiar with the following incident in the Gulf of Mexico involving Helis: (conclusions on pages 15 and 16)

[http://www.bsee.gov/inspection-and-enforcement/Accidents-and-  
Incidents/accirepo/2002/2002-002.pdf](http://www.bsee.gov/inspection-and-enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/accirepo/2002/2002-002.pdf)

and this list of Helis EPA violations:

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/RHC/EPAAdmin.nsf/ filings/102518C745A  
C04785257BAD001BCADC/file/helis.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/OA/RHC/EPAAdmin.nsf/ filings/102518C745AC04785257BAD001BCADC/file/helis.pdf)

As Mike Stagg points out in the letters he and Jan Jummonville wrote, the oil industry has been drilling for 100 years and hasn't perfected it yet. We are truly dreaming if we expect them to perfect it just in time for them to drill through our single source aquifer. All that risk for what? So a few people can get rich? Why would any sensible person even consider allowing it? Are people being paid off or pressured by CIA agents into accepting it as a matter of national security even though we're already out-producing the Arabs? Sorry if those two hypothetical reasons sound paranoid. Can you give me a non-paranoid reason why anyone should be allowed to drill for oil through a single-source aquifer, especially a company with as poor a record as Helis?

What plans do they have in place in case of a problem? (This is definitely not a paranoid question. See just a handful out of a multitude of recent examples below.) Escaping to China before they can be sued?

<http://fracking.einnews.com/article/201979951/dOe7l1m-vOdu2&code5CMCg4ac48ddAT>

<http://wvpublic.org/post/dep-september-drilling-accident-contaminated-water-doddridge-county>

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well-explosion.html>

not to mention other things that go wrong around oil and gas drilling.

As you know, hydro-carbons are often found together and oil wells will produce methane which is typically flared if no pipeline is in place.

Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale), the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out." So industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are expecting a high gas content in this play.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/28/investigators-checking-cause-of-pipeline-fire.html>

**and things that go very wrong with the air quality.**

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141005-state-study-finds-unsafe-levels-airborne-chemicals-near-oil-and-gas-sites>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/dangerously-high-levels-of-airborne-carcinogens-found-at-us-frac-king-sites-98258.html>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/frac-king-leaving-radioactive-pollution-in-pa-201310>

In signing off I respectfully urge you both to please do the sensible thing and reject this application to drill and I want to say that I agree with every point in the following letter by Jummonville and Stagg.

Dave Easley  
Covington LA

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Wells,

On behalf of my family, friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poiteviant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations.

Helis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed.

A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In Science Daily the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated:

"There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells." **Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 2 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling.

Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 10,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states.

There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region.

This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish. Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact.

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo.la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 3 of 5

**Email: [Jeff.Wells@la.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not.

In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove, LA, St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas. Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 12/2/2011 signed by Helis

Production Manager, David McNight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC, Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-02014815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2014 the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR 112.7(e).

2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR 112.7(f) (2).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 4 of 5

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field-constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR 112.7(i).

Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump valves that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11(D).

Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11 (E).

Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11(f).

Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11(g).

Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during workover operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11(h).

Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11(i).

**Email: [dnrinfo.la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)**

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

October 25, 2014 Page 5 of 5

**Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)**

Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana

10.

Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR 112.11(P). Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR 112.7 and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2014 ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$2,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 11(b)(1) of the Act, 33 USC 1221(b)(1) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties

and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated its lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poitevant family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT! Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 9:54 AM

**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross

**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Attachments:** DNR 11-10-14.doc; Glo Frac Hedleys text.doc; Glo Frac PP.ppt

For the record

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**From:** Sandra Doney [mailto:swdoney@ya.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 10:28 PM

**To:** LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

DNR,

Please read and give considerable thought to the attached documents.

Thanks so much!

Sandra Doney

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#### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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11/10/14

Department of Natural Resources,

“The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.”

Fracking, with its destructive effects, undermines these goals and protections. Some of the myriad negative impacts from fracking are: Immeasurable contamination of water, air, land, and food; poisoned and severely depleted aquifers; health problems with animals and people suffering and dying - family, friends, and loved ones with health problems and no relief and losing work time and or jobs and money due to health problems; degradation of life; devalued property; increased noise, traffic woes including accidents and fatalities, foul smells, crime, drugs, prostitution, and earthquakes; and having the beauty and tranquility of our neighborhood, surroundings, and natural scenic environment devastated. This is a disaster in the making and a contributor to immorality, desperation, hopelessness, suicide, crime, and psychological and social ills. Are we teaching our children that our utmost goal in life should be to make money at any cost? Then, we are no better than the prostitutes and drug dealers and are actually promoting that lifestyle.

I continue to read about health problems such as cancer and birth defects that affect people and animals and about our waterways that are full of wildlife with fish, frogs, birds and various species and vegetation being decimated with the effects of fracking. The oil and gas industry provides no assurance of safety, and their boast of following regulations is virtually meaningless. Any accidents, leaks, spills, or illegal dumping will directly affect the surrounding communities and wildlife and ultimately our sole source aquifer. These failures can not be adequately regulated, monitored, or compensated. Also, transfer of services to independent disposal contractors, allows the oil and gas industry to be relieved of responsibility for the hazardous wastewater that it produces.

In good faith, you can not isolate a single initial permit for well fracturing without considering that there will be potentially thousands of wells drilled with unlimited oversight. Increased toxic effects over time will ensure misery for future generations.

Please consider my personal concerns and opinions in regard to hydraulic fracturing:

I have been appalled and heart broken from the barrage of effects from fracking and the lies, deception, and corruption associated with it. I hope that you will pursue the truth about this destructive and horrific assault on the blessings, beauty, health, and dignity of our nation.

Here is some of the mounting documented proof:

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/investigates/Scientists-say-state-tests-prove-fracking-to-blame-for-Parker-Co-flaming-wells-262056131.html>

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<http://www.businessinsider.com/fracking-leaving-radioactive-pollution-in-pa-2013-10>

[http://www.desmogblog.com/2014/10/07/central-california-aquifers-contaminated-billions-gallons-fracking-wastewater?fb\\_action\\_ids=10205297864034659&fb\\_action\\_types=og.likes&fb\\_source=other\\_multiline&action\\_object\\_map=%5B633168780126752%5D&action\\_type\\_map=%5B%22og.likes%22%5D&action\\_ref\\_map=%5B%5D](http://www.desmogblog.com/2014/10/07/central-california-aquifers-contaminated-billions-gallons-fracking-wastewater?fb_action_ids=10205297864034659&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=%5B633168780126752%5D&action_type_map=%5B%22og.likes%22%5D&action_ref_map=%5B%5D)

<http://www.landscapeonline.com/research/article/17753>

[http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well\\_explosion.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/10/29/well_explosion.html)

Please do diligent research, and visit Voices of St. Tammany Against Fracking:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VoicesOfStTammany/>

*1 Timothy 6:10 King James Version (KJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Fracking clearly demonstrates this evil.

In spite of the millions in powerful industry money stacked against them, Mendocino, CA, Athens, OH, San Benito County, CA and Denton, TX - the birthplace of fracking - have banned it for good reasons!

My hope is that people will care, know the truth, and have the integrity and good judgment to stop fracking before it stops us. We need to invest in a good and sustainable future with healthy practices such as organic farming and renewable energy. Above all else:

*2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)*

*<sup>14</sup> If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

The choice is ours!

It is your duty to protect our natural resources! Once contaminated, there is no turning back - no undoing the unavoidable damage to our environment, health, economy, and infrastructure caused by hydraulic fracturing.

Please consider that many people have taken precious time away from their busy lives and pressing responsibilities and have made many sacrifices to become knowledgeable

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and compose letters and comments to oppose fracking. These concerted efforts are for our protection, survival, and a good future for our children!

Better safe than sorry! Please make every effort to be informed, vigilant, consider our well-being and future, and do your part to protect our communities and environment!

Thank you!

Sandra Doney

3807 Brookwood Drive,  
Slidell, LA 70458

St. Tammany Parish

(985) 649-0342

# Fracking the American Dream



## Meet the Headleys

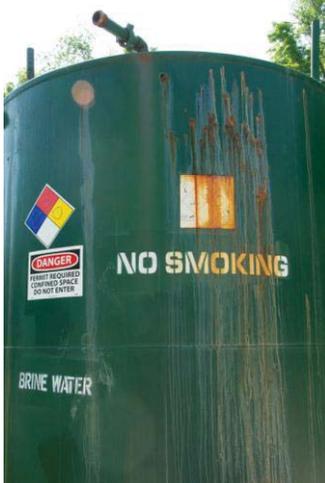
"It's already too late for us." That is what Linda Headley said to me, the last time I saw her. I looked around and saw her beautiful family and once beautiful landscape and realized that she was right. There was little to nothing that could be done to change their situation, other than getting the DEP to do the job it should have but hadn't done. Shining the light of media on the situation should help with that. It is what Linda said after that inspired me to share their struggle, publicly. She said, "But if we can help other people not make the same mistakes that we did, then that is what we want to do. I bet there are a lot of other people out there, like us that are or were afraid to speak out. Now, we just want people to know the truth." Well, that is something that I CAN do and do well: get the truth out. SO, SHARE AND SHARE WIDELY FOR THE HEADLEYS SAKE! Seven years ago the Headleys bought their dream property. They intended to live and work the land, in semi-retirement, to leave a legacy for their sons. Now this is their story. So, where is their Range Resource commercial? Cue corny, folksy music, read and watch.



Our names are David & Linda Headley. We have been residents of Fayette County for 28 years. We have owned our current residence for seven years. Since then, the natural gas industry has stolen our land, polluted our streams, polluted our air, made our family and animals ill, and disrupted our peaceful way of life. Our rural community in Springhill Township before the natural gas boom invaded was quiet, serene, safe, picturesque small town America, situated along the Monongahela and Cheat rivers, nestled in the foothills of the glorious Allegheny Mountains. Life here was quiet. This was a beautiful place to live and raise our family, far from the bustle of the city, rich with country charm and character. That was before the drilling.



We first noticed the gas activity when bulldozers invaded our hayfields to build access roads to well pads. It began only about 6 weeks after we signed on the land, having bought it with the mineral rights, but without the oil and gas rights. Since coal mining was the issue around here and there had been little to no gas activity left in the area, we were made not to worry about the potential for development, and moved ahead with plans to build our dream home. This was before anyone knew the name Marcellus. Yet, in 7 years time the man who owns the rights has put 4 shallow wells, one Marcellus well, and a pipeline across the property. We had no idea they could do this to us or the land. The truck traffic is constant. Land damages were, of course, immediate. Trucks, noise, dust, nomadic workers followed. Then, came the polluting of our air and water, then deforestation and the destruction of fruit trees. They even managed to burn 10 acres of ground with a brush fire set with used motor oil from a bulldozer's oil change! Every hour, once an hour it sounds like a landing jet visits our once quiet farm as wells "self".



Then, come the transmission pipelines – more nomadic workers and thousands of gallons of drilling chemicals in our beautiful, trout-stocked stream! We have even had multiple leaking wells for over a year, ignored by the operators, and now we have a spring 200 ft. from our house which is now so rich with gas it can be set on fire. Sadly, doctor visits have become common place. Our 4 year old son, Adam, has mysterious stomach issues that cripple him with pain; we do not have any answers, yet, but we are worried sick.



And why? All because of an uncaring, dirty industry, driven by greed, selling their souls, leaving our health, environment, and rights behind as waste. When will this nightmare end???



Dozens of neighbors and communities in whole have suffered. One next door neighbor's well was contaminated. They had to get municipal water after the industry denied responsibility. We know of at least 3 families having serious health problems; they have had to seek legal assistance. Increased loads on rural roads have lead to numerous accidents/incidents. Crime in area has increased. Our experience with our local and state officials and the DEP has been mostly not caring, not responding, or denial. Those who do care usually express feelings of helplessness or frustration. Most say the industry lobbying and money is hard to fight. We have been told by the DEP, "Don't Expect Protection, and there is no truth. Our once peaceful existence has forever changed. It is not sustainable. Please slow the pace." 20 years ago, we can find a better, safer, healthier way to fuel our future and our children's future.

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# Frack Effects



Drilling sites like these concerned Pennsylvania residents, but two employees said there was a silence policy regarding their concerns. (photo: Marcellus Shale.net)  
**Pennsylvania Releases Official File Detailing 250 Water Supplies Directly Polluted by Fracking** By Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 25 September 14

**Study: Fracking fluids could disrupt hormones, raise infertility risk**  
*Practice of hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and gas is spreading, making risk of exposure greater, researchers say*  
December 17, 2013 1:17PM ET by [Renée Lewis](#)



**A Consol Energy Horizontal Gas Drilling Rig explores the Marcellus Shale outside the town of Waynesburg, Pa.** April 13, 2012, Michael Antonov/AFP/Getty Images

How fracking lowers the value of property and real estate



According to a study performed in 2001 in Colorado, properties located near fracking areas were prone to loss of value. They were around 18% cheaper than those found further away from oil wells. In fact, the greater the distance between real estate and an oil well, the higher the price. It shows that folks don't want or need to live in an area full of noise and pollution.

The Colorado School of Public Health claimed that property value decreased during the stages of construction because of natural gas extraction. Other influencing factors are dust, smoke, and traffic. Buyers and sellers are not currently active in areas which are at risk of water and air contamination.

The value of housing in Pennsylvania plummeted 80% in 2011. The only group that benefited from the plunge was Chesapeake Energy, a local drilling company. They were able to acquire more land for fracking purposes.

It's harder to get a mortgage

Signing gas leases on property has become even harder thanks to regulations imposed by lenders. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac require that borrowers have permission before they can put their signature onto a lease form.

Some banks have also become wary of giving out mortgages. Oil companies must agree to pay for damage they cause that lowers the value of the land. They must not cause any harmful environmental damage. Other banks ask people to not sign gas leases at all.

They are concerned that drillers may run their machinery illegally, not knowing it could damage the future potential for selling.

Home equity loans are also affected. One customer of a realtor said, "My loan was turned down because I had a contract to lease it with a gas company. I wasn't capable of finding a mortgage broker who could help me out. I think that a similar scenario to the Flood Zone case is taking place at the moment."

Getting insurance

One way that owners can reduce the risk of damage is by taking out home insurance. Unfortunately, many insurance providers will not offer contracts on risky real estate.

Ben, a citizen of Colorado, said that methane exploded in his house. He was not harmed in the accident, but there was much material damage. His home, originally worth over a quarter million dollars, was devalued to only \$60,000.

Realtors in Huerfano County refused to sell or list the property for him. The average person would not want to have a house located near a dangerous spot. After living there for too long, they could develop breathing problems or burns.

<http://www.statecoloradoadmission.com/real-estate-property-values.html>



Steve Lipsky demonstrates the presence of methane gas in his water supply. Lipsky and his family built their dream home in Weatherford, Texas, only to have an energy company place a well approximately 2000 feet away.

Lee Stone for AJ Jaccerra America

**Pa. Official Admits Errors In Investigation Of Whether Fracking Waste Spoiled Drinking Water**  
BY EMILY ATKIN, POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AT 12:50 PM



**In this July 27, 2011 file photo, the sun shines over a Range Resources well site in Washington, Pa.**  
CREDIT: AP PHOTO/KEITH SRAKOCCIC

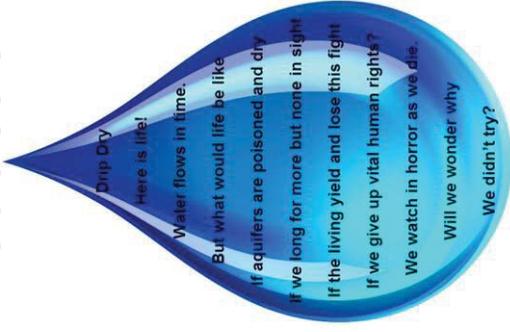
**New study links fracking to birth defects in heavily drilled CO**  
*Risks of some birth defects increased as much as 30 percent in mothers who lived near oil and gas wells*  
January 30, 2014 9:45PM ET by [Renée Lewis](#)



**A natural gas well site near a residential neighborhood, run by Encana Oil & Gas, in Erie, Colo.**

September 2013, Brennan Linsley/AP

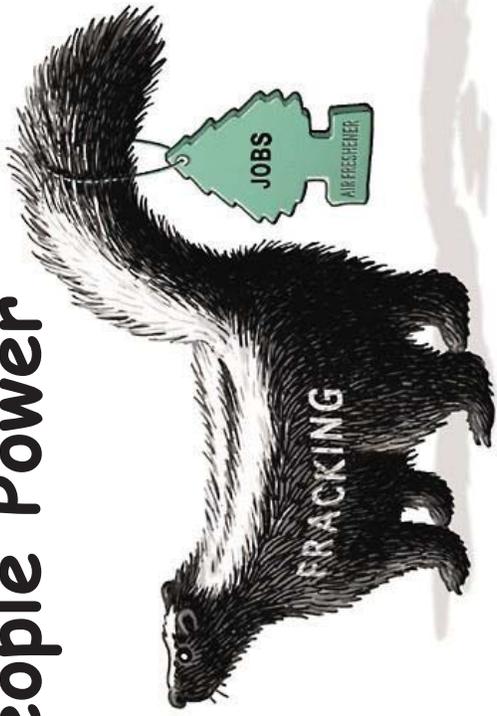
# US Superpower of Gas Production or Mass Destruction?



In ten years, the Colorado River Basin has lost the equivalent of two Lake Meads, the largest reservoir in the U.S., pictured here at dusk with Las Vegas in the background.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER ESSICK, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, Aug. 19, 2014

**If You Think the Water Crisis Can't Get Worse, Wait Until the Aquifers Are Drained**  
*We're pumping irreplaceable groundwater to counter the drought. When it's gone, the real crisis begins.*

# People Power



Bowen@ChattanoogaTimesFreePress



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# Help Don't Harm the Earth!

**ORGANIC**

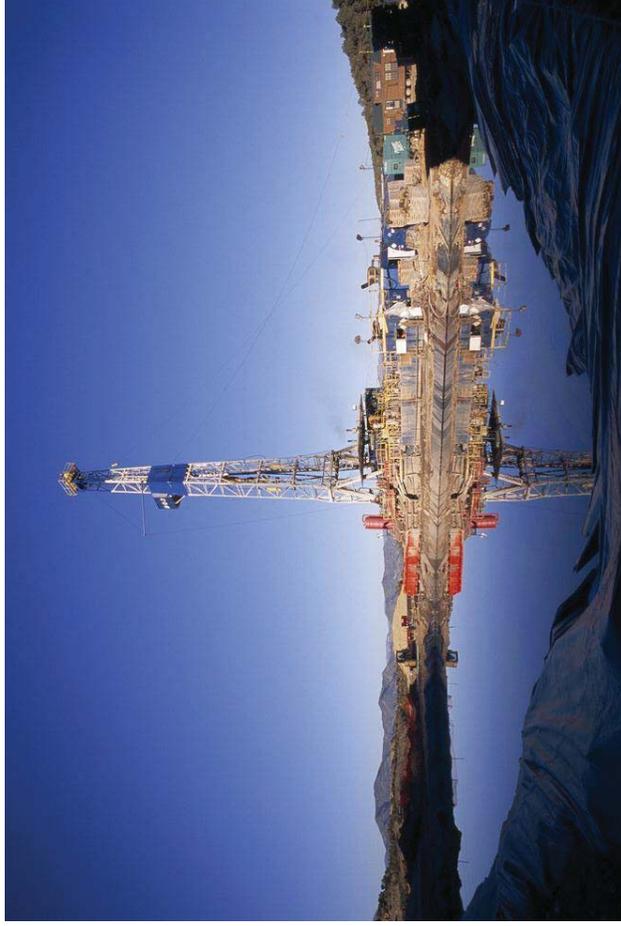
**FARMING**



**NOT IS  
FRACKING**

## Scientists Warn of Quake Risk From Fracking Operations

Removals induced by wastewater disposal are larger and harder to predict than previously thought.



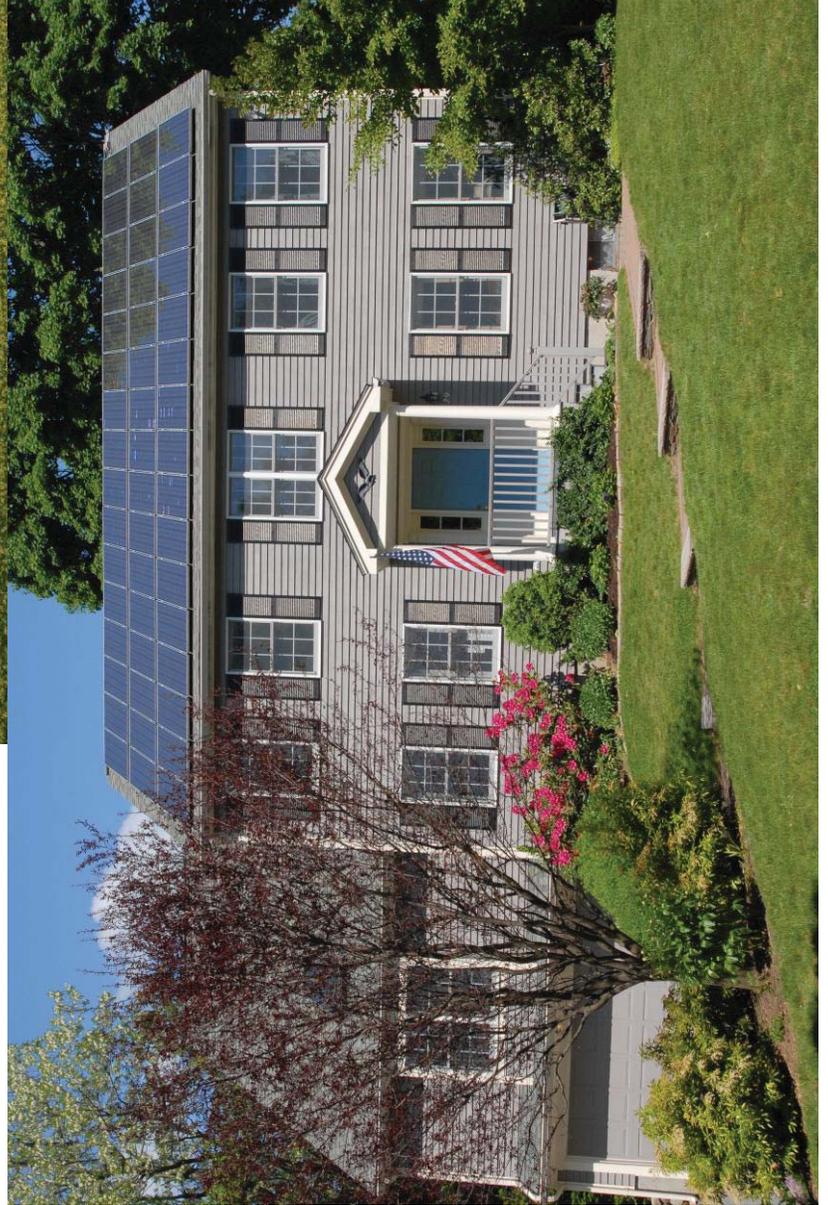
A hydraulic fracturing oil rig stands in Garfield County, CO. Colorado and other states have experienced earthquakes that have been linked to oil and gas activity, and seismologists are warning that such quakes can be difficult to predict.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LYNN JOHNSON, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Underground disposal of wastewater from fracking may pose a much greater risk of causing dangerous earthquakes than previously believed, particularly in areas of the U.S. Southwest and Midwest where earthquake faults have not been mapped extensively. Worse yet, scientists are not yet able to predict which wastewater injection sites are likely to pose risks to buildings or critical structures such as power plants, and do not yet know what operators might do to mitigate the hazard. And new research indicates that the disposal wells are capable of affecting earthquake faults that are miles away from them.

Patrick J. PUBLISHED MAY 2, 2014 Kgor for [National Geographic](#)

Gene a e



**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 12:36 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

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**From:** Dave Easley [mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 12:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information [jim.welch@la.gov]; Jeff Wells [dnr.info@la.gov]  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA

70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,

Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Engineering - Regulatory Division

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge. LA

70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Hi, again. Thanks for coming to Lakeshore High School! Please confirm that you've received my emails and entered them into the record as speaking against the issuance of this permit. Though I've written you two previous emails during this comment period, now that we've had the hearing, the latter part of which we did get to hear, I want to comment on some matters that came up in the hearing and some that may not have been discussed thoroughly enough. (By the way, I'm really embarrassed that I made the microphones squeal for you. I think I really did make a slight improvement in audibility for a second or two but, when I tried to get the level just a little bit higher the squealing got out of hand for which I sincerely apologize.)

I can't remember all the speaker's names but there was a particular fellow wearing white shrimp boots. One of his memorable comments was to the effect that the vast majority of attendees, (clearly and resoundingly against fracking in St. Tammany Parish) was made up of kool-aid drinkers. I actually try to avoid sugary, artificially flavored beverages and prefer pure, un-contaminated water but the argument that was entered into the record by his speaking it which I'd like to address now is the assertion that car drivers and energy consumers who are against fracking are hypocrites. So, let me talk about the oil dependence aspect.

A motor vehicle is, for most people who reside in communities without highly sophisticated mass-transit, a necessity. If people want to participate in society they must go to work, and buy groceries. Many carry the tools or instruments of their trades in cars or trucks. For most people vehicular transportation is the second biggest investment of their lives after their homes. Some small, all-electric cars are gradually moving into an affordable price-range. A person without too many trees shading his

house can act individually on energy issues by installing solar panels and using that electricity to charge an electric vehicle but many cannot afford to act individually and these people, if they wish to move away from oil dependence, must do so at the pace of the society they live in. However, they still have the right, in a democratic society, to attempt to influence the direction of that societal movement. When the Rockefellers decide to divest from oil and re-invest in renewables it's time to stand and take notice. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29310475>

It doesn't escape me that, just as having Helix monitor its own pollution is a bit of the fox guarding the hen-house, when citizens asked you to consider the Legislative Performance Audit of Regulation of Oil and Gas Wells and Management of Orphaned Wells with its inspections once every three years, they were asking you to take a good look at your own over-crowded hen house. But are you the fox or the farmer? Doesn't the farmer also eat chickens and take eggs just like the fox? Many opposed to the drilling have the opinion that, whichever car they drive, this is a zoning issue, a state vs. parish issue, a Louisiana Constitution, article IX section I issue. I agree with all that. But the kool-aid man's comment brings to mind that there are some amongst us who would prefer that your jobs not exist, that there were no oil fields to regulate, drilling permits to approve and that you very competent gentlemen could find lucrative employment elsewhere. Upton Sinclair ran for Governor of California, was beaten by big money and name-calling, (If our shrimp boot friend had been there he would have called him a cool-aid drinker.) and wrote a book about the experience in which appeared the famous quote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding."

In light of the fact that some can afford to go totally "off grid" while some, taking the best current science into account, would very much like to but can't, and in light of the fact that the most of the people who do go off grid would prefer that the rest of society follow them off grid, the shrimp-boot-Kool-aid-man's comment brings us to the whole area of anthropomorphic global warming, arctic ice-melt and the plausibility of moving, on a large scale, to solar, wind and alternative fuels. Here, for the record, is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences paper on anthropomorphic global warming consensus:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/107/27/12107.full>

and also a paper on the Arctic ice melt:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=wVVEAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA100&lpg=PA100&dq=PNAS+arctic+ice+melt&source=bl&ots=FOLuQj6l9w&sig=zssdONBkaEwHcTiNkOuJsDg-sPU&hl=en&sa=X&ei=exNlVPPaHouwyATdm4JI&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=PNAS%20arctic%20ice%20melt&f=false>

and one on how Arctic ice melt contributes to global warming because water is more absorptive as opposed to ice which is more reflective:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/9/3322.full.pdf>

and one on the "tipping point", how water that was formerly ice, and methane released from thawing permafrost are liable to bring us to a point of no return in irreversible global warming:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/6/1786.full>

Now here's wikipedia on helio-static power: (mirrors reflecting sunlight, creating very high temperatures in a central tower, driving a turbine to generate massive commercial amounts of electricity as opposed to photo-voltaic power production such as what you see on rooftops)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_power\\_tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_power_tower)

and a list of solar thermal power stations:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_solar\\_thermal\\_power\\_stations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_solar_thermal_power_stations)

Here's a 2005 chart from the Energy Information Administration: (in 7 out of the ten countries listed the onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than what was consumed in 2005. In all ten countries the combined offshore and onshore yearly wind energy potential is higher than 2005 consumption. And this is just wind, not solar.)

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933/T1.expansion.html>

Those nations in the chart are the ten biggest energy consuming countries in the world. It's clear that with two kinds of solar, and on-shore and off-shore wind there is plenty enough potential to not have to use dangerous, methane-emitting methods to extract hydro-carbons.

here's the accompanying paper for the above chart:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10933.full.pdfhtml>

and here's a paper on the net energy of ethanol from switchgrass:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/2/464.full.pdf+html>

As you can see, another very promising source of energy.

Though it's not affordable for everyone on an individual basis, it could be very possible to, as a society, move much more quickly towards an all renewables energy economy if we can possibly escape the grasp of Big Money that buys campaigns, controls the flow of information (The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences is not as popular as FOX News or CNN) and owns politicians. The Rockefellers have seen the writing on the wall. It's possible other Big Money will follow. I didn't foresee that I would get so far into this topic in this comment period. I'm thankful to my outspoken fellow citizen for leading me into this area of discussion that does pertain to a fallacious motive for drilling, that our society necessarily needs oil. Just as having two presidential candidates, one of whom is elected, doesn't mean that anyone really likes either one, having a choice between oil, gas and coal doesn't necessarily mean that anyone likes any of them. It may just mean that bought and paid for politicians and possibly their appointed bureaucrats are controlled by oil, gas and coal.

I couldn't possibly do a better job than Tulane Mathematician, Maurice Dupre and the guys who brought up the 1994 horizontal severance tax exemption of highlighting the ignorance of the position stated jointly by the Northshore Business Association and Greater New Orleans Inc. So, if you have all that in the record, I stand with Professor Dupre.

We heard in Concerned Citizen's of St. Tammany's expert testimony about the inevitable flow-back of the highly pressurized drilling fluids with the various chemical mixtures. In John A. Connor's testimony he admitted to the possibility of a spill and described the berm that would contain any such spill as being a few feet high motioning with his hand on a level that looked to be less than waist-high. John looked to be an average sized man.... Well, I guess hurricanes don't make it up as far as Stanford University very often. (Though, with global warming, we've now had a major hurricane in New York and New Jersey.) But this is Louisiana and this berm is woefully inadequate!

Perhaps due to the fact that you guys and all the very busy professionals who made up the crowd can't afford the time to come to a hearing on every one of the thousands of wells that the oil men want to drill in St. Tammany, you did hear testimony on possible future wells. But I couldn't help noticing that John A. Connor attempted to feign ignorance of any other possible future area wells besides this one. Six hundred people in the room knew that this well, if successful, is intended to be the first of many. But Helis's own expert environmental witness claimed ignorance on that matter. This sort of selective knowledge should strike a person as devious and I would think would cause one to doubt the sincerity of John's testimony, testimony such as, "I care about protecting the water" and "best available technology" or that they will do their best to "minimize impacts". Add that to the fact that, as one speaker pointed out, John carefully selected his knowledge of Helis's operations to exclude the very serious blowout in the Gulf, the blowout of which I managed to recall the exact date, July 13, 2001 off of the top of my head. And I didn't go to Stanford and don't claim to be anyone's expert witness. But check it out for yourself. As the speaker pointed out, it was in drilling in sand that they had the problem. No disagreement on sand in St Tammany. Both sides agreed, we have a lot of sand underground here. (conclusions on pages 15 and 16).

[http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc\\_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/](http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Accidents-and-Incidents/acc_repo/2002/2002-062-pdf/)

When someone's teaching a little kid how to hit a baseball he says, "Ok, you missed that one but try swinging at this one. I'm gonna throw it nice and easy." When you're a company of grown men asking to drill through a single source aquifer, you've had problems before which resulted in a confusing, panicked, escape situation that resulted in death, and your expert paid witness skips over that trifling matter, thinking we won't notice, the safest answer is, "Sorry, no dice." (couldn't resist the gambling metaphor!)

The very last speaker from the community expressed the idea that a man should be able to do whatever he wants on his own property. This brings me to zoning restrictions, public annoyance, and public endangerment. Funny to think that one of the speakers, architect, Terri Lewis Stevens, would have a much harder time getting a permit to build a clothing store at the Helis site than such comparatively minor red tape as what a driller goes through on most wells. As many have said already, thanks for this hearing and comment period!

It's widely known that the area is zoned residential. There's been a lot of people speaking very effectively on public annoyance. Let's talk a little more about public endangerment. Though air didn't get discussed nearly as much as water I've already sent you info available to the public about dangerously high levels of carcinogens in the air around fracking sites. I don't know if you've seen this study yet from the Colorado School of Health and Brown University linking high rates of birth defects to fracking.

(Baton Rouge landman and minerals consultant, Dan S. Collins, said, "A number of companies feel that if they drill a little deeper in the TMS (Tuscalousa Marine Shale) , the GOR or gas-to-oil ratio will be higher, and gas within the formation may help lift the oil out," So we know that industry people will not only not be surprised by, but are expecting a high gas content in this play.)

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/1/ehp.1306722.pdf>

Airborne carcinogens and high rates of birth defects = public endangerment and, in a truly civilized world, if you know about the danger, you stop the activity that causes the danger.

Considering the DNR's stated mission, "to preserve and enhance the nonrenewable natural resources of the state, consisting of land, water, oil, gas, and other minerals, through conservation, regulation, management and development to ensure that the state of Louisiana realizes appropriate economic benefit from its asset base." it seems like the main question here is, is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that endangers other natural resources and the health of its inhabitants? In the 3 emails I've sent during this comment period you've been informed about dangerous levels of airborne carcinogens and alarmingly high rates of birth defects near fracking sites. I've already sent you the link to the PNAS noble gasses paper that proved the contamination through faulty fracking equipment of several aquifers. In many other comments from people I know you've been informed of many other dangers to water and to human and animal health. You've been informed about global warming and arctic ice melt. We need to talk about methane emissions at fracking sites, the heat trapping properties of methane, rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Is it appropriate for the state of Louisiana to benefit economically in a way that contributes to the shrinking of its own coastline?

Here, for the record, is an article from OilPrice.com about higher than expected methane emissions from fracking sites.

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/New-Study-Finds-Higher-Methane-Emissions-from-Fracking.html>

and one from the EPA on the heat trapping properties of methane, 20 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/ch4.html>

here's National Geographic on global warming caused sea level rise and the dangers to low-lying areas.

<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/critical-issues-sea-level-rise/>

It wasn't just in Upton Sinclair's time that Big Money usually would win. The same way they spin things around in the courtroom they spin them in the media they own. They buy the politicians. They can convince you that up is up and down is down. They might have you convinced. What do you think killed all those cows in North Louisiana?

<http://www.propublica.org/article/16-cattle-drop-dead-near-mysterious-fluid-at-gas-drilling-site-430>

Why was this man burned over 30 to 50% of his body?

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2014/10/25/guernsey-fracking-site-explosion.html>

Gentlemen, please deny this permit!

Can you please direct me to the transcript of the proceedings? Also, please extend the comment period another 30 days so that CCSTs attorneys, who didn't receive any materials from the Helis team in advance, and the rest of the public can have adequate time to comment.

Thank you!

Dave Easley

310 E. 35th Ave

Covington LA

70433

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:09 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

---

**From:** William B. Rudolf [mailto:wrbiloxi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:36 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

I am writing in full support of the prompt issuance by the Department of Conservation of the Drilling Permit to commence drilling of the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well located in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Sincerely,

William B. Rudolf  
112 Stella Street  
Metairie, LA 70001

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:09 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** P McEnery Docket No 14-626.pdf

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**From:** Peter McEnery [mailto:Peter@mceneryco.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:29 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Henry,

Pursuant to your letter of advisement, as representative of Mr. James "Jim" H. Welsh dated September 30, 2014, regarding the Request for Hearing and Public Comment Period, I attach herewith my comments.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter M. McEnery

Peter M. McEnery, MAI, President  
The McEnery Company  
810 Union Street, Fourth Floor  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Telephone: Direct: 504.274.2710  
Cell: 985.789.9091

[www.mceneryco.com](http://www.mceneryco.com)



Real Estate Appraisal, Brokerage, Consulting

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P. M. MCENERY, MAI  
S. PARKERSON MCENERY

November 13, 2014

Mr. Daniel D. Henry, Jr., Attorney  
State of Louisiana  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Post Office Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

ALSO SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Dear Mr. Henry:

I am a resident of St. Tammany Parish. I am a homeowner in St. Tammany Parish. I am a land owner in St. Tammany Parish. I operate a business that employs twenty people with a significant payroll that is headquartered in St. Tammany Parish. I also pay significant monies into the parish and state coffers in the form of ad valorem property taxes, sales taxes, and income taxes. My family has been involved in this parish dating to my great grandfather's era, John McEnery, when he was elected governor of this state.

I was in attendance at Wednesday evening's hearing regarding the referenced matter. I must first confess my utter and complete disappointment in the manner in which the hearing was handled. Any level of decorum and protocol that should have been present was seriously jeopardized by the behavior of those present. To even countenance the "Jerry Springer" like performance from the same small group of malcontents who have attended every meeting to date in this regard does not reflect well on our State or we, the citizens of Louisiana.

I am also saddened by the threat from those in opposition to the Helis permit, the elected officials of St. Tammany Parish, and the appointed state officials now engaged as this relates to our individual property rights and the attempted theft thereof. I am saddened by the lack of input from any knowledgeable party noting the departure from the Home Rule Charter's clear mandate that we the citizens of St. Tammany not only recognize but accept the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana. I am saddened that our elected officials would pursue litigation in this matter accompanied by the frivolous expenditures of money being used by them to press their claim, a claim that is clearly contradictory to Louisiana's Revised Statutes that states no political subdivision can in any way attempt to interfere or prohibit your office from conducting the business of your office.

810 UNION STREET, FOURTH FLOOR  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70112  
TELEPHONE: 504-274-2701  
FACSIMILE: 504-274-2702

10411 HELENBERG ROAD, SUITE 103  
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA 70433  
TELEPHONE: 985-246-3900  
FACSIMILE: 985-246-3901

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

REAL ESTATE LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS HELD IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA AND TEXAS

Mr. Henry  
Page Two  
November 13, 2014

I am saddened by what is at stake in the possible taking of every man, woman, and child's natural and constitutional right in the form of what can only be viewed as a regulatory taking of mineral ownership without consideration of just compensation if your office fails to approve the Helis permit.

Why has the state not seen fit to issue the Helis permit? If the permit is in good order, why has it not been issued? Why has the State refused to address and counter directly and in a firm manner the opposition to a procedure, namely the exploration for oil and gas using hydraulic fracturing that has now been ongoing for many, many years?

I support the issuance of a permit to drill for oil and gas in St. Tammany Parish. I do not support the local politicians who are squandering our tax revenues. I do not support any further tolerance of those who would impoverish the public at large and steal prosperity from future generations because of their Marxist agenda in what has now become a not only a real threat to us all, but an embarrassment to me, to my family, and to our State.

I thank you for the opportunity to air my opinion on this important matter. The future of the residents of St. Tammany and the State of Louisiana resides in your decision.

Please approve the Helis permit.

Respectfully,



Peter M. McEnery, MAI, President

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** LOGA Formal Comments Regarding Helis Oil and Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Lauren Chauvin [<mailto:laurenestopinal@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:36 PM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Cc: Lauren Chauvin; Gifford Briggs; Don Briggs  
Subject: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

LOGA's Written comments to Doc. No. 14-626

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**November 18, 2014**

*Via e-mail*

Office of Conservation, Engineering Division,  
P.O. Box 94275,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**Subject:** LOGA Comments Regarding Helis Oil and Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

Commissioner Welsh,

LOGA was organized in 1992 to represent the Independent and service sectors of the oil and gas industry in Louisiana; this representation includes exploration, production and oilfield services. Our primary goal is to provide our industry with a working environment that will enhance the industry. LOGA services its membership of over 1,600 by creating incentives for Louisiana's oil and gas industry, warding off tax increases, changing existing burdensome regulations, and educating the public and government of the importance of the oil and gas industry in the state of Louisiana.

Of these member companies, Helis Oil is a valued member of our association and we are proud to represent them at the local, state and federal level. LOGA offers our specific support of Helis and their efforts in St. Tammany Parish to drill this specific well within the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS). Helis has made every effort to be open and transparent about their future plans of this well.

The TMS could potentially become a major economic driver for this region of the state. As a reminder for economic purposes, each rig site can employ up to 180 jobs. The ripple effect of one rig site is even greater than these 180 direct jobs. As a direct correlation to the industry coming to an area, the hotel industry, the restaurant and automobile market and general commerce of that specific area see a great uptick in that local economy.

LOGA speaks today on behalf of the industry in our support of Commissioner Welsh in his decisions to allow this operation to take place in St. Tammany Parish. The commissioner has been fair to the industry and makes every stride possible to protect our great state and the natural habitats that reside in this state.

Oil and gas activity is not only important for St. Tammany Parish and the state of Louisiana,

*LOGA is Louisiana's Oil & Gas Industry*

PO BOX 4069

BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4069

225.388.9525

800.443.1433

FAX:225.388.9561

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



but for the entire nation. Over 30% of the nation's oil and natural gas comes directly from or through the state of Louisiana either through exploration and production, refining, the intricate pipeline infrastructure or through the Gulf of Mexico.

Louisiana helps power this great nation thanks to this process called hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing is not a new process. This process was first started commercially in 1949. Over one million wells have been successfully completed in the U.S. over the last 60 years. Just in Northwest Louisiana over the last six years, over 2,600 wells have been hydraulically fractured.

The federal government (EPA) has conducted several studies in different states to test any connections between hydraulic fracturing and ground water contamination. Their most recent study is due to be released in early 2015. Thus far, if the EPA had found substantial evidence of contamination, the industry would have seen a ruling passed down. This has not happened.

In addition to the process of hydraulic fracturing, there has been great concern in this parish regarding the safety of aquifers. It is important to note that over 40,000 wells are in production today in the state of Louisiana as we speak. Each of these 40,000 wells was drilled by going through a specific aquifer in this state. The success rate stands at 100% for zero aquifer contamination since drilling operations commenced in the early 1900's in the state of Louisiana.

The oil and gas industry goes to great lengths to ensure that the environment and our workforce are free from contamination, injury or unnecessary disturbance. It is LOGA's hope that the facts be heard regarding hydraulic fracturing, aquifer safety and oil and gas in general.

Again, LOGA offers its full support of Helis Oil as they seek approval to drill this specific well.

Sincerely,

Don G. Briggs

*LOGA is Louisiana's Oil & Gas Industry*

PO BOX 4069

BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4069

225.388.9525

800.443.1433

FAX:225.388.9561

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:39 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** CCC Energy Renaissance.pdf

**From:** Hunter Charbonnet [mailto:hcharbo1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:26 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

To: Office of Conservation, Engineering Division

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. Commissioner:

I am writing you today in support of the above Drilling Permit Application.

*Before I give you my reasons, I would like to say that I attended last week's hearing and I find it troubling that the discussion did not center around what I thought this hearing was about – whether indeed the application applied for conformed on all conditions, requests, and requirements as defined by the application process including how Helis planned to address the obvious concerns of the general public. I thought Helis made a conscience effort to show that they had fully covered their bases, the risks involved, and those concerns expressed by many citizens of St. Tammany; however, I thought the condescending attitude and questioning offered by those representing the opposition was deplorable and served little to providing added insight as to the issues at hand other than to stir up further public rhetoric and emotion.*

There is no doubt that there is an Energy Renaissance occurring in this country. In fact, many say in about 6-8 years, the United States will not only be energy independent but it will also be a net exporter of energy.

As the world's largest economy, the US has long been a top market for manufacturers' products. In contrast to other countries, our political stability and lack of business risk continue to draw companies to operate in the US. Given the increasing global demand for energy, the lack of economical alternative energy sources has caused other resources to be considered. Fortunately our improved technology in untraditional extraction methods has allowed the US to become a low cost energy provider.

These developments have provided positive results in this country. Using natural gas is cleaner than burning coal and safer than generating nuclear energy; hence, utilizing natural gas is

environmentally friendly. I suspect there are reasons the Saudis have recently reduced the cost of their crude and it is probably not because of a reduction in global demand for energy forcing prices lower or a reduction just out of their generosity. They hope to keep the US dependent on their oil by making it uneconomical to drill via our nontraditional extraction methods. I guess many St. Tammany residents don't recognize or realize that they are already benefiting from these new drilling efforts showing up as reduced prices at the pumps.

Cheaper energy has caused manufacturing to move back to the United States. The Petrochemical Industry uses Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) – butane, propane, ethane, etc. to make plastics and other products. For the last 30 years, many in this industry have moved to places like India, Brazil, Trinidad, and the Middle East where NGL sources were closer at hand. Now, they are coming back to the US and they are not alone.

Airbus is building an aircraft assembly plant in Mobile because they can save on manufacturing costs compared to their plants in Hamburg, Germany and Toulouse, France.

British based Rolls Royce decided against expanding a plant in the UK and instead built a plant in Price George County, VA for producing engine parts.

The Austrian steelmaker Voestalpine AG is building a \$715 Million plant near Corpus Christi, TX.

Royal Dutch Shell, headquartered in the Netherlands, announced it would build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant in Pennsylvania.

Siemens, a German multi-engineering and electronics company is making turbines for fossil fuel power plants in Charlotte, NC.

If you have driven I-55 or I-65 North in the last few years, who hasn't seen the large automobile plants that have been built along those highways?

My point is, why would we deny St. Tammany and its' residents the opportunity to participate in the economic renaissance and the investments that will be made here in the United States potentially including areas of St. Tammany Parish. Whether you are a land owner, business owner, or a working man, all will benefit by the potential economic impact this new energy resource can and will provide. Lastly, the tax revenues this might create for St. Tammany Parish will go a long way to subsidizing and/or increasing our overall budget including helping to fund the much needed infrastructure improvements that are our community needs rather than achieving same via higher taxation.

I ask that your approve this drilling permit and place into the record the attached white paper from the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund that discusses what this energy renaissance means to our country. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted:

Hunter N. Charbonnet  
16423 Summerhill Rd.  
Covington, LA. 70435

See Attachment: Center Coast MLP Fund Focus Fund - US Energy Renaissance

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# The Continued US Energy Renaissance and Infrastructure Build-out: Capturing the Reenergizing of America with MLP Investing

*This paper aims to inform investors of the ongoing Energy Renaissance and resultant infrastructure build-out in the United States. Over the past decade, the nation's production and capacity has swiftly increased, and there is even greater projected growth ahead. According to the U.S. Energy Information Association, the U.S. was expected to be the largest producer of hydrocarbons in the world in 2013.*

*The accompanying infrastructure development that is necessary to treat, store and transport the natural resources of the Renaissance's continuing shale boom is very significant. This infrastructure build-out will be fueled by five underlying drivers that could, in our opinion, power strong continued investment and growth through 2025. These drivers are: 1) new supply basins; 2) electricity source switching; 3) a resurgent domestic petrochemical industry; 4) manufacturing growth; 5) rerouting of supply to existing refineries.*

*While the US economy is in a stage of slow recovery and many expect continued soft to moderate GDP growth, these*

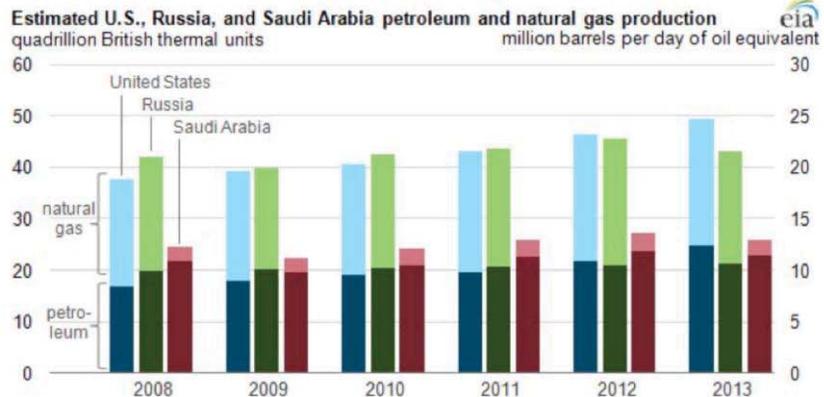
*five drivers should propel the infrastructure build-out largely irrespective of broader economic activity. Robust development of infrastructure and associated activity, however, has the potential to brighten the overall outlook for the US economy.*

*Our Renaissance investment thesis in this paper is focused on Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) as they are one of the asset classes positioned to participate in the continued infrastructure build-out, which is necessary to accommodate the production growth and overall transformation of the US energy landscape. We foresee opportunity for continued attractive, and less-correlated, risk-adjusted returns in MLPs that may benefit from the energy Renaissance over the next few years. The search for ways to participate in the Renaissance, as well as the continued desire for yield, has brought significant capital inflows to the MLP space; however, we believe skillful, active management and deep sector experience is required to identify the right opportunities while attempting to avoid some of the risks associated with any accelerated sector growth.*

## U.S. Expected to be Declared as the Largest Producer of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hydrocarbons for 2013

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Note: Petroleum production includes crude oil, natural gas liquids, condensates, refinery processing gain, and other liquids, including biofuels. Barrels per day oil equivalent were calculated using a conversion factor of 1 barrel oil equivalent = 5.55 million British thermal units (Btu).



### Main Points:

- The U.S. is undergoing an Energy Renaissance and has rapidly become a leading global energy producer
- Projected continued growth in the energy sector through 2025 is significant, well above the expected level of broader economic growth<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated \$500 to \$750 Billion of energy infrastructure investment is needed over the next decade to support the build-out of the Renaissance
- This infrastructure growth will be supported by five powerful drivers generally unrelated to broader economic strength
- MLPs have provided and may continue to provide the crucial infrastructure to accommodate the swift rise in domestic exploration and production of natural resources
- In the continuing energy and infrastructure build-out through 2025 MLPs may have the potential to more than double the size of their asset base. With this growing investment landscape, discerning, experienced active management is required for the greatest possibility of successful investment outcomes and potential avoidance of the risks often associated with sector expansion

## THE U.S. ENERGY RENAISSANCE: THE ENVY OF THE WORLD

Something has quietly happened in recent years, largely under the radar screen of the general public, and at a much quicker pace than anticipated by the investment community. The U.S. has somewhat silently become the current leading global producer of natural gas and the fastest growing producer of crude oil, coming in 1st in combined global production. Additionally, production growth of natural gas liquids (NGLs) further brightens the Energy Renaissance underway in America today.

In very recent memory, the dominant conversation from a growing chorus of pundits, politicians and alternative energy proponents centered around peak oil projections and skepticism that a dependency on foreign energy – a primary source of a widening trade gap – would prove debilitating, bringing a superpower to its knees by weakened foreign policy leverage and concerns for national security. That has not been the case, and now the world's largest economy has lowered its reliance on foreign energy at an astonishing rate.

### *How did this turnaround occur?*

We often hear about the latest setback for energy: the BP spill in the Gulf; the historical trade deficit and trade imbalances due to energy importing; Federal restriction on exploration and development of sources (e.g. Alaska) and infrastructure (e.g. Keystone XL). But the truth is that a resurgence over the last decade – fostered by rising global demand, lack of economical alternative energy sources, improved technology for

untraditional extraction methods, utilization of MLPs to provide the necessary infrastructure and steady flows of capital being put to work – has allowed the U.S. to grow its domestic capabilities to be the envy of the world.

While we later show that the drivers of this momentum are not dependent on certain of economic factors, increased production and capacity hold the potential to improve the domestic economic outlook and could prove impactful in strengthening foreign policy and national security. When viewed through the lens of the Energy Renaissance, America's growth prospects haven't looked this strong in decades.

For investors the roadmap of how we get to 2025 and beyond is the exciting part.

## THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD

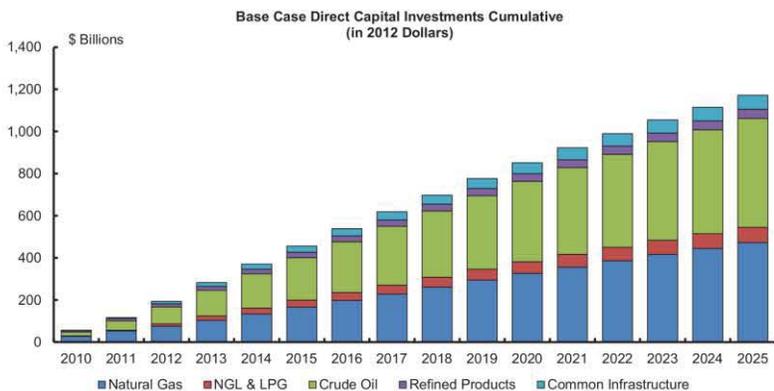
With the growth of energy production over the past decade, the U.S. has witnessed robust increases in energy infrastructure capital investment. Transportation, storage and treatment for oil, gas (midstream and downstream assets) has increased by 60 percent, growing to nearly \$90B in 2013 from \$56.3B in 2010, according

to a report from IHS Global Inc. for the American Petroleum Institute. This increase is telling of the impact the shale boom has had on the energy infrastructure landscape.

New extraction techniques and expanding exploration have made the construction of new transportation and infrastructure networks, as well as the reconfiguring of legacy infrastructure assets, pivotal to the Renaissance.

Further, according to the report, the amount of investment required over the next seven years in U.S. midstream and downstream assets is estimated to exceed \$568 billion. This capital spend is not expected to halt after year seven either—another \$60-\$80 billion is estimated to be spent annually through 2025. While API's forecast concludes in year 2025, we believe there will be continued strong investment beyond the forecast period. And that is the conservative, base case. Estimates for a bullish case, dependent on policy loosening and other factors, place capital investment at up to \$1.15T through 2025.<sup>1</sup>

This validates the thesis that the required energy infrastructure build-out is not only significant but has the ability to continue for many years to come.



Base Case Direct Capital Investment for 2014 and beyond is based on IHS's forecast

For all the media attention and noise out of Washington, the scale or size of opportunity is certainly not dependent on Keystone XL. In fact, Keystone is just one of hundreds of projects proposed in the infrastructure build-out. In truth, there are already hundreds of other non-politicized projects currently under construction or already online serving the demand to transport natural resources to market.

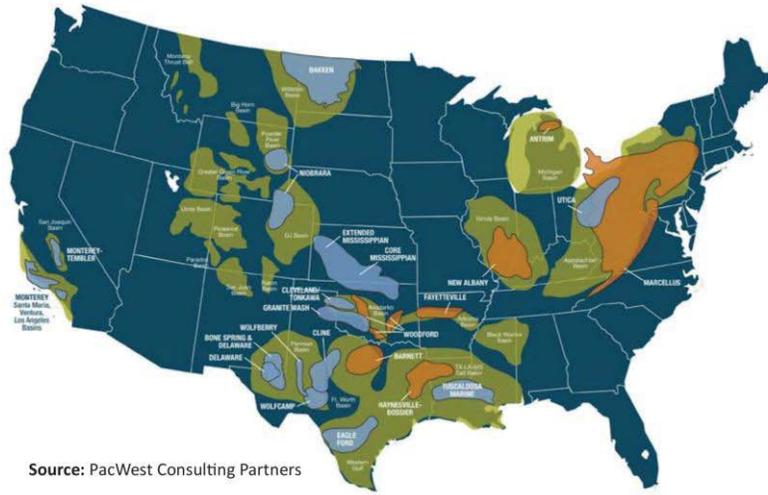
Political risk is an important factor to recognize in the Energy Renaissance. The relative political stability and lack of business risks in the U.S. has always been a draw for companies to operate domestically. In addition, the U.S., as the world's largest economy, has long been a top market for manufacturers' products. In addition to being an attractive place to do business, the U.S. is now also a low cost energy provider. This change is drawing manufacturers and the petrochemical industry back to the U.S. in a material way, and these industries are earmarking investments to expand domestic operations that will alter global production maps over the next decade.

So, we've gotten here with largely existing infrastructure. In the last five years, however, we've seen significant growth in infrastructure investment that is necessary for the U.S. to realize its full potential as an energy producer.

## FUELING THE ENERGY RENAISSANCE'S INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDOUT

**Five** drivers are underpinning the build-out of U.S. Energy infrastructure assets:

**1. New supply basins:** The opening of new supply basins has been essential to recent production

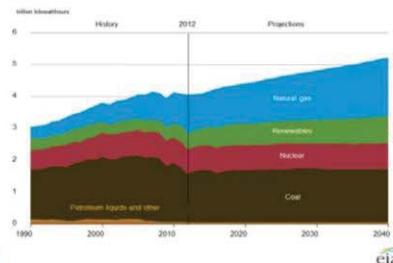
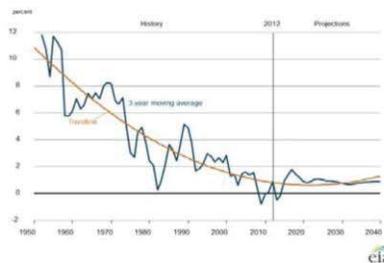


Source: PacWest Consulting Partners

## ELECTRICITY DEMAND

Growth in the electricity use slows but use still increases by 29% from 2012 to 2040

By 2035, natural gas surpasses coal as the largest source of U.S. electricity generation



Source: www.eia.gov

growth, and the future outlook is extremely encouraging. Technology and infrastructure are making historically uneconomical basins more economical. Consider that certain basins, such as North Dakota's Bakken, (now responsible for >10% of U.S. daily oil production, with reserves >20 BBoe), held near zero production in 2000 due to a lack of economical extraction.<sup>2</sup> Now that it has proved economical, the demand for infrastructure to transport the reliable flow of natural resources is tremendous and has long outstripped the current pipeline capacity. Similar cases are

unfolding today in the Marcellus, Utica, Permian, and Eagle Ford basins just to name a few. As investors, we are very excited by the infrastructure buildout required to bring the natural resources from these new basins to market.

## 2. Electricity Source Switching:

America's prominent electricity sources have historically been coal, nuclear and natural gas, in that order.<sup>3</sup> The risks of both nuclear and coal are well known. With recent nuclear incidents (Fukushima) and the heavy environmental taxes on coal, the traditional heavyweight sources of electricity are consistently being

replaced with cleaner, safer natural gas. Accounting for over 52% of electricity generation as recently as 2000, today coal accounts for less than 37% of total electricity output.<sup>4</sup> This number is widely expected to continue its downward trend as natural gas continues to replace it. In 2000, Natural Gas accounted for just 16% of total U.S. electricity production, as of 2012 it represented 30%. Transportation is key with electricity switching though; natural gas needs to be brought to the centers of demand, densely populated areas. This requires infrastructure (e.g. midstream companies). Motivated by its abundant and decreasing costs, companies are willing to build new infrastructure to bring the natural gas to power plants.

With the vast supplies coming to market, natural gas seem poised to take an ever-more prominent role in the production of U.S. electricity. How it gets to market can provide opportunity for investors.

### 3. Resurgent Domestic

**Petrochemical Industry:** The petrochemical industry uses Natural Gas Liquids (“NGLs”) – butane, propane, ethane, etc – to make plastics and other products. Traditionally, the U.S. did not have significant NGL

production. For the past 30 years, therefore, most large petrochemical companies were moving offshore, closer to NGL sources. India, Brazil, Trinidad and the Middle East all became increasingly in favor to both multinational and U.S. petrochemical companies. New extraction techniques, however, have allowed U.S. producers to drill significant wet gas reserves that are rich in NGLs.

NGLs have distinct treatment and transportation requirements. Gas and associated NGLs are typically processed before being transported via pipeline, and growing demand from the domestic petrochemical industry has necessitated the continued development of processing and transportation infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>

With the Renaissance and its underlying shale boom, the petrochemical industry is coming home. Less robust technology, political risk, increased costs and resultant inefficient markets abroad cannot compete with the stability, technology and rapidly expanding supply and infrastructure that have brought down costs in the U.S.<sup>6</sup>

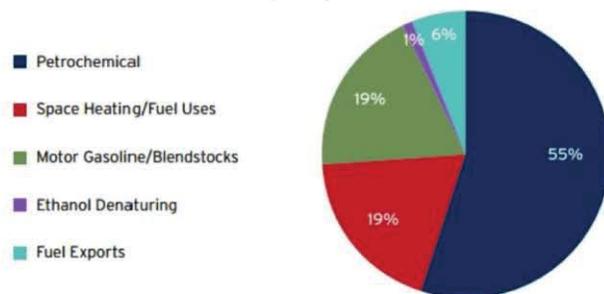
**4. Manufacturing Growth:** Industrial manufacturing is energy intensive. With decreased

energy costs, and relatively attractive labor inputs given growing salaries in emerging markets, the U.S. is seeing an industrial manufacturing resurgence fueled by its Energy Renaissance. Foreign firms, particularly European companies exposed to the risks of Russian belligerence and associated natural gas market inefficiencies, are finding an oasis in America. Costs per cubic foot of natural gas in the U.S. are one third of what they are abroad in Europe, and one quarter of what they are in Japan.

It's no wonder more European companies are opening or expanding facilities in the U.S., and more U.S. multi-nationals are shifting overseas operations back home:

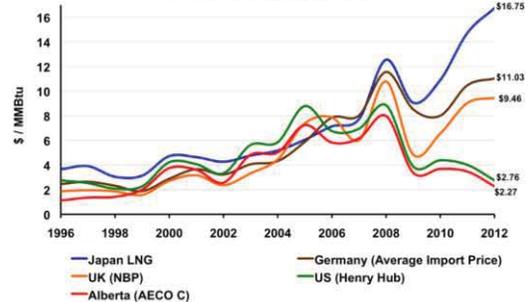
- Airbus is building an aircraft assembly plant in Mobile, Alabama. It will produce A320 jets for the American market. Der Spiegel noted that Airbus “could save on manufacturing costs compared to its plants in Hamburg, Germany, and Toulouse, France.”
- Siemens, a German multi-national engineering and electronics company, is making turbines for fossil fuel power plants in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- BASF, the German chemical

NGL Consumption by Sector



Source: Presentation by Peter Fasullo, Outlook for U.S. Propane Supplies, “En\*Vantage, January 30, 2012

Average Natural Gas Prices



Source: <https://rbenergy.com/courtesy-of-the-red-white-and-blue-how-the-us-shale-gas-boom-benefits-asian-lng-importers>

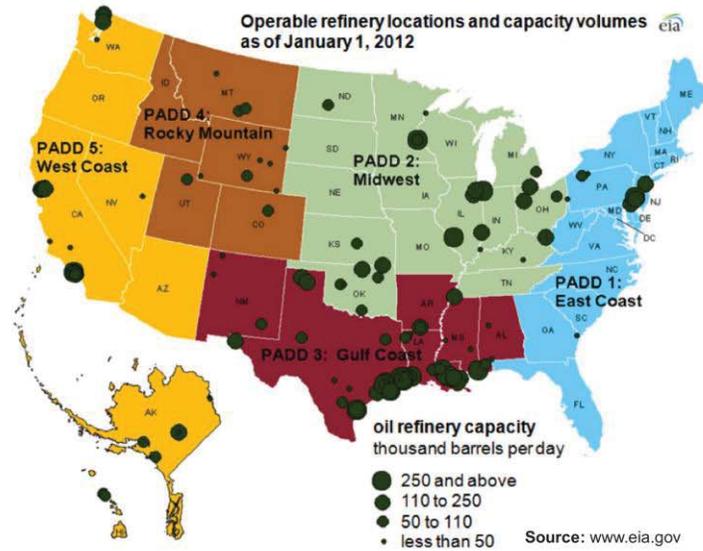
company, has opened a \$33 million facility expansion in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

- Michelin, the French tire producer, is developing a \$750 million facility in Greenville, South Carolina.
- BMZ GmbH, a German company, opened its U.S. facility in Virginia Beach, Virginia for research, development, assembly and distribution of lithium ion rechargeable batteries.
- British-based Rolls Royce decided against expanding a plant in the U.K. and instead built a plant in Prince George County, Virginia for producing engine parts.
- The Austrian steelmaker Voestalpine AG is building a \$715 million plant near Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Royal Dutch Shell, headquartered in the Netherlands, announced it would build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant in Pennsylvania.
- Dow Chemical closed facilities in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the U.K., while opening a plant in Texas.

Other recent significant investments have been seen by BASF, the world's largest chemical maker, which has made and planned nearly \$7 billion in U.S.-based manufacturing-related investments.<sup>9</sup> The German firm has called the outflow of European manufacturing "a self-accelerating process, which will move production into the U.S."<sup>10</sup> This growth in domestic manufacturing will drive demand and necessitate capital investment in infrastructure.

#### 5. Refinery Landscape

**Transformation:** The Energy Renaissance is reshaping America's historical refinery landscape. Long stagnant due to prohibitions and lack



of permits, the refinery picture was set 40 years ago and that system was built to service yesterday's energy realities. This meant refineries designed to process the heavy crude originating from the Middle East, Mexico and South America were built along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. The refineries built in the Northeast were designed to process light sweet crude originating from the Brent "(North) Sea" and finally the West Coast refineries were built to process both light and heavy crudes.

With the Energy Renaissance the supply locations have changed; heavy crude which is needed for the Gulf Coast refineries is now coming from the North in Canada and the light sweet that the coastal refineries require is originating in North Dakota and Texas.

Refineries, however, are cost prohibitive to convert and permits to construct new or relocate are non-existent. A new refinery has not been constructed in the United States in over 35 years. This means the energy transportation network must be

significantly expanded and re-routed to bring the proper sources of crude to the refineries that can process them – from Texas and North Dakota to the East and West coasts and from Canada down to the Gulf Coast. This is where transportation infrastructure, including pipelines, storage facilities, terminals etc...all come into play.

#### MLPS: LEADING THE BUILDOUT

The above five tenets will drive demand and encourage the continuation of the infrastructure build-out associated with the Energy Renaissance. The projected capital investment of \$500-\$750B to accomplish this is just the beginning, getting the resources where they are needed based on existing demand.

This infrastructure build-out of the future will be led by MLPs. For the first 15 years in the brief life of MLPs, there actually was a much smaller percentage of organic infrastructure development being done. MLPs primarily took over or acquired existing

infrastructure assets from larger companies (e.g. oil companies) that transitioned to the tax-advantaged MLP status. That has changed significantly in the past decade and may drastically accelerate through 2025 and beyond.

Much of the future capital expenditures will take place at the MLP level, which in turn will drive new asset development, increased revenues generated by those assets, and ultimately distribution growth to investors. To put the magnitude of such spend into context, if only 50% of the estimated required capital is spent at the MLP level, or ~\$284 billion, that equates to roughly 60% of the market capitalization of the entire MLP sector today.<sup>11</sup> This is an impressive figure and should translate into continued top-tier growth well beyond the next 10 years.

To remind us why MLPs are essential to the continuing build-out, it is important to remember that MLPs are companies that by law must have 90% of their asset base producing revenue from the transportation, storage and/or treatment of a natural resource. Due to the tax structure of the vehicles, MLPs must distribute all of their distributable cash flow to shareholders.

While acceleration of US GDP growth above current levels and projections should only accelerate the build-out associated with the Energy Renaissance, the drivers underpinning

the infrastructure development and accompanying MLP growth are not dependent on aggregate US economic activity. The projected high investment growth of the base case, coupled with the relatively low correlation to total economic activity, highlights the compelling nature of the investment thesis and the sector as an attractive option.

### ON MLP INVESTING: EXTRACTING QUALITY AND MANAGING RISK IN AN EXPANDING SECTOR

Because of the growth in both the market capitalization and the number of companies involved, investors have become more aware of the MLP sector. As with any growing asset class with an expanding universe of assets, sometimes less than optimal business models and management teams gain access to capital markets. There has also been an increase of different types of companies coming to market in the MLP structure. With these evolving dynamics, it is likely we will see a greater bifurcation in the operating results of individual MLPs. As such, we recommend a discerning, conservative approach to investing in the expanding sector.

Though historically a small pool, recent growth over the last five years has bumped MLP total market capitalization from \$220 billion to over \$464 billion, and the total number

of MLPs has increased from 73 to 110 as of March 31, 2014. With the tremendous amount of capital that needs to be spent to develop, process and transport growing U.S. production, the MLP investment universe is poised to continue its growth.

This increased attention from investors and continued acceptance by the capital markets provides exciting opportunities for experienced and capable operators, as well as to seasoned investment managers, who should be able to navigate risks for successful investment outcomes.

Importantly, we must consider the risks to an investment in MLPs. Firstly, there are new business models being brought to market in the MLP structure. Some will likely have untraditional distribution, or payout, others will have business models that are different from the traditional reputation for stability that MLPs have become known for. There is the potential for unsteady, volatile dividends/distributions with new businesses and having an understanding of these models and their compatibility with the MLP structure is necessary to know before investing.

Refineries are one such example. Refineries have an outsized commodity risk exposure via crack spreads that many traditional MLPs in the cash-steady midstream (transportation and storage) space are much less



Source: UBS Investment Bank, Bloomberg, CapIQ (As of March 31, 2014)

susceptible to. Crack spreads are essentially the difference between the price received for the sale of refined gasoline minus the cost of the crude oil input.

The fluctuation and volatility inherent in crack spreads/commodity prices drive this risk profile. Commodity risk introduces the potential for great returns, but also outsized downside due to surplus external factors that management or operators cannot control.

Indeed, one only needs to look back to 2008 to see the impact of excess commodity exposure. Leading up to 2008, vigorous capital inflows were chasing several MLP propositions as natural gas reached \$14 per thousand cubic feet in 2007. But the next year, natural gas plummeted to

\$2 per thousand cubic feet and those new businesses built with a base case of \$10 gas were forced to drastically reduce distributions, scaring some investors from the sector. But not all MLPs are created equally. Those businesses operating in transportation and storage held ironclad contracts dependent on renting pipelines as opposed to commodity prices, for instance, while the price for energy declined dramatically the volume demand did not. This meant their distributions to investors remained on track throughout the downturn.

### OUR OUTLOOK: SAFETY FIRST

Going forward, we imagine continued capital inflows and the expanding universe of MLPs might bring dispersion in returns and distributions. Investors will need to understand

distribution risk, the way contracts are structured and the manner in which revenues are generated. Leverage is also crucial to watch as less mature ventures with limited asset bases and various sources of revenues are increasingly able to access the capital markets and attract investors with forecasts of distribution growth. We feel low leverage, consistent distribution growth supported by long-term, fee-based contracts that could bring dependable cash flows is the most attractive way to invest.

In the face of the Energy Renaissance and accompanying infrastructure build-out, skillful active management by seasoned operators may assist investors in capitalizing on these exciting developments for the coming decade and beyond.

<sup>1</sup>IHS Global Inc. Report "Oil & Natural Gas Transportation & Storage Infrastructure: Status, Trends, & Economic Benefits"

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakken\\_formation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakken_formation)

<sup>3</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US\\_Electrical\\_Generation\\_1949-2011.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US_Electrical_Generation_1949-2011.png)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.cfm?t=epmt\\_es1a](http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_es1a)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.pwc.com/en\\_US/us/industrial-products/assets/pwc-shale-gas-us-manufacturing-renaissance.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/industrial-products/assets/pwc-shale-gas-us-manufacturing-renaissance.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.pwc.com/en\\_US/us/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-shale-gas-chemicals-industry-potential.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-shale-gas-chemicals-industry-potential.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/development/pgd/44457738.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html)

<sup>9</sup><http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/02/basf-results-idUSL6N0NO09920140502>

<sup>10</sup>[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html)

<sup>11</sup>Center Coast Capital Advisors, LP. Capital IQ.

**SEE IMPORTANT RISKS & DISCLOSURES ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

***Before investing you should carefully consider the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other information is in the prospectus and summary prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained by calling 877-766-0066 or by visiting the Fund's website at [www.ccfocusfund.com](http://www.ccfocusfund.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.***

**RISKS AND OTHER DISCLOSURES:**

An investment in the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund ("The Fund") is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested and including, but not limited to, the following risks, which are more fully described in the prospectus:

- The Fund concentrates its investments in master limited partnerships (MLPs), which involve additional risks compared to those from investments in common stock, including, but not limited to, cash flow risk, tax risk, and risks associated with limited voting rights.
- Unlike most other open-end mutual funds, the Fund will be taxable as a regular corporation, or "C" corporation. Consequently, the Fund will accrue and pay federal, state and local income taxes on its taxable income, if any, at the Fund level, which will ultimately reduce the returns that the shareholder would have otherwise received. Additionally, because the Fund is taxable as a "C" corporation, the Fund's net asset value per share ("NAV") will include a deferred tax expense or asset, which is reflected in the Fund's NAV on a daily basis. The Fund's deferred tax expense or asset is based on estimates that could vary dramatically from the Fund's actual tax liability/benefit and, therefore, could have a material impact on the Fund's NAV.
- The Fund, unlike the MLPs in which it invests which are treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is not a pass-through entity. Consequently, the tax characterization of the distributions paid by the Fund, such as dividend income or return of capital, may differ greatly from those of its MLP investments. An investment in the Fund does not provide the same tax benefits as a direct investment in an MLP.
- The Fund currently anticipates paying monthly cash distributions to shareholders at a rate that over time is similar to the distribution rate the Fund receives from the MLPs in which it invests, without offset for the expenses of the Fund. Because the Fund's distribution policy takes into consideration estimated future cash flows from its underlying holdings, and to permit the Fund to maintain a stable distribution rate, the Fund's distributions may not represent yield or investment return on the Fund's portfolio. To the extent that the distributions paid exceed the distributions the Fund has received, the distributions will reduce the Fund's net assets.
- The Fund is not required to make distributions and in the future could decide not to make such distributions or not to make distributions at a rate that over time is similar to the distribution rate it receives from the MLPs in which it invests.
- It is expected that all or substantially all of the distributions to shareholders will be tax-deferred return of capital (ROC). Historically, the Fund's distributions have been considered 100% ROC. ROC is tax deferred and reduces the shareholder's cost basis. When the Fund shares are sold, if the result is a gain, it would then be taxable at the capital gains rate. There is no guarantee that future distributions will maintain the same classification for tax purposes as past distributions.
- The MLPs owned by the Fund are subject to regulatory and tax risks, including but not limited to changes in current tax law which could result in MLPs being treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes or the elimination or reduction of MLPs tax deductions, which could result in a material decrease in the Fund's NAV and/or lower after-tax distributions to Fund shareholders.
- As a non-diversified fund, the Fund may focus its assets in the securities of fewer issuers, which exposes the Fund to greater market risk than if its assets were diversified among a greater number of issuers.
- Equity securities issued by MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling.
- A substantial portion of the MLPs within the Fund are primarily engaged in the energy sector. As a result, any negative development affecting that sector, such as regulatory, environmental, commodity pricing or extreme weather risk, will have a greater impact on the Fund than a fund that is not over-weighted in that sector.

The Fund may not be suitable for all investors. The views in this material are intended to assist readers in understanding certain investment methodology and do not constitute investment or tax advice (please consult your tax professional). The Center Coast MLP Focus Fund and Center Coast Advisors, LP do not render advice on tax and tax accounting matters to clients. This material was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used or relied upon by any recipient, for any purpose, including the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer under U.S. federal tax laws. The views in this material were those of the author as of the date of publication and may not reflect his view on the date this material is first published or any time thereafter.

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*For more information, please contact the Fund at (877) 766-0066 or visit the Fund's website. Financial Professionals only may contact **HRC Fund Associates, LLC** member FINRA/SIPC at (212) 240-9726. HRC is the affiliated broker-dealer of **Liberty Street Advisors, Inc.**, the Advisor to the Fund.*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; drilling Permit application, Eads Poitevant et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** HELIS -- Docket Number 14-626 Drilling permit application.docx

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**From:** garrett acquistapace [mailto:gpace15@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:10 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; drilling Permit application, Eads Poitevant et al No. 1 Well

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Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

PO BOX 94275

BATON Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevante et al No.1 Well

Dear Commissioner:

I would like to offer my thoughts about the Helis proposal for a drilling permit in St. Tammany Parish. I am in full support of the project. I believe being a landowner and the owner of minerals comes with the right to be able to lease your property for the possibility of oil production. I believe that is part of the "American Dream". I understand that there has been over 2,000 wells drilled in the Northern part of the State in the Haynesville Shale area, and I have not heard of any major problems. I also understand there are some citizens in St. Tammany who are opposed to the project because of having to drill through the drinking water aquifer, but the same aquifer has been drilled through and hydraulically fractured numerous times in Tangipahoa Parish. I trust the State Department of Natural Resources will do an excellent job of making sure that Helis and any company afterwards that may drill in St. Tammany Parish will abide by all State regulations to extract oil and gas as safely and effectively as possible.

On another note, being a lifelong citizen of St. Tammany Parish I believe the economic impact will be wonderful for the community. I have experienced in my life many people who grew up here leaving to go to Texas and other States to find high paying jobs. I know if the Oil industry were to produce oil here it would bolster the economy and produce many high paying and quality jobs.

Thanks for Your Time,

Garrett Acquistapace

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 9:56 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** PHM letter in support.pdf

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**From:** Patrick Martin [mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 3:07 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Attached please find my letter in support of the drilling permit application.

I am also sending the same by U. S. mail.

Pat Martin

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PATRICK H. MARTIN

*Attorney at Law*  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: mart139@bellsouth.net

By email to: jim.welsh@la.gov and dnrinfo@la.gov.

Mr. James Welch, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Sincerely,

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:14 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

**From:** Ann Blossman [mailto:annblossman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:21 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Welsh:

I am writing to you in lieu of my speaking at the hearing of Nov. 12 on the above captioned Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application of Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

As a lifelong resident and property owner in St. Tammany Parish, I was compelled to extensively research Helis Oil & Gas Co. and the process of hydraulic fracturing for production of oil and natural gas. Helis has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf of Mexico and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments. I am convinced Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements.

While there are currently no oil and gas wells in our Parish, once Helis is granted a drilling permit many benefits will come to our residents and government. These significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish will be in high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, School Board and other local government agencies.

My overwhelming conclusion is THIS PERMIT MUST BE GRANTED.

Sincerely,

Ann Blossman  
200 Bayberry Dr.  
Covington, LA 70433  
email: [annblossman@gmail.com](mailto:annblossman@gmail.com)

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

---

**From:** rcheatwood, Roy [mailto:rcheatwood@bakerdonelson.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2014 2:13 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Cc:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

I am a resident of St. Tammany Parish. I fully support Helis' permit application. I believe that the project in the best interests of the citizens of the parish.  
Roy Cheatwood  
104 Acadian Ln.  
Mandeville, La. 70471

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Under requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that, if any advice concerning one or more U.S. federal tax issues is contained in this communication (including in any attachments and, if this communication is by email, then in any part of the same series of emails), such advice was not intended or written by the sender or by Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (1) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (2) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or tax-related matter addressed herein.

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

---

**From:** dayna ann gessler [mailto:daynaann@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "Award" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis went above and beyond in its efforts; a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPqs2r8c2Jk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish that SEMS means for Helis in St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always "go the extra mile" to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

**Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the dependence on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to

this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,200 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis well will be 2,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis well is placed on production by that time the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2014/11/11/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

### **The Initiatives of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly

supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis' as "bined" by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans.

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see

<http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dayna Ann Messler-Poitevent

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

---

**From:** Porter, Cheairs [mailto:cporter@harriswilliams.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

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environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis went above and beyond in its efforts; (iii) a St. Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 70 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPs2r2cq2k>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System called "SE S" for its operations in the Parish. That SE S means for Helis in St. Tammany any well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
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and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 2,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 20 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis well will be 1,800 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis well is placed on production by that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac2167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/11/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

Helis' Success

Drilling has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected US economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" is report drafted actually shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 62 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,222 members and their 22,222 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation

Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairs Porter

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:13 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

---

**From:** J. Ollie Edmunds [mailto:ollie@deltapac.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:38 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

---

**From:** J. Ollie Edmunds  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:34 AM  
**To:** 'jim.welsh@la.gov'; 'dnrinfo@lal.gov'  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I support those who have urged you to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Helis/Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

I am a retired orthopaedic surgery professor at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans. I have invested in pine forestland with mineral rights in St. Tammany Parish near the proposed Helis well. The anti-fracking arguments against this well are spurious. Your office in the state government is the proper agency to make this decision, not the Parish or local government.

I encourage you to grant this application for drilling.

J. Ollie Edmunds, MD  
Professor of Orthopaedics  
Chief of Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery  
Tulane University School of Medicine  
Suite 1500 Tidewater Place  
1440 Canal St.

New Orleans, LA, 70112  
Office 504-558-0103  
Cell 504-919-3502  
[ollie@deltapac.com](mailto:ollie@deltapac.com)

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 2:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket No.14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well  
**Attachments:** Letter to Office of Conservation.pdf

---

**From:** Lucius Butts [mailto:lbutts@TransFinancialCo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:10 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No.14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well

Dear Commissioner Welsh,  
Please find attached my correspondence regarding my support to issue a drilling permit on the above referenced project.  
Thank you,

**Lucius M. Butts**  
**7922 Picardy Ave**  
**Baton Rouge , LA 70809**  
**225-761-4300**

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**Lucius M. Butts**  
**7922 Picardy Avenue**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application,  
Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment regarding my support in issuing a permit to drill the well known as the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1.

The State of Louisiana is and has been the sole authority to regulate drilling for oil and gas in the State. It is expressly prohibited for any other agency or political subdivision to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well by a holder of a drilling permit. The State has the responsibility to make realistic assessments during the permitting process to protect the public interest.

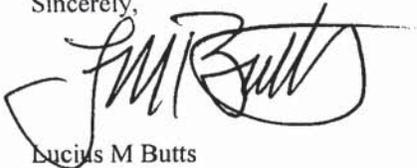
The fact is that drilling for oil and gas, including using hydraulic fracturing methods has been extraordinarily safe. Regulations are in place to assure the protection of the environment and people.

There has been a lot of sensationalism regarding "fracking" which has lead to uninformed people panicking and fanning the flames of hysteria. It is vital for the State of Louisiana to be the voice of experienced reason and ignore the hue and cry.

The company seeking a permit, Helis Oil and Gas, is a proven Louisiana company with a long stellar track record of safety and compliance. The landowners are totally dedicated to the health and prosperity of St. Tammany Parish.

It is important for the Office of Conservation to tune out the hysteria and proceed with the issuance of the drilling permit in its traditional business like manner.

Sincerely,



Lucius M Butts

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:27 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Fracking

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Wren [<mailto:patwren49@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:06 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Fracking

I am a resident of Abita Springs

I am sorry I could not attend the fracking hearing in Mandeville last night due to a previous commitment. I am definitely opposed to fracking! Please hear and abide by our concerns and do NOT allow this to happen. In reading the article on NOLA this morning I was upset to see how long Helios captured the floor before allowing the public to speak. Please protect this parishes water.

Thank you

Patricia Wren

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Fracking

---

**From:** Patricia Edmiston [mailto:patedmiston@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Fracking

I am writing in opposition to fracking in general but in particular drilling through an aquifer that supplies the water for numerous towns in St. Tammany and other parishes. To begin with there is no real need to "dynamite" the earth to extract oil and gas, as there is not a shortage as attested by all the idle oil rigs in the gulf. Secondly, creating fractures in the ground causes open fissures once the oil and gas is removed and the ground will sink to fill in the opening left behind. Unstable soil creates sinking road beds, sink holes, and could possibly cause harm to the aquifer.

Finally, if there is any chance even a minimal one that our aquifer will be contaminated by the chemicals used to frack the earth then we should not take that chance. Abita Springs, along with other communities, would have to find clean water elsewhere, which would not be an easy task. Clean water is a commodity much like oil but much more precious! We can continue to live without oil but not without clean water.

I implore you to please not approve this or any other fracking project. It is unnecessary, unwanted, and to move forward would only benefit the land owner and an oil company. To stop this now would benefit thousands of citizens in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

**Patricia Flad Edmiston**

***Sing like no one's listening, dance like no one's watching, love like you've never been hurt.*** 😊

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: fracking in St. Tammany

---

**From:** ROBERT QUINTANA [mailto:quinrob@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 10:52 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** fracking in St. Tammany

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been closely following the fracking proposal by Helis Oil Company in St. Tammany. I strongly urge you to disapprove this proposal. The large majority of our citizens do not want this in our parish. Please respect our rights to keep our parish free from such developments. We love our environment. That is the reason we came here and stay here.

Thank you.  
Robert Quintana  
201 Chaucer Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:14 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Fracking in St. Tammany Parrish

-----Original Message-----

From: Wesley Harris [<mailto:wtharr12@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2014 9:30 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Fracking in St. Tammany Parrish

To whom it may concern:

As a lifelong resident of St. Tammany Parrish, I support fracking in our Parrish. The arguments against fracking are not founded on science, and are uneducated predictions based on past occurrences that have nothing in common with the proposed sites. However, Helis should have to do the following two things:

-sign a contract to be held monetarily responsible for state administered, intermittent tests during the entire process for ten years after breaking ground. This will ensure that no adverse effects to the citizens of St. Tammany Parrish are adversely affected by the fracking.

- annually contribute to a natural disaster fund that will be help to remedy any adverse effects that are caused by their drilling. This fund will be non-refundable. This way, no litigation can be held to dodge responsibility for an adverse effect.

I believe that we cannot afford to let this opportunity pass this Parrish up. Once the residents see how much economy and money this will bring to the area, they will not be opposed. The money raised in the fund described can be used to save the wetlands or to fund other causes to better the area.

Best regards,

Wesley Harris  
(985) 290-5927  
41489 Fritchie Lane  
Slidell, LA 70461

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:11 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Hearing docket No. 14-626- Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

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**From:** robjm [mailto:robjm@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:03 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Hearing docket No. 14-626- Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Gentlemen:

As a resident of St. Tammany Parish, I am in full support of Permit issuance.

John McEnery Robertson  
301 Penns Chapel Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70471

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:14 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Hearing docket No. 14-626- Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

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**From:** Caroline Robertson [mailto:robercm29@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 11:03 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Hearing docket No. 14-626- Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Dear Sir:

As a resident of St. Tammany Parish, I am in full support of Permit issuance

Caroline M Robertson  
122 Madison Ave  
Madisonville, LA 70447

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:16 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626

**From:** Mark E. Inman, CCIM [mailto:marki@cbtec.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:12 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626

Department of Natural Resources  
Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626  
St. Tammany Parish

I am concerned about the opposition the Parish of St. Tammany is mounting on opposition to the Helis application. Horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing is reducing our dependence upon foreign oil and providing substantial employment. If it were banned nationwide our country and our economy would be in much greater danger. I am a resident of St. Tammany. I have seen the proposed location from the highway and fail to see how it will cause undue inconvenience to anyone. If hydraulic cannot be done there where can it be done.

Mark Inman  
424 Marina Oaks Drive  
Mandeville, LA

Mark E. Inman, JD, CPM, CCIM  
Vice President  
1010 Common Street, Suite 2750  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504) 566-1777 (Office)  
(504) 293-1329 (Fax)



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**From:** Michel PROVOSTY [mikepro1@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 2:46 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Fw: Helis Drilling Application - St. Tammany Parish

On Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:43 PM, Michel PROVOSTY <mikepro1@bellsouth.net> wrote:

On Sunday, November 16, 2014 12:36 PM, Michel PROVOSTY <mikepro1@bellsouth.net> wrote:

It is important that the Dept. allow projects such as that proposed by Helis Oil to proceed despite the objections of locals. Production of Oil and gas by hydraulic fracturing is vital to reduce our dependence on unreliable foreign sources of oil, to improve our balance of trade and to provide well paying jobs. I have looked at the proposed site from the road. It is relatively open land and drilling there would not appear to cause undue inconvenience to anyone. I am a resident of St. Tammany and do not feel that the the fears expressed by the opponents are justified. If fracking cannot be done there, where can it be done?

Michel O.Provosty  
804 Bocage Ln.  
Mandeville, LA 70471

**From:** Julie Poitevent [jpoitevent@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:04 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information

**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis' has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, complete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPSbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection,

traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Protect the Southern Hills Aquifer

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the U.S.’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer, the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis’ well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 200 feet, Helis’ well will be 1,800 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to

fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected *Journal Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/16/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

### The Louisiana State University Study on the Energy Sector's Impact on Louisiana's Economy Helis' Success

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott entitled "The Energy Sector Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp->

[content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf](#). While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans

- ☐ Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- ☐ Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- ☐ Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- ☐ Jefferson Business Council
- ☐ Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- ☐ New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- ☐ River Region Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- ☐ St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- ☐ Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- ☐ Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- ☐ Washington Economic Development Foundation [1](#)

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also

weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia B. Poitevent

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:12 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

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**From:** Evelyn Poitevent [mailto:epoitevent@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:51 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** Evelyn Poitevent  
**Subject:** Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

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Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis went above and beyond in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPSbr8cqk>.

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As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

**Fracking is Safe and Effective and will not harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,200 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 2,000 feet, Helis well will be 200 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

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and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/11/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

**Oil Production in Louisiana and the Parish of St. Tammany Parish: A Bill of Benefits to the People of Louisiana**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation[1]

For the full text of the announcement, please see

<http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge you to issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evie Poitevent

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[1] <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 9:55 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Drilling - Docket 14-626

**From:** Ann Burke [mailto:annpb2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 10:30 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Drilling - Docket 14-626

Department of Natural Resources  
Helis Drilling - Docket 14-626  
St. Tammany Parish, LA

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Helis Oil drilling in St. Tammany Parish off of Interstate Hwy 12 in Mandeville. I am concerned that many paid opponents to the drilling have come to our parish and caused an uproar that would not have happened without their influence. The proponents of the drilling have not been as vocal but I believe that the majority of citizens would agree with our business leaders that this would greatly benefit St. Tammany Parish in many ways. As a citizen of St. Tammany Parish of course I am concerned about the aquifer but believe that Helis Oil will take every measure necessary to protect our water supply. It is ridiculous to assume that they would not. Fracking is being done elsewhere in our state with few if any problems. Why should it not be done in St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you,  
Ann P. Burke  
909 Bonfouca Place  
Mandeville, LA

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:24 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Oil Permit in St. Tammany

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**From:** Don Saucier [mailto:drs@acadiacom.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 11:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Permit in St. Tammany

As a resident of St. Tammany Parish I oppose granting a permit to Helis Oil Co. to drill a Hydraulic Fracking well near hwy. 1088 for the following reasons :

- 1.They claim that the 5 million gallons of fresh water needed to drill the well will not come from our rivers or aquifers but from "private ponds " I ask where are these ponds located and what is the water source for these ponds ?
- 2.They claim that this is the best site for drilling in St. Tammany when all factors are considered . Yet they have leased almost 60,00 acres in St. Tammany parish for future drilling . How inferior are these acres ?
- 3.They claim that trucks will carry the salt water from the well to other sites . Where ? Are they using salt water injection wells ? Do they have permits for such ? Salt water/oil ratio can be 20/1 for the life of the well.
- 4.Although the company claims to have an excellent safety record ,this is the first Hydraulic fractured well in St. Tammany. Will they use newer techniques such as Schlumberger's HIWAY flow channel fracking technology ? Or Baker Hughes' FracPoint openhole fracture completion system ? Or FlowTec's Citrus Method avoiding the carcinogenic compounds ?

Frac jobs are inherently dangerous and environmentally catastrophic when done badly .

Sincerely ,  
D.R. Saucier  
400 Live Oak St.  
Mandeville,LA. 70448  
985-502-9881

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Permit

-----Original Message-----

From: LeAnn Magee [<mailto:lepermag@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:20 PM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Helis Permit

To whom it May Concern,

After attending the public hearing at Lakeshore High School, I am assured of my opinion that Hydraulic fracturing should NOT take place here, or anywhere else in Louisiana.

Since Helis representatives did NOT attend the meeting, and NO guarantees could be made on their behalf, the hearing did little to portray Helis as a trustworthy business. Anybody who supports this project does so with an uneducated, Unresearched opinion, one which undoubtedly is based on greed. Because money is the only motivator to ruin other peoples communities. The workers are from out of state, the parish reaps no monetary reward, and an ecological disaster is imminent. No one, but Helis Employees, of which we have not seen, would benefit.

You MUST consider the welfare of the citizens of Abita and Mandeville. You MUST listen to our requests. It would be against THE LAW to proceed with this project.

I am an 18 year employee of St Tammany parish school board. I work with children every day. I am a mother, a homeowner, a tax payer, a community volunteer. I ask you to deny Helis, and any other company, a permit to frack in our parish.

Thank you for your time,  
LeAnn Pinniger Magee  
985-205-2261  
22195 Grover st.  
Abita Springs, La 70420

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:15 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Helis Permit

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**From:** Joycelyn Lowe [mailto:JoycelynLowe@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:23 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** Joycelyn Lowe  
**Subject:** Helis Permit

Gentlemen:

I have owned property in St. Tammany Parish for 40 years and have been a resident for 29 of those years. I am writing to urge you to deny the Helis Permit.

After listening to the testimony at Lakeshore High School on November 12, 2014, it was abundantly clear to me that Helis is not able to protect the citizens of St. Tammany. DNR is constitutionally bound to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents. I hope you heard what I heard and do what is right and deny the permit.

Permitting Helis to drill would jeopardize our sole source aquifer, ground water, air, transportation grid and home values ... our quality of life!!

Furthermore no one company has the right to 'trump' our zoning laws. Our parish has zoning laws in place that dictate how we manage our trees on our private property yet Helis is asking to 'frack'.

At the meeting on November 12 I listened. I did not hoot, holler or stomp my feet. I did not wave a sign. I just listened to all sides. After listening as I did to the concerns and objections voice by the people, I trust you will do what is correct and what you are constitutionally bound to do and deny the Helis permit.

Thank you,  
Joycelyn Lowe  
150 Glendale Heights  
Mandeville, LA 70471

*joycelyn*

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notified that any unauthorized review, use, dissemination, distribution, downloading, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Helis well, St. Tammany Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1

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**From:** robbie [mailto:socorob@attmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Helis well, St. Tammany Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1

Dear Sirs,

I would like to strongly urge you to deny the permit for the planned fracking well in St. Tammany parish, as well as any in the future. We only have one source of water here. That goes, we go. Helis has not mentioned anything about water buffalos during any of this process. In case you're not sure what a water buffalo is, you can search on the internet, youtube, etc "water buffalo Pennsylvania" and see what they are. What has happened in Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and a few other places, is that fracking poisoned the water wells in whole subdivisions. The state then comes in and makes the people disconnect their water wells. Which is understandable, because they don't want whole neighborhoods of people dying. Now the people have no water to their homes. Sometimes the state makes the fracking companies provide water. They come in and put in these huge water tanks in front of everyone's homes, affectionately called water buffaloes by the locals. They are required to fill them every 2 weeks. If the people have a large family, they have to be very conserving of the water to make sure it doesn't run out in those 2 weeks. After a while, if the well runs dry, the frackers leave and they come in and remove the tanks, unless the people want to start paying for them. It costs about \$125 every 2 weeks to lease and have it filled, so that's another \$250 bill these poor people have to pay each month. Take in mind this water isn't potable, it's only for cooking, washing and flushing. They have to buy their drinking water on top of that. In those places they also have to vent their wells so they don't explode because of the methane migration into them (which is why they had to be capped off in the first place). A small dripping water leak now becomes a gas leak. Several pump houses and at least 1 house have exploded across the country from this. Most of the wells in my neighborhood are in peoples garages, so that would be extra dangerous for us. People wonder why these people don't move. Well, now that the house doesn't have a water supply, no lending institutions will loan against that property, so the fracking has basically made their houses almost worthless. A few people with good enough credit started buying a second home, and abandoning the 1st home, not paying the mortgage. In response to that, real estate contracts now have a check box so you have to disclose if your property is within certain distance of a fracking property. Not from the well, from the edge of the property. It's already in the real estate disclosure forms in St. Tammany parish. I can provide you with a copy of that if needed. So in summary, please deny the permit.

Thank you for your concern,  
Robbie Creel

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 9:47 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Hellis Oil well  
**Attachments:** Hellis Well support letter.pdf

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**To:** A.L. Rice III [mailto:alrice@lme.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:36 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh [LDNR Public Information]  
**Subject:** Hellis Oil Well

Dear Commissioner:

Please see attached letter.

Thanks,

A.L. Rice III

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**Atwood L. Rice III,  
M.D., J.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.E.P.  
14300 Autumn Place Drive  
Gonzales, Louisiana  
70737  
337-962-4153  
alr3mdjdmph@yahoo.com**

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al  
No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

My family owns property on Hosmer Mill and River Road near the St. Joseph Abbey which has been in the family since the late 1800s. We are keen in wanting to protect the value of the property and the health of the environment in an area which we hope to develop dwellings upon in the near future. I have also known members of the Poitevent family for some time and know that they will be responsible people who would not permit any activity which would have a negative impact upon the environment in the Parish. I also believe that should the well that they are proposing be successful, there would be serious positive economic growth for the parish, and Louisiana as a whole.

Therefore I am requesting that you grant the requested drilling permit for the benefit of the Poitevent's, St. Tamany Parish, and the state of Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Atwood L. Rice III

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:15 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Hydraulic Fracturing Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

**From:** Nancy Caddigan [mailto:nancadd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 2:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Hydraulic Fracturing Gas Drilling in St. Tammany Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I live on 7 acres of land that is 5.5 miles away from the proposed sight for the Helis Oil & Gas Company vertical exploratory well.

This land has been in my husband's family for over forty years. We recently relocated to St. Tammany Parish from Iowa to live on this land. Our home's only source of running water is provided by a 180 foot deep ground water well. We are not near enough to either Mandeville or Covington city water sources.

We are STRONG AGAINST allowing this disruption to our environment and neighborhood.

Please DO NOT ALLOW this to take place.

Thanks you.

Nancy Caddigan (Giafagleone)  
1065 Dove Park Road,  
Covington LA 70433-6314

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:16 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: I Stand with Helis Oil on Drilling in St. Tammany

**From:** Chuck O'Neil [mailto:chuck@georgebass.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** I Stand with Helis Oil on Drilling in St. Tammany

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination

by Federal offshore regulators for the national “Best” Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Wetland due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis went above and beyond in its efforts; (iii) a Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with the many Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPLs2r8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in the Parish is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish that SEMS means for Helis. Many well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.

- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

**Fracking is Safe and Effective and is Important for Louisiana**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the U.S. reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,300 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 2,000 feet, Helis well will be 300 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis well is placed on production by that time the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, perfumes, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/16/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

Helis' Success

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans.

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce

- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles O'Neil, St. Tammany resident

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:10 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: I Stand with Helis Oil on Drilling in St. Tammany

**From:** Chuck O'Neil [mailto:chuck@georgebass.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** I Stand with Helis Oil on Drilling in St. Tammany

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

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by Federal offshore regulators for the national “Best” Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Wetland due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis went above and beyond in its efforts; (iii) a Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

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Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with the many Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

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- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
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As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

**Fracking is Safe and Effective and is Important for Louisiana**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the U.S. reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 2,300 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 2,000 feet, Helis well will be 300 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis well is placed on production by that time the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, perfumes, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502167k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/16/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

Helis' Success

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis drilling permit and plans.

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce

- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles O'Neil, St. Tammany resident

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:25 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Mandeville Fracking

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Ridgeway [<mailto:michael.ridgeway@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:00 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Mandeville Fracking

I vehemently oppose this fracking. Please make note.

Wind, solar, and clean energy sources should be the focus of any responsible government- not pollution and destroying one of Louisiana's greatest aquifers.

We ruined our wetlands once, let's not do it again.

Michael J. Ridgeway  
504-259-3111

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:11 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: no fracking

**From:** Robert Cuppay [mailto:slidellcup@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:24 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** no fracking

Robert Cuppay  
slidellcup@aol.com  
no fracking in st.tammany parish . thank you

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:45 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: No Fracking!

-----Original Message-----

From: Cathy Reams [<mailto:mclyle4@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 8:01 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: No Fracking!

(Please send an email to [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov) today. Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626. Commissioner Welch,) Please extend the time we have to submit comments for thirty additional days. We need time to review the new information Helis submitted last night at the DNR hearing in Mandeville. Thank You.

Cathy Reams

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Please base your decision on reality for Helis Well in St. Tammany

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**From:** Avery Munson [mailto:Avery.Munson@mammoet.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Please base your decision on reality for Helis Well in St. Tammany

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a veteran of 20 years in the drilling operations(rig based).

My opinions are based on experience and knowledge of the oil and gas industry.

We all know the productive zones (if verified as such) are thousands of feet below any groundwater / reservoirs. IF there could be any migration it would be through lack of well integrity. This, of course, will show while drilling or producing. DNR could require additional Well Integrity Tests if so desired. I implore you to follow your mission prudently judge this project on science, not hysteria. Please rely on your standards, guidelines, and industry best practices to allow this project to move forward.

The reality:

Public opposition is being fanned by those that do not have the knowledge or experience to offer an objection based on science. The Hollywood actor will still be able to fish and crab – the children will still be safe in school. ( side bar - Did you ever notice it's always about the children, no matter what the issue?). A heavy rain will introduce more pollutants and hydrocarbons from street runoff than this well will.

Most of LA is a wetland, and permits are routinely issued to prudent operators.

Helis is a prudent operator.

DNR oversight is qualified and capable to oversee this project.

Thank you for your service, time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

**Avery Munson**  
Commercial Manager Americas



Mammoet Salvage Americas Inc.  
20525 FM 521  
Rosharon, TX 77583

USA

Phone (281) 369-2200 (24/7)  
Mobile (832) 584-4260  
E-mail [Avery.Munson@mammoet.com](mailto:Avery.Munson@mammoet.com)  
Web [www.mammoetsalvage.com](http://www.mammoetsalvage.com)



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**MAMMOET THE BIGGEST THING WE MOVE IS TIME**

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Please DO NOT allow Helis to Build an Exploratory Well in St. Tammany

**From:** Dawn Meisch [mailto:dawnmeisch@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:00AM  
**To:** robert.m.tess2@usace.army.mil; Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Please DONOT allow Helis to Build an Exploratory Well in St. Tammany

**Dear Sir:**

Please do not allow Helis to frack in Louisiana.

The toxic chemicals that fracking releases into the ground water, water reservoirs, and the air surrounding the fracking site contaminate the environment and increase the risks of illness, infertility, birth defects, and cancer.

In a state so dependent on the natural landscape and the water for food, transportation, commerce, recreation, and tourism, it proves nonsensical to support practices that endanger those activities and the people who depend upon them. This state has a beautiful ecosystem and a proud heritage of people who live with the land.

Fracking is bad for the people, the ecosystem, and the economy. In short, fracking is destructive to the traditions and lifeways that make us proud to call Louisiana home.

Dawn Meisch

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:14 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: Question regarding docket # 14-626 transcripts.

---

**From:** Dave Feasley [mailto:davefeasley@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:00 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information [jim.welch@la.gov] [jeff.wells@dnr.info@la.gov]  
**Subject:** Question regarding docket # 14-626 transcripts.

**Email:** [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

**Email:** [jim.welch@la.gov](mailto:jim.welch@la.gov)

Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh

Commissioner of Conservation Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA

70804-9275

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Wells,

Permits & Reservoir Section Manager

Engineering - Regulatory Division

Department of Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

P. O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge. LA

70804-9275

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket  
No. 14-626**

Hi, I noticed there was a stenographer transcribing testimony at this hearing. Can you direct me to the transcriptions? At least a couple of witnesses early on were almost completely inaudible in the gymnasium if you weren't right next to them.

Thanks!

Dave Easley

Covington LA

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**From:** Phyllis Darenbourg [Phyllis.Darenbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Ref Engineering Docket No. 14-626

**From:** P Thomas [mailto:ptomasnola@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:20 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Ref Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Drilling Permit Application  
Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

To whom it concerns:

I am writing in support of fracking/drilling in St. Tammany Parish. I am a resident of St. Tammany and have lived in Mandeville for over 10 years. The vocal and hypocritical minority making issue of this is very frustrating to me as a resident.

If you do your research an I feel very familiar with Helis Oil & Gas. There is no one who goes to such great lengths to protect the environment and themselves from potential law suits. Further to my knowledge there is no evidence yet that oil/gas exists. This first permit is only to find out if it's there.

IF THE LAW ALLOWS FOR THEM TO DRILL. LET THEM DRILL! This is not some fly by night drilling company. If we need independent water tests set up to monitor quality of water over time that would not be bad idea.

We need to drive our economy and a multi headed approach at energy independence. Let Louisiana lead the way.

Thank you for your time,

Paul Thomas  
1143 Rue Bayonne  
Mandeville LA 70471

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error, please immediately notify us by reply email, delete the communication and destroy all copies.

**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding Fracking in St Tammany Parish: I Am For It!

---

**From:** Elizabeth McEnery [mailto:libbamcenery@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2014 4:00PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Regarding Fracking in St Tammany Parish: I Am For It

Elizabeth Chesnutt McEnery  
5127 Laurel Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115  
libbamcenery@yahoo.com  
504-701-7316

Dear Sirs,

My husband and I currently live in New Orleans. We are lifetime Louisiana citizens, having lived in St Tammany Parish and in East Baton Rouge Parish. My husband owns land in St Tammany and we hope to move there one day.

I am in favor of fracking in St Tammany Parish. America needs to be energy independent for economic and National Security reasons and fracking will bring that energy independence. St. Tammany needs fracking for the same reasons and for jobs! Fracking is safe and clean. Please let us have fracking in St Tammany Parish.

God bless, Elizabeth C McEnery

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Request extension for public hearing

**From:** Lucy Tierney [mailto:lucytierney@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:42 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Request extension for public hearing

I request a 30 day extension for docket #14-626. At the fracking hearing last night in Mandeville (Lakeshore High School) I waited 4 1/2 hours for my name to be called so I could give a statement. I heard hours of technical speakers but then I had to leave because of work the next day. Citizens like me deserve a chance to be heard, also.

--

*Lucy Tierney*

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:13 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Say no to fracking

**From:** Hermien Delpont [mailto:Hermiendelpont@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:24 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Say no to fracking

To Whom it may concern (the admin or Moderator)  
Just say no to Fracking Permit.

Engineering docket 14-626.

The U.S. does not need any further permits for fracking.  
Renewable energy is here in many different forms and it is here to stay. We do not need anymore hydraulic fracturing sites. It has shown to be detrimental to the environment via:

1. air pollution
2. pollutes water with toxic elements
3. waste fresh drinking water. The water they use and waste is fresh water while most people are aware several states in the USA and other countries in the world are in severe drought.
4. Causes Seismic activity.

This is just the beginning of what fracking can do to your home.

Thank You  
Hermien Delpont

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Fracking Permit - Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

---

**From:** Jamie Foster [mailto:jamie@solidwebservice.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 7:24 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** St. Tammany Fracking Permit - Eads Poitevent Well No. 1, Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch,

THANK YOU for attending the permit hearing at Lakeshore High School. I too was there.

After hearing the bumbling and muttering from the Helis people, I have SERIOUS concerns about their plans and potentially empty promises.

PLEASE EXTEND THE TIME WE HAVE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS. I need time to review the new information Helis submitted at the hearing. This is not looking like a good thing for my community.

Sincerely,

Jamie Foster  
71540 St. Charles Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420  
(985)875-9820

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2014 5:10 PM

**To:** Stephen Chustz (DNR); Robert Benoit (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Kaylin Parker; Beverly Hodges; Blake Canfield; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross

**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Update

## St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Newsletter



### Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

*Businesses Support Safe Exploration in St. Tammany & Louisiana*

GNO, Inc., a regional economic development alliance serving the 10-parish region of Southeast Louisiana yesterday released the following announcement:

The undersigned organizations endorse the Northshore Business Council's position of support for the oil and gas industry. Our organizations are in favor of energy production in Greater New Orleans and Louisiana, done in a safe and responsible manner. We are confident that strong state and local oversight can ensure the industry meets its responsibilities to the community.

The importance of the energy industry to our state cannot be overstated. The oil and gas industry supports over 300,000 jobs and \$20.5 billion in household earnings in Louisiana. Last year, the industry paid nearly \$1.5

billion in Louisiana taxes– 15% of the total taxes collected by the state. Louisiana is leading America's energy boom, but we risk turning this boom into a bust if we do not support safe and responsible exploration and production.

Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region  
Greater New Orleans, Inc.  
Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District  
Jefferson Business Council  
Jefferson Chamber of Commerce  
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission  
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce  
Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry  
River Region Chamber of Commerce  
St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce  
St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation  
St. Tammany Homebuilders Association  
St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce  
Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils  
Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation  
Washington Economic Development Foundation

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## In The News

GNO, Inc. comes out in [support of energy industry](#) and fracking in St. Tammany Parish.

NOLA.com examines why Fracking–fueled recall petitions in St. Tammany [never took off](#).

CityBusiness explains how St. Tammany Parish has increasingly become a [preferred destination](#) for independent energy companies and the businesses that service them.

The Northshore Business Council has released a statement in support of the proposed fracking project in St. Tammany Parish.

On September 10th, Helis Oil and Gas filed three permit applications stating that "these applications are a routine but important part of our project". –Mike Barham, Helis project manager.

The Louisiana Landowners Association reached out to the St. Tammany Parish Council to request that public funds are not used in the fight against fracking.

Read more about why the State says St. Tammany is "out of line" with their fracking lawsuit.

---

## About Helis Oil & Gas

*Proud to call Louisiana home for over 80 years*

*Helis Oil & Gas is a privately owned oil and gas exploration and production company that has owned and operated wells throughout the nation, including properties in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. The company has had extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in federal offshore waters and inland state waters in Louisiana. Helis Oil & Gas has drilled in sensitive environments, such as wildlife preserves, always with the highest regard for its surroundings. Helis Oil & Gas regards itself as a respectful guest in the communities in which we work and has historically been committed to contributing to these communities through philanthropic and civic endeavors.*

*Learn more about the St. Tammany Energy Project at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/>.*



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Beurman Miller Fitzgerald | 643 Magazine Street | Suite 405 | New Orleans | LA | 70130

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 2:53 PM

**To:** Stephen Chustz (DNR); Robert Benoit (DNR); Blake Canfield; Beverly Hodges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges; Kaylin Parker

**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Update

## Helis Holds Interests of St. Tammany Parish Residents at Heart



### St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Overview

Helis continues to hold the interests of St. Tammany Parish at heart and America's energy independence in mind. We care about, and are committed to, the residents of St. Tammany Parish and recognize that open and constructive dialogue throughout this process is beneficial to all parties involved.

Last month, energy expert Charlotte Batson addressed some of the common concerns surrounding hydraulic fracturing but explained why she believes the St. Tammany Parish energy project is [poised to make a positive difference on many levels](#).

Furthermore, after months of thorough research, [GNO, Inc. and the entire regional business community](#) announced support of safe exploration in St. Tammany and Louisiana which reinforced the [Northshore Business Council's endorsement](#) of the project. Recently, documents were filed with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in preparation for a [fracking site in Washington Parish](#). So far, the project is only being met with support from

the community.

Contrary to popular belief, a survey conducted by St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce back in July showed a similar sentiment to those in Washington Parish as [nearly 88 percent](#) of the St. Tammany Parish respondents expressed support for fracking. Nine percent sought more information.

The fact is that hydraulic fracturing has been practiced safely for more than 100 years and the technology exists to protect the water supply and ensure no harm to the environment—in fact, fracturing in St. Tammany will take place approximately 1.5 miles below the bottom of the aquifer that supplies water to Parish residents.

As project manager Mike Barham has said, “Helis is committed to [going above and beyond](#) what we have to do, what the state requires us to do.” It’s important to us at Helis to remain transparent and work closely with Parish Officials, the citizens of St. Tammany Parish et al to educate the public on specifics about the project.

Thanks to all who support St. Tammany’s role in energy independence. We will continue to provide project updates and inform the public as we have done all along.

Please take a moment to watch the video below as Helis takes you on a tour of the proposed St. Tammany Parish energy project site. The video explains the scientific process of fracking and how it relates to St. Tammany Parish.

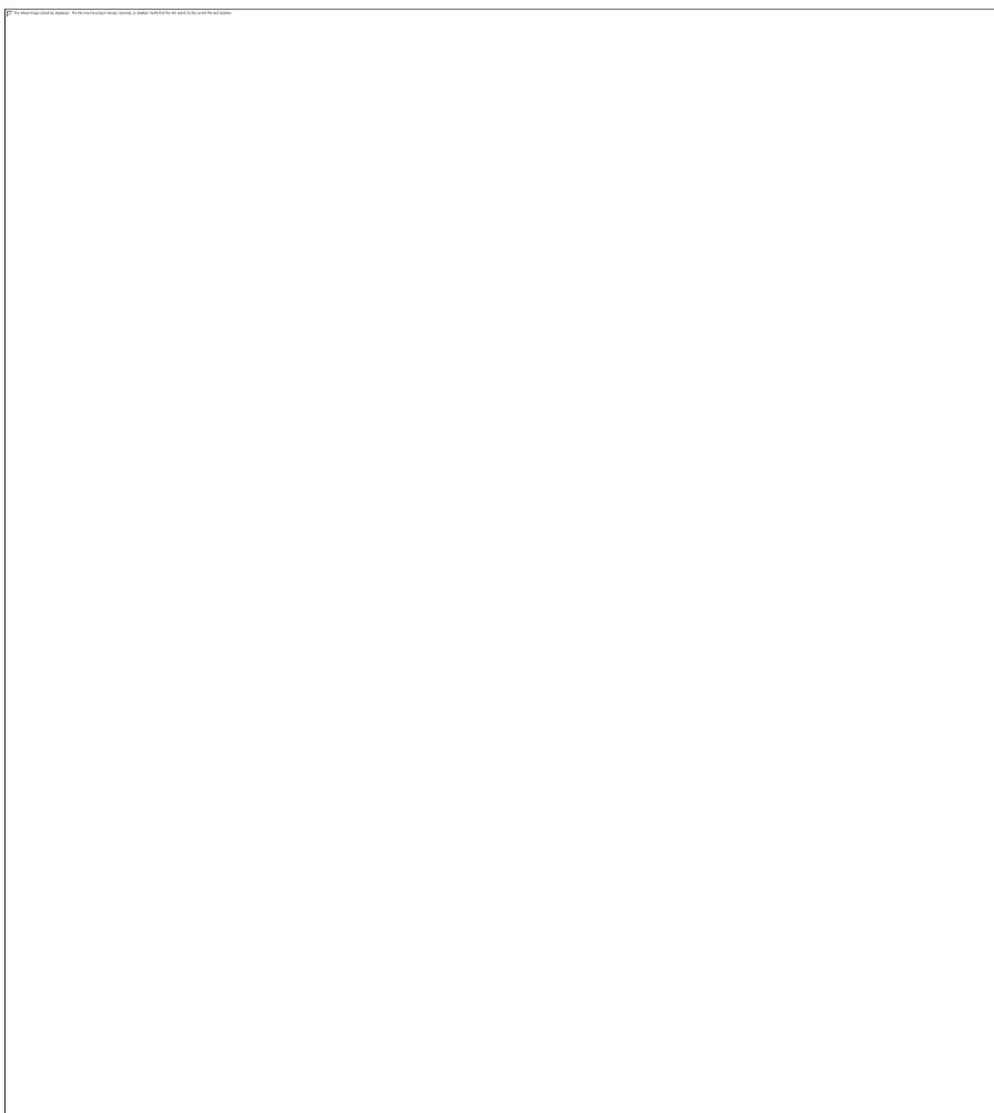
Do not write in this space. The file will be used to create a public record of the hearing and will be available to the public.

*Helis Oil & Gas, a New Orleans-based energy company with a record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations around the United States, has obtained leases and options to lease to explore for oil and gas on privately owned land in a remote and rural area of St. Tammany Parish.*

---

## Information About The DNR Public Hearing

Please join the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), St. Tammany Parish Officials and Helis Oil & Gas at next week's public hearing at Lakeshore High School to discuss this important St. Tammany Parish energy project.



### Key Facts Regarding The Project

- Oil and gas activity in this area is not new. More than 100 other exploratory wells have been drilled within a 1/2 mile radius of this proposed well site over the past several decades.
- Oil and gas fracturing operations below the same aquifer have been conducted just across the parish line in Tangipahoa Parish, without incident and to the economic benefit of that parish and the state of Louisiana.
- There are thousands of these projects throughout the state, and,

according to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials, there are no air, water quality or health problems reported at any of them.

- The well site is secluded and sits approximately 1/2 miles from the nearest residential or commercial areas. In an abundance of caution, sound barriers will be utilized during the drilling and production processes.
- Fluids to be injected into the well are 100% fresh water and natural sand and ceramic proppants. Any chemicals used must be reported to the regulatory agencies. Any air emissions will be strictly regulated by the state Department of Environmental Quality.
- Three strings of casing will add additional levels of protection for the environment.
- Fracturing would take place approximately 1/2 miles below the bottom of the aquifer.
- There are no plans to access parish roads for any aspect of this project.
- Helis has offered to fund additional traffic control personnel, either through the parish Sheriff's Department, or through the Louisiana State Police, to help regulate any increase in traffic and ensure a maximum degree of public safety.

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## About Helis Oil & Gas

*Proud to call Louisiana home for over 100 years*

*Helis Oil & Gas is a privately owned oil and gas exploration and production company that has owned and operated wells throughout the nation, including properties in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. The company has had extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in federal offshore waters and inland state waters in Louisiana. Helis Oil & Gas has drilled in sensitive environments, such as wildlife preserves, always with the highest regard for its surroundings. Helis Oil & Gas regards itself as a respectful guest in the communities in which we work and has historically been*

*committed to contributing to these communities through philanthropic and civic endeavors.*

*Learn more about the St. Tammany Energy Project at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com>*



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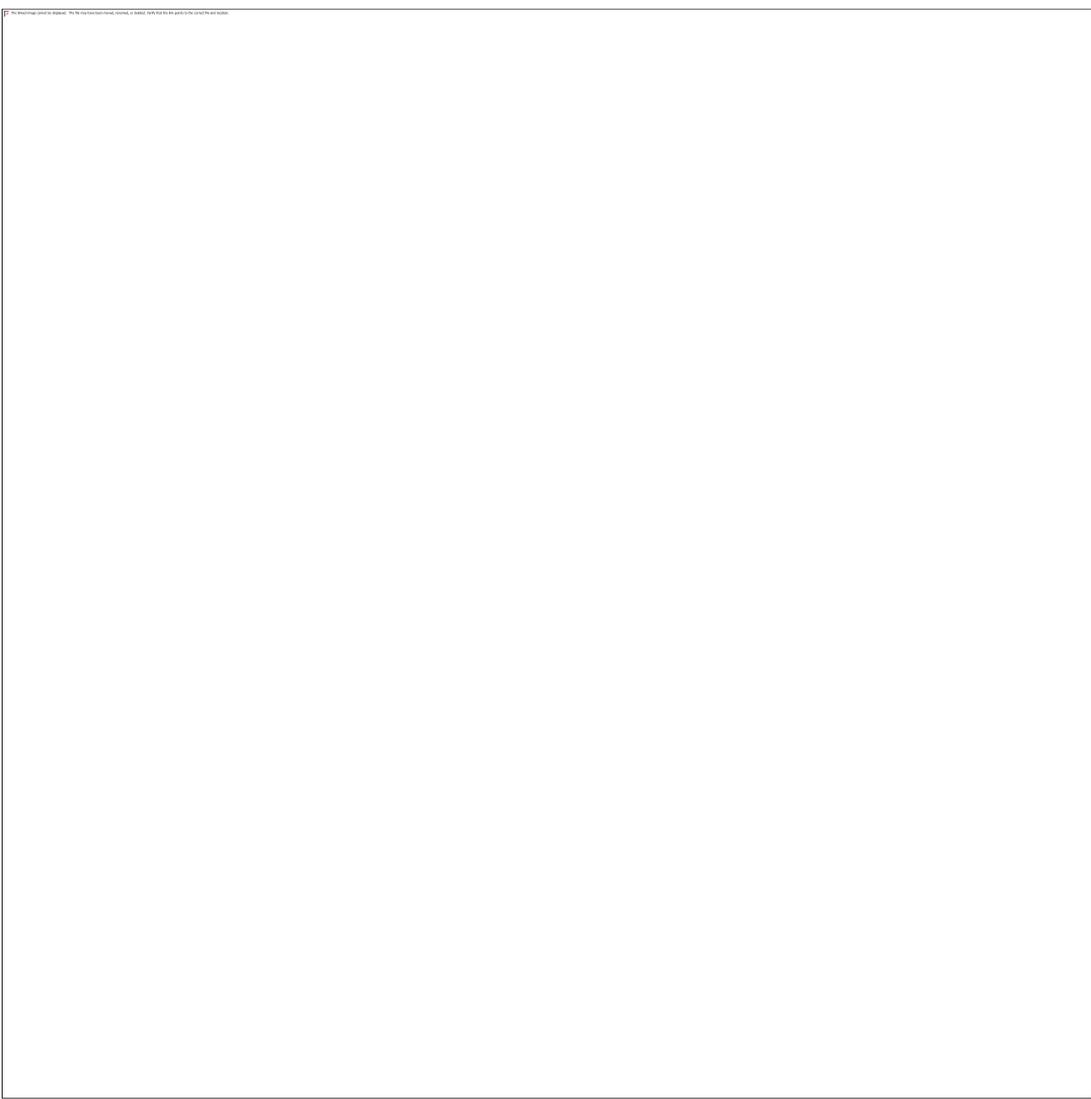
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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 1:33 PM  
**To:** Stephen Chustz (DNR); Robert Benoit (DNR); Blake Canfield; Patrick Courreges; Beverly Hodges; Jim Welsh; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** FW: St. Tammany Parish Energy Project Update

## A Project with St. Tammany's Interests and America's Energy Independence in Mind





Opponents of the Helis energy project in St. Tammany have made their voices heard in opposition to the project, and they are hoping to actively grow that opposition.

Since announcing this project several months ago, we too have been working to communicate in a reasonable and responsible manner. It is important to us that the people of St. Tammany Parish have the facts.

In truth, opponents of the project cannot truthfully argue that Helis is a bad operator or question Helis' record of commitment to safety and the

environment over more than 80 years. Instead, they have generated fear about potential impact to the local water supply to fuel their campaign.

The fact is that this aquifer has already been drilled by oil and gas companies nearly 5000 times – including 50 in St. Tammany alone – but never before with the over-and-above safety and environmental measures committed to by Helis. In addition, Helis has committed to independent monitoring of water, air and sound both before and after operations.

Helis' operating standards far exceed governmental requirements because we believe that our reputation is our greatest asset. We operate safely and with respect for the areas in which we live and work.

The Helis energy project has the informed support of local and regional business groups who adhere to the high standards all of us hold dear. They know the value of this project and the caliber of Helis as a respected operator. They know that this project can be handled safely while contributing significantly to the local economy and to America's energy independence.

These facts and many more can be found on our project website: [helisenergyproject.com](http://helisenergyproject.com). We hope that you will take the time to learn more about us and the facts about this proposed project. And we look forward to becoming a respectful and respected corporate member of your community.

---

**About Helis Oil & Gas**

*Proud to call Louisiana home for over 80 years*

*Helis Oil & Gas is a privately owned oil and gas exploration and production company that has owned and operated wells throughout the nation, including properties in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. The company has had extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in federal offshore waters and inland state waters in Louisiana. Helis Oil & Gas has drilled in sensitive environments, such as wildlife preserves, always with the highest regard for its surroundings. Helis Oil & Gas regards itself as a respectful guest in the communities in which we work and has historically been committed to contributing to these communities through philanthropic and civic endeavors.*

*Learn more about the St. Tammany Energy Project at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/>.*



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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Fracking: Yes

---

**From:** Paul R. Richard, Jr.,CPA [mailto:prichardjr@rdgproperties.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:21 AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Support for Fracking: Yes

I went to the hearing and I support fracking in St. Tammany. I grew up in Slidell and own property in Slidell, Covington and Madisonville. Thank you for your support.

Paul R. Richard, Jr.,CPA

RDG Properties, LLC

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**From:** Phyllis Darensbourg [Phyllis.Darensbourg@LA.GOV] on behalf of LDNR Public Information [info@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 2:31 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** FW: Tammany fracking

-----Original Message-----

From: Yvonne Landry [<mailto:yvonneland@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:35 AM  
To: LDNR Public Information  
Subject: Tammany fracking

I am a student in Petroleum safety studies at Nicholls state, and a property owner in st Tammany. Even my professor says that he has concerns about drilling through aquifers.

Nothing that I have learned, is reassuring. Cement cracks, all the time. Wells "kick" all the time. Barite, a leading component in drilling fluid, is a known carcinogen.

Please don't let them drill through the aquifer. It's just too risky.

Thanks,  
Yvonne Landry  
504-231-7011

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:32 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: Docket # 14-626 (Helis St Tammany Application)

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LDNR Public Information <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:16:23 PM CST  
**To:** Jim Welsh <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, Gary Ross <[Gary.Ross@LA.GOV](mailto:Gary.Ross@LA.GOV)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Docket # 14-626 (Helis St Tammany Application)

**From:** Erik Johansen [<mailto:covlion@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 17, 2014 12:20 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Cc:** [ccst.tammany@yahoo.com](mailto:ccst.tammany@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Docket # 14-626 Helis St Tammany Application

Regarding the Helis application to drill in St Tammany Parish, though hydraulic fracturing is no longer a certain/definite part of the application, it still is part of Helis' stated ultimate plan.

The US Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District in their June 19 letter to Helis identified six (6) major pathways of contamination to underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) along with best management practices (BMPs) for each major pathway.

If Helis' application to drill in St Tammany is approved (I am not supporting approval), please require Helis to adhere to the BMPs specified by the USACoE, as a minimum, to reduce the risks to USDWs from oil/gas activity in St Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,  
Erik Johansen

164 Hano Rd  
Madisonville, LA 70447

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:35 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: Docket #14-626 Helis Oil drilling permit

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LDNR Public Information <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:15:49 PM CST  
**To:** Jim Welsh <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, Gary Ross <[Gary.Ross@LA.GOV](mailto:Gary.Ross@LA.GOV)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #14-626 Helis Oil drilling permit

---

**From:** Richard Werlein [<mailto:ro@feco@flash.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2014 4:14 PM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Docket #14-626 Helis Oil drilling permit

This is my request and approval for your Department to issue the requested drilling permit as sought. The Greater New Orleans and Northshore Business Council both approve, and there's no evidence (only a fear) that fracking has hurt the environment or an individual.

Respectfully,  
Richard O. Werlein

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:34 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket 14-626 - Helis Oil Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LDNR Public Information <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:16:06 PM CST  
**To:** Jim Welsh <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, Gary Ross <[Gary.Ross@LA.GOV](mailto:Gary.Ross@LA.GOV)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: Engineering Docket 14-626 - Helis Oil Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

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**From:** Cynthia Looking [<mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:00AM  
**To:** LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket 14-626 - Helis Oil Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

November 15, 2014

To: [James "Jim" H. Welsh](mailto:James%20%22Jim%22%20H.%20Welsh)  
Commissioner of Conservation

Regarding: Presentations/Exhibits and other materials related to Docket No. 14-626 - Helis Oil and Gas Permit Application and Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Welsh,

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak my mind at the public hearing on November 12, 2014 at Lakeshore High School. This is a synopsis of what I said, and what I did not have the

opportunity to say due to time limitations. Please make this letter a matter of public record as relates to this matter.

First, I want to state that WE have RIGHTS - according to the US Constitution, the Louisiana Constitution and our Home Rule Charter – the right to health, safety, and welfare. Fracking is directly opposite of those things.

I worked in oil for 20 some odd years. PennOil, Quaker State, OP, Windward Petroleum, a regional distributor in the northeast, and S Energy, a South Korean base oil supplier for PennOil. It is a dirty, dangerous business. I want to note that I started at a packaging plant for PennOil in Shreveport, LA. Of the maybe 10 – 15 people who worked there during the time I was there, of the ones I have kept up with, 6 of us had or have cancer. I am one of the lucky ones. I'm still around to talk about it.

As part of the hearing, Dr Bourgoyne stated that “The Economic impact **WOULD** be considerable”

I want to state that the Environmental impact **WILL** be considerable. We will **ALL** have to live with the repercussions of the industrialization of St Tammany.

I'm not going to talk about the aquifer. I'm going to focus on other environmental impacts.

TRAFFIC:

Using an estimate of 2,500 trucks per well to carry equipment and supplies to and from the well site, and our potential in St Tammany Parish of 6,000 wells – that's 15 **million** more 18 wheelers on our roads in St. Tammany.

That's a tremendous increase in traffic congestion, potential for traffic accidents, including fatalities, wear and tear on our roads, and every day compromise and delays during our daily activities.

What happens when an 18 wheeler loaded with toxic chemicals hits a school bus loaded with children? Who is responsible then? Helix Oil? No, probably the contractor they will use to bring supplies and equipment into the well site, and to carry toxic waste away from the well site.

For parents of the children that attend Lakeshore School, IF there is only **ONE** well across the street that means two thousand five

hundred 18 wheelers going up and down this very road that your high school students travel twice a day.

LEAKS and TOXIC WASTE

Using a conservative estimate of 1.5 million gallons of water used per well, and 1,000 potential wells, 1.5 BILLION gallons of water will be forever destroyed. This water can never be returned to the ecosystem once it's gone - it's gone.

Water is a valuable resource - just ask T. Boone Pickens, Goldman Sachs, or Nestle. They are buying up as much water as they possibly can.

From a link on your website,

<http://www.savewateramerica.com/index.htm>, according to the EPA

- More than one billion people - one in five people - on this planet we live on, lacks access to safe drinking water.
- By the year 2025, 25 percent of the world will suffer water shortages.
- Less than 10% of the world's water supply is fresh water and much of that is inaccessible.

In the state of Louisiana we are giving it away to hydraulic fracturing projects - even from our scenic rivers. We have already given away 1.5 million gallons, with more permits pending. In Baton Rouge - our state capital - major industries are using aquifer water to the tune of millions of gallons per day - when the Mississippi River is right there.

That is wrong with this state - it's not like oil companies can't afford to pay for what they take from this state. But even if it were paid for - water should not be sold to the highest bidder - and it damn sure shouldn't be given away to be forever removed from the ecosystem. We ALL need water to survive. We ALL own that water.

AIR POLLUTION

Emissions from diesel-fueled engines are composed of thousands of substances including more than 100 air toxics that are known or suspected carcinogens. Increasing evidence links exposures to these substances with lung cancer, upper respiratory illness, allergies, asthma attacks, and death from heart and respiratory disorders. In fact, recent EPA data indicate that diesel exhaust is likely the main air pollutant contributing to cancer risk in Oregon.

Diesel is a dirty fuel. It is heavier and oilier than gasoline. Diesel exhaust is a complex mixture of carbon, ash, and sulfate particulates, and hydrocarbons. In addition, the engine produces nitrous oxide (NOx) a precursor of smog. One heavy-duty diesel truck can produce as much air pollution as 100 passenger cars.

On road emissions are particularly dangerous for those who share the road. When cars follow diesel trucks or buses, the levels of soot INSIDE those cars are 5 to 8 times higher than the ambient air outside those cars.

Using figures from a study on diesel pollution in Oregon, 1,000 trucks (this is only for ONE well, remember going up and down the highway right outside Lakeshore High School will result in the Lakeshore High students breathing

- 1,000,000 lbs Volatile Organic Compounds
- 1,000,000 lbs Carbon Monoxide
- 100,000 lbs Particulate Matter
- 100,000,000 lbs Carbon Dioxide
- 1,000,000 lbs Nitrogen Oxides

That's 1000 fold multiple those figures 100,000 and you can imagine what the air quality in St Tammany will be like. Fracking itself will release compounds into the air such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and n-hexane long term exposure to these has been linked to birth defects, neurological problems, blood disorders and cancer.

HEALTHY USE IN FRACKING  
Between 2000 and 2005 the most widely used chemical in hydraulic fracturing, as measured by the number of compounds containing the chemical, was methanol. which was used in 100 hydraulic fracturing products, is a hazardous air pollutant and is on the candidate list for potential regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Some of the other most widely used chemicals were isopropyl alcohol (used in 100 products), butoxyethanol (used in 100 products), and ethylene glycol (used in 110 products)

Between 2000 and 2005, the oil and gas service companies used hydraulic fracturing products containing 100 chemicals that are 1) known or possible human carcinogens, 2) regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for their risks to human health, or 3) listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

These 100 chemicals were components of more than 1000 different products used in hydraulic fracturing.

Those 1,000 trucks driving to and from the well site across the street will be bringing these chemicals to the site, and removing the frack water which has been polluted with these chemicals. Any kind of leak, traffic accident, or intentional spill of any of these compounds will be hazardous to these children at Lakeshore High School.

WE WILL NOT LET OUR FLOOD THIS STATEMENT  
Louisiana has a severance tax exemption on minerals extracted using directional drilling for 5 years or until the cost of drilling the well is recovered, whichever comes first.

Obviously, this exemption encourages fast action on the part of the oil companies, to drill and recover as much oil as possible before the 5 year deadline. How safe does that sound?  
Ours are not ours not note that so  
Ours are so

The state Department of Natural Resources Office of Conservation is doing an inadequate job of regulating and inspecting the state's oil and gas wells, and is not properly overseeing a growing number of orphaned wells abandoned by private operators, Legislative Audit June 2011

The Office of Conservation failed to inspect at least 1000 of the 10,000 oil and gas wells in the state at least once every three years between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2011, as required by department rules. That resulted in more than 10,000 wells not being inspected at all during that time.

The Office of Conservation also has failed to develop an effective enforcement process to address non-compliance.

There are many exemptions for hydraulic fracturing under United States federal law—the oil and gas industries are exempt or excluded from several of the major federal environmental laws. These laws range from protecting clean water and air, to preventing the release of toxic substances and chemicals into the environment—  
the Clean Air Act,  
the Clean Water Act,  
the Safe Drinking Water Act,  
the National Environmental Policy Act,  
the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,

the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund.

On your own website, Commissioner Welch, you site you list groundwater conservation tips

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/conservation/groundwater/page.pdf> there's a major groundwater conservation tip of T grant hydraulic fracturing permits in St Tammany parish

We have valid concerns for our health, safety and welfare. I implore you NOT to grant this drilling permit or any other drilling permit using hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany parish.

Synthia Crooking  
St Tammany Parish

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:38 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket 14-626 Helis Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Cynthia Brooking <[sbelle1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 10:21:07 AM CST  
**To:** "[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)" <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626 Helis Permit to Drill in St Tammany Parish**  
**Reply-To:** Cynthia Brooking <[sbelle1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbelle1@bellsouth.net)>

11/17/2014

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I would appreciate a response to this email. I would also like this communication added to the public record.

As I ponder what it would take to entice you to deny the Helis permit to drill, I am at a loss to know what it will take for you to be convinced that hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany parish is unsafe, unhealthy and un-welcome, violates YOUR oath to preserve and protect our natural resources and OUR rights to health, safety and welfare.

Denying this permit is a no-brainer. I attended the hearing on November 12<sup>th</sup> along with probably 700 other people. Although it was not widely reported in the media, even your representatives that attended must admit there were perhaps only a dozen "pro-frackers" in attendance.

Think about that. The OVERWHELMING opinion in St Tammany parish - at least among those of us willing to come out on a school

night, immediately after work, and sit on hard wooden bleachers for 7 hours -is DO NOT RAC HERE.

We all gave compelling reasons why we do not want this industrialization here, ranging from the emotional to the factual. You would have to be a pretty heartless individual to ignore the overwhelming evidence that simply put, fracking is bad. Fracking is bad for people, bad for the planet. It is not, and should not, be about greed and money, or the desires of a few individuals with a stake in the profits over the health, safety and welfare of the many ordinary citizens.

This is a democracy - I remind you that we do have rights granted to us in the U S Constitution, the Louisiana State Constitution and our Home Rule Charter - and it is your sworn duty to protect us and our resources. Losing a minimum of 1 BILLION gallons of precious, potable water - 2. million gallons - 1,000 wells if all goes according to the lease map of St Tammany parish - is not acceptable here -or anywhere -

There was a compelling segment on 60 Minutes just last night which outlines just how precious -and depleted -the world's water supply has become over the past few decades. Here is the link - I beg you to watch this - You cannot argue with the cold, hard, scientific facts that are presented in this segment -  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/depleting-the-water/>

As evidenced by the 60 Minutes segment, the aquifer itself can become more and more depleted simply due to the demand for fresh, clean water, for public use. It stands to reason that some of the "pond water" has not to be fed from the aquifer since it is just impossible for the massive amounts of water needed for fracking to come from surface ponds in the area. The Helis representatives were evasive on the issue of where, exactly, all the water will be sourced. Until and unless we know exactly where that water will be sourced, this drilling permit should NOT be granted.

Even if this water is not coming from the aquifer - highly doubtful - can you really justify the waste of 1 billion gallons of potable water when water is such a valuable resource -

The odds of our sole source aquifer being polluted increases with every drilling permit that is granted. Be in St Tammany don't like those odds. Even with the cement casings, steel pipes, etc. - these safeguards will not last forever - Approximately 10% of well casings fail during the original drilling. Given they make it past the original well casing process without incident, that casing WILL degrade

over time—that pipe and that cement, no matter how carefully installed cannot stand up to the immense pressure of hydraulic fracturing —given how difficult it is to fracture the shale —how can 2 or — inches of cement be impervious to that same amount of stress—or the years in the ground and still an effective barrier. —here will —e leaks—if not now—then within our children’s lifetime — the a—uifer stands to be compromised, and the sole source of water in St Tammany will be lost. Can anyone even begin to imagine the conse—quences of that catastrophe—  
Again, as in my previous letters and public statements in the past —I —EG you to deny this, and any other, drilling permits for hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany parish.

Have a heart. Go against the grain in the State of Louisiana and deny what you know to be an atrocity upon the people of St Tammany. —rotect our rights. Live up to your sworn oath. To paraphrase the pro-frackers - Deny, baby, deny—

Cynthia —rooking  
2—01— Hwy 10—4  
Covington, LA 704—

---

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 11, 2014 6:06 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Gary Ross; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** PHM letter in support.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Fyi. Letter of support from former Commissioner Martin. For Record.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Patrick Martin <[mart139@bellsouth.net](mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 11, 2014 at 4:37:02 PM CST  
**To:** <[dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)>, <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Attached please find my letter in support of the drilling permit application.

I am also sending the same by U. S. mail.

My previous transmittal was unsigned; this one is corrected and should be the copy for the record.

Pat Martin

---

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PATRICK H. MARTIN

*Attorney at Law*  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: [mart139@bellsouth.net](mailto:mart139@bellsouth.net)

By email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov).

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patrick H. Martin*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:28 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.htm; dnr comments.pdf; ATT00002.htm

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Anne B. Pablovich" <[apablovich@stpgov.org](mailto:apablovich@stpgov.org)>  
**To:** "Jim Welsh" <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, "LDNR Public Information" <[info@LA.GOV](mailto:info@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

Please see attached. If you require further information please let me know. Thanks and have a great day.

---

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Anne B. Pablovich

Assistant to the President

St. Tammany Parish Government

Office of the President

985-898-2362

[apablovich@stpgov.org](mailto:apablovich@stpgov.org)

[www.stpgov.org](http://www.stpgov.org)

Any e-mail may be construed as a public document, and may be subject to a public records request. The contents of this e-mail reflect the opinion of the writer, and are not necessarily the opinion or policy of St. Tammany Parish Government.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



## PAT BRISTER, PARISH PRESIDENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

P. O. Box 628  
COVINGTON, LA 70434

985-898-2362

FAX: 985-898-5237

E-MAIL: [PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG](mailto:PBRISTER@STPGOV.ORG)

WEB SITE: [HTTP://STPGOV.ORG](http://STPGOV.ORG)

November 19, 2014

Via email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Honorable James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al  
No. 1 Well

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

On behalf of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for holding a public hearing for the above mentioned project here in St. Tammany Parish. Doing so allowed for civic engagement and public discourse of the issue. It also provided residents the opportunity to hear first-hand the details of Helis Oil & Gas' proposal along with testimony from Helis' consultants, and from geologists and engineers with the State Department of Natural Resources' Office of Conservation.

I am also appreciative of the cooperation we have received from Helis in terms of the additional regulatory oversight Parish Government intends to implement should this project move forward. My research of Helis has produced a longstanding track record of compliance with both legal and regulatory requirements and I am confident in their commitment to continue to do so here in St. Tammany Parish. We have identified various safeguards pertaining to impacts that could be felt by a proposal such as theirs. In anticipation of this we are in the process of creating ordinances to address these issues including but not limited to the following:

1. Mandate pre-drilling water quality testing to establish baseline data, as well as require periodic additional tests during drilling, and for as long as the well is operational, to measure any and all water quality impacts. This will not be done by any oil company, but paid for by the driller, and will be conducted by the Parish, the State, or a third party contractor.
2. Create and enforce an ordinance to limit the hours of operation of any oil & gas drilling project.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

3. Create noise ordinance specific to this type of operations to limit the decibel levels during the drilling phases, and compel sound attenuation, especially if drilling activity is near residential areas.
4. Establish strict restrictions on truck traffic routes, weights and standards, hours of operation, and truck marshalling to prevent negative impacts on area bridges and roads. We will also work with the St. Tammany Parish School Board to address the concerns of impacts to Lakeshore High School.
5. Mandate buffers, plantings and setbacks to reduce visual conflicts and screen production activity from public view.
6. Require the creation of a mitigation plan to be submitted to the Parish before drilling occurs.
7. Require all water to be used in the drilling life cycle be brought in from outside the Parish, and more importantly, any and all fluids that are extracted from a well be sent outside the Parish for disposal.
8. Dictate that every drilling project be bonded at a rate proportionate to the unitization granted by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, through a Performance Bond, Certificate of Deposit, or a Letter of Credit.

Helis has also agreed to additional safeguards in the construction of their well by building three concentric strings of casings – one more than the legal requirement – along with three layers of cement to provide additional protection of the Southern Hills Aquifer.

Our goal has always been to protect the resources of St. Tammany Parish and we appreciate the opportunity given for the citizens of St. Tammany to address their concerns.

Sincerely,



Patricia P. Brister  
Parish President

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:28 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fracking sucks

We should not respond to profanity.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Natasha Kennedy <[rogersn1987@gmail.com](mailto:rogersn1987@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:56:32 PM CST  
**To:** <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fracking sucks

Fracking sucks you greedy Aholes.  
No to fracking. I think its terrible what ppl do to make money they probably dont need  
and isn't even going to be used to help ppl

---

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2014 6:57 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** Fwd: GRN comment and request for extension Eads Poitevent Well 1  
**Attachments:** LGS GR 7-29-14 (1).pdf; ATT00001.htm; LGS GR post meeting MFR.pdf; ATT00002.htm; GRN comment and request for extension Eads Poitevent Well 1 Docket 14-626.pdf; ATT00003.htm

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Scott Eustis" <[scott@healthygulf.org](mailto:scott@healthygulf.org)>  
**To:** "Jim Welsh" <[Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV](mailto:Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV)>, "Richard Hudson" <[Richard.Hudson@LA.GOV](mailto:Richard.Hudson@LA.GOV)>  
**Cc:** "Matt Rota" <[matt@healthygulf.org](mailto:matt@healthygulf.org)>  
**Subject:** GRN comment and request for extension Eads Poitevent Well 1

Attached are our comments, with a request for the disclosure of all documents and plans concerning the drilling, fracking, waste handling and waste disposal, bonding, and cleanup of this well.

We request an additional 10 days to review the information therein.

For a healthy Gulf,

--

Scott Eustis, M.S.  
Coastal Wetland Specialist  
Gulf Restoration Network

[504 237 0323](tel:5042370323)  
[504-525-1528 x212](tel:5045251528x212)  
[scott@healthygulf.org](mailto:scott@healthygulf.org)  
[www.healthygulf.org](http://www.healthygulf.org)

541 Julia St, Suite 300

New Orleans, LA, 70130

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**LOUISIANA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
GEOLOGICAL REVIEW RECOMMENDATION FORM**

INTERNAL

OCM

COE

7-29-14  
RJS

Jurisdiction  
Permit  
Analyst  
Well

COE  OCM  COE  
2013-02952  
TOWNS  
#1

Applicant  
Parish  
Date  
Lease

HELS  
ST. TAMMANY  
7/29/14  
EARL POITEVAULT

Sufficient /  Insufficient data were presented to enable a technical recommendation to be made at this time. Additional data required are:

**RECOMMENDATION**

No less damaging feasible alternatives

Field trip recommended, organized by \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended alternative(s):**

Directionally drill the well from: \_\_\_\_\_

Use alternate access route: \_\_\_\_\_

Move location to: \_\_\_\_\_

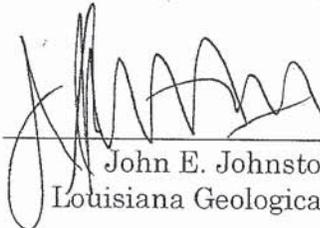
Reduce ring levee/slip size to: 350' x 400'

Use existing site: \_\_\_\_\_

Use alternate access methods: \_\_\_\_\_

Use closed loop (containerized) mud system

Other: TWO TURNAROUNDS ON ROAD, WING AT HIGHWAY

  
John E. Johnston III  
Louisiana Geological Survey



CEMVN-OD-SE

August 19, 2014

**Memorandum for Record**

- 1. Subject:** Geological Review (GR) findings for the Helis Oil & Gas Company (Helis) application Corps file # **MVN-2013-02952-ETT** currently under review.
- 2. Proposed Site Location:** North of Interstate-12, east of LA Highway 1088, abutting the west side of Log Cabin Road, at Latitude: 30.38806, Longitude - 89.97917, in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.
- 3. Authority:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
- 4. Basic Project Purpose:** Subsurface hydraulic fracturing of the Tuscaloosa Shale Play for exploration and future development of oil and gas.
- 5. Public Notice (PN):** A PN was issued on April 14, 2014, with two subsequent time extensions to the comment period. Comment period ended June 16, 2014.
- 6. PN Description of Work:** Clear, grade, excavate, and fill to construct a 10.55 acre drilling well pad to be used for subsurface hydraulic fracturing for the exploration and potential future extraction of oil and gas. As proposed the project would discharge approximately 28,953 cubic yards of materials into  $\pm$  9.46 acres of wetlands. The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts that would result from this proposal by purchasing the appropriate credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank.
- 7. GR Meeting:** On July 29, 2014, at the request of the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN) the Louisiana Geological Survey's (LGS) John Johnston facilitated a meeting for the purpose of discussing and assessing the Helis proposed project site, referenced above, as a viable exploratory and production site requiring the  $\pm$ 9.46 acres of direct to wetland impacts. In attendance were representatives from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA via phone) along with representatives for Helis and CEMVN. Mr. Johnston analyzed the data presented by Helis at that meeting and determined (with agreement from Helis representatives) that the site had no more than a 50% chance of becoming a viable production site. Based on that finding the LGS recommended that Helis submit revised plans for a reduced footprint fill pad that would allow Helis to drill an exploratory vertical well for the purpose of collecting samples and data for further assessing the viability of the site for oil and gas production. The LDWF, DEQ, EPA and CEMVN all agreed with the LGS recommendation.

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**8. CEMVN 404 Assessment of Current Facts:** CEMVN has determined that in light of the expert analysis and recommendation provided by the LGS that proceeding with a 404 review of the proposed project as a production site requiring  $\pm 9.46$  acres of wetland impacts rather than an exploratory site requiring 3.2 acres of wetland fill would be speculative and not in accordance with the 404 (b) (1) Guidelines of the Clean Water ACT. Authorization of the full production fill pad would also not comply with the Corps Regulatory Guidance i.e. 33 CFR Parts 320-332. CEMVN determined the project purpose to be "installation of an exploratory/vertical well to determine viability of the project site as a gas and oil production site".

**Status/Conclusion:** In consideration of the GR findings CEMVN requested that the applicant submit revised plans for only an exploratory well with a maximum 3.2 acres of fill for a well pad as recommended by the LGS. To date revised plans have not been received by this office. Upon receipt of revised plans CEMVN will republish a PN with the revised plans and project purpose. The data and samples to be collected with the exploratory well will require a follow up GR with LGS, Helis, the other interested agencies and CEMVN in order to proceed with analysis of any further wetland impacts beyond the 3.2 acres for the exploratory well.

Prepared by:



Robert Tewis  
Biologist/Project Manager  
of MVN-2013-02952-ETT

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



---

UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

338 Baronne Street, Suite 200 New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

BY EMAIL TO: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)  
Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
617 N Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

BY EMAIL TO: [richard.hudson@la.gov](mailto:richard.hudson@la.gov)  
Mr. Richard Hudson, Manager  
Office of Conservation, Lafayette District  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.  
Brandywine III, Ste. 220  
Lafayette, LA 70508

Re: Request for Release of Application Documents and Extension of Public Comment Period on Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Docket #14-626

Dear Commissioner Welch and Mr Hudson,

I am writing on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network (GRN).<sup>1</sup>

We require more time to review of Helis' plans and claims before we are able to make substantial comments on the impacts of drilling on Scenic River, wetlands, water, and Endangered Species resources, all of which are costs incurred by the public and relevant to this application under the Department's duties to the Louisiana Constitution<sup>2</sup>.

***We ask that the Department extend the comment period on Docket #14-626 for an additional ten days for review.***

---

<sup>1</sup> A diverse coalition of individual citizens and local, regional, and national organizations committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

<sup>2</sup> LA. CONST. ART. IX, § 1



---

UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

338 Baronne Street, Suite 200 New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

Industry authors have explicitly referred to this well as a “wildcat”<sup>3</sup> effort, due to its location far outside of the commonly accepted productive area of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale.

GRN is opposed to this project because the environmental and social costs are high, and certain; while the benefits seem unlikely, and limited. Hundreds of square miles of the Louisiana coast remain scarred by the damage from drilling activities that never produced oil. Jefferson Parish and Plaquemines Parish have alleged that some of these damages are Helis<sup>4</sup>.

And so I was distressed to hear that a Louisiana Department of Natural Resources hearing concerning a geological resource did not include an acknowledgment of the review of this well by the Louisiana Geological Association. This behavior is consistent with the company’s previous behavior regarding objective assessments of its project.

Despite obvious evidence of wetlands, including from its own public relations campaign, which was filmed on this lease *while it was flooded*, Helis has aggressively contested USACE scientific assessments of the existence of wetlands on the Poitevent property. It concerns us that there is a pattern of denial and aggression against the simplest scientific assessments of government agencies.

The likelihood of success of this project was discussed by the interagency review team meeting held by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was infuriating to hear Mr. Connor, a Helis representative, deny knowledge of this expert geological opinion, even after he had summarized other opinions from this interagency review, attached.

“Mr. Johnston analyzed the data presented by Helis at that meeting and determined (with agreement from Helis representatives) that the site had no more than a 50% chance of becoming a viable production site.”<sup>5</sup>

***We submit this interagency meeting memo, attendance list, and quotation into the record to ensure that the official opinion of the LGS expert is acknowledged. We would like written acknowledgment of this “no more than a 50% chance” assessment by Helis, as their employees Paul Lawless, a geologist, and Mike Barham, an engineer, were present at that meeting, and in agreement with the assessment, according to the public record.***

---

<sup>3</sup> Barrell, Kirk. 2014 Helis Oil & Gas Wildcats In The TMS-Far East  
<http://tuscaloosatrend.blogspot.com/2014/03/helis-oil-gas-wildcats-in-tms-far-east.html>

<sup>4</sup> 24th District Docket No 732.770, 25th District Docket Nos. 60-986, 60-990

<sup>5</sup> “LGS GR post meeting MFR” and “LGS GR 7-29-14” received from USACE MVN. Attached.



---

UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

338 Baronne Street, Suite 200 New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

***We ask the Department for clarification on whether this drilling permit is for fracking.***

If it is not, we ask whether there will be another hearing on drilling the horizontal sections of the well.

In its application, Helis has seemingly withheld information on its plans on the basis that this application is for the vertical well only. Helis then recognizes that it will have to file an application for an amendment to its application. *We are concerned that there will be no public hearing for such a virtually certain amendment to the Helis application*, that these plans will remain unwritten or hidden, and thus unenforceable.

Our members that live in the area, recreate in the area, and drink the waters of the area deserve a chance to review the information that Helis presented at the meeting held in Mandeville on November 12.

For a healthy Gulf,  
[sent via e-mail]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Eustis", is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Scott Eustis, M.S.  
Coastal Wetland Specialist, Gulf Restoration Network

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:12 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA

Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>  
**Date:** November 14, 2014 at 10:56:13 PM CST  
**To:** "'Dupre, Maurice J'" <[mdupre@tulane.edu](mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu)>, <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'Rick Franzo' <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, 'Robert Jewett' <[jewettms@gmail.com](mailto:jewettms@gmail.com)>, 'Robert Waldron' <[robwaldron@bellsouth.net](mailto:robwaldron@bellsouth.net)>, 'Ren Clark' <[rylaur@bellsouth.net](mailto:rylaur@bellsouth.net)>, 'stephanie grey' <[shgphd1@yahoo.com](mailto:shgphd1@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA  
**Reply-To:** <[Terri@LSArchitecture.com](mailto:Terri@LSArchitecture.com)>

Fabulous letter, Maurice! Let's hope that they consider everything when deciding what choice they'll make.

Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dupre, Maurice J [<mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu>]  
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 10:52 PM  
To: [Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)

Cc: Rick Franzo; Robert Jewett; Robert Waldron; Ren Clark;  
Terri Lewis Stevens; stephanie grey  
Subject: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY  
PARISH LOUISIANA

November 14, 2014

Department of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana  
Attn: James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
RE: Helis Oil Permit Application

From: Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D.

I want to thank the commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources for coming to Lakeshore High School and having the permit hearing for the Helis Oil permit application as well as staying to well after midnight to allow all the public comments. As my comments were made at around 10:30 pm, to the best of my recollection, I am not sure they were in the record of the meeting. I will begin here with those, and as well, make some points which were not made during the hearing as I had to cut short my remarks due to the time limitation. By way of background, I received my Ph.D. from the University of PA in 1972, and after one year on the faculty at the University of Hawaii, I came to Tulane University, where I have spent my whole career as a research mathematician and college professor. I received membership in the American Mathematical Society around 45 years ago, and received membership in the North American Society of Research Scientists almost 40 years ago. Even though most of my research has been in pure mathematics, I have done research in mathematical physics and mathematical chemistry, as well as probability theory. My initial response to the idea of hydraulic fracturing was that it should not cause any problem, since the hydraulic fracturing was taking place miles below any drinking water aquifers. But, as the amount of public outcry began to increase, and as I became aware of the move by Helis to hydraulic fracture in St Tammany Parish where I have lived since 1984, I thought that I had better look into this myself.

I was immediately struck by the enormity of the hydrofrack fluid and waste fluids from flow back and produced water. As the US Geological Survey reports, typical well completions require between 2 and 6 million gallons of water with larger wells requiring as much as 15 million

gallons. As there are thousands of these wells in every major shale play, this amounts to billions and billions of gallons of toxic fluids being handled and trucked and injected. In fact, the recent June 2014 report of the US Government Accounting Office stated, nationwide, industry is injecting 2 BILLION gallons PER DAY of toxic fluids for either hydraulic fracturing or for waste disposal. Obviously, this is 720 BILLION gallons of toxic fluids injected PER YEAR. Recently, the CEO of Halliburton reported that the new hydrofrack well designs will require 75 railroad cars of sand instead of just 20 railroad cars of sand to complete a single well. Obviously, this signals an almost four-fold increase in the amount of hydrofrack fluid used for well completion, and in fact the amount of hydrofrack fluid used did recently pass 60 million gallons in at least one case. As hydrofracking for oil and gas is essentially underground strip mining, it certainly makes sense economically to increase the number of horizontal well bores from a single well pad and as well to maximize the density of bores through the shale as much as possible, limited only by the problem of different bores fracturing into each other. Now, in 2012, the oil and gas industry produced 280 billion gallons of toxic waste, so we see that the yearly production of toxic waste is rapidly increasing with time, both by increasing the number of wells and the amount created per well. By comparison, nationwide, mineral mining only produces 26 billion gallons of toxic waste water per year, so it would seem that the majority of the 720 billion gallons per year being injected in waste wells and for hydraulic fracturing is actually due to hydraulic fracturing operations. This means that under the new well designs, the amount of toxic fluids being trucked about and injected into wells could increase by a factor of four which would be 2.88 TRILLION gallons PER YEAR. Now the volume of water in Lake Pontchartrain is only 2.4 trillion gallons, so we are now dealing with trucking about and injecting at high pressure every year, a volume of water far in excess of the volume of Lake Pontchartrain. It defies logic to think that such enormous volumes of toxic waste can be trucked about and injected into wells at high pressure without enormous amounts of spillage and contamination. The end result has to be extremely detrimental to the environment, with enormous amount of toxic fluids migrating eventually into drinking water aquifers and drinking water systems. To give another

comparison, the volume of high level radioactive waste produced over the entire history of the US nuclear energy program is only 10 million gallons, the volume of hydrofrack fluid required for what will soon be a merely ordinary well completion. Of course, this is nationwide, but here in St Tammany Parish, if hydrofracking is allowed to take hold, there could eventually be 1000 or more wells. And as hydrofracking has not even begun here, I have to conclude that if it does take hold here, very rapidly the industry will want to use the most aggressive techniques to maximize profit, so we could be looking at 60 million gallons per well, or even more in the future. Thus, we could be looking at having over 60 billion gallons of toxic fluids being trucked around St Tammany Parish alone. Again, it defies logic to think that such enormous volumes of toxic fluids can be handled in a single parish without leading to environmental destruction and the eventual pollution of our sole source aquifer. In fact, this is just what has happened in the shale plays that have already been heavily hydrofracked.

Even though the industry likes to claim that the chemicals used in hydrofracking are only household products and only constitute less than half a percent of the fluid, in fact, many of these chemicals are toxic in parts per million or parts per billion. This means that the hydrofrack fluids can be thousands of times more toxic than required to be harmful to people, plants, and animals. Unfortunately, many of these chemicals are of unknown toxicity and insufficiently studied according to the EPA's own website. For instance, as a result of the well fire on June 28, 2014 in Ohio, which burned out of control for 5 days causing 30 explosions, a five lie stretch of a tributary of the Ohio River was polluted to the point of instantly killing 70 thousand fish.

Recently, the scientific studies on hydraulic fracturing and its various effects have begun to appear in the peer reviewed scientific literature. The worlds foremost scientific journal is the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and it just reported that the well failure rate for hydrofrack wells is between 1.57 and 2.6 times that of conventional wells. Besides spills from the enormous volumes of toxic fluids being handled, the main avenue of aquifer contamination has now been realized to be well failure, as has been reported also by the US EPA

and admitted by many in the industry. Certainly, subjecting well bores to explosives and fluids at 10 thousand pounds per square inch has to increase the likelihood of well failure. However, if the well casing and cementing is sufficiently thick and strong, certainly proper design should prevent the internal failure. However, there is also the possibility of contaminants traveling around the outside of the casing along its surface due to failure of the outermost layer of cement to completely bond to the rock and material around the well bore. Notice that the increase thickness of the casing serves also to increase the outer surface area of the well bore, thus increasing the likelihood of contamination leaking around the outside of the well bore, either from the shale being fractured or from contaminants which the well bore passes through below the aquifer but possibly much closer than the target shale layer.

Another indicator of problems with hydrofracking is the fact that the energy return on energy invested is only 5 or 6 to one whereas for conventional wells it is about 50 to one. In other words, it takes about ten times as much energy to get the same energy production from hydrofracking as from conventional drilling. This means ten times as much trucking and ten times as many accidents and ten times as much industrial mess. And because of this low energy return, it only makes sense economically when it is done extremely aggressively with as many wells per unit area as possible. This means that to allow hydrofracking in an area is a virtual guarantee that it will become highly industrialized and cause lots of pollution of the environment.

I am also concerned that the industry is obviously spreading false information about the effects of hydrofracking. They have repeatedly claimed that there has never been a documented case of hydrofracking causing a well contamination, and Helis has repeated this false claim numerous times in the local media here in St Tammany Parish. In fact this is not the case, because in Parker County, TX, scientists at the University of TX at Arlington found by isotopic analysis that methane from the target shale layer near a hydrofrack operation had found its way into a drinking water aquifer. Apparently, the driller had hydrofracked into a geologic fault of which the operators were unaware. But, this is almost

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second falsehood announced by the industry is that hydrofracking cannot cause an earthquake. In fact, there are documented cases in both Colorado and Ohio. But, on top of that is the fact that back in the late sixties and early seventies, the technique of hydraulic fracturing was used by geophysicists to create earthquakes, so there is in fact clear experimental evidence that has existed for over fifty years, that hydrofracking can cause an earthquake. Of course the geology of St Tammany Parish makes earthquakes almost impossible, but the point here is the truthfulness of the industry leaders. If they can allow themselves to indulge in promulgating falsehoods in order to maintain their profits, how can they possibly be trusted in any claims they make. Already in Oklahoma, the number of earthquakes per year has increased by two orders of magnitude, and the situation continues to get worse. The problems are mainly caused by injection wells used for toxic waste storage, but that is one of the requirements of hydrofrack operations-all that toxic waste has to go somewhere.

The Helis presentation on the evening of 12 November 2014 would be very convincing to any one not knowledgeable in scientific matters, but when one considers all the lies that Helis has promulgated in the media, how can they be trusted?

As far as St Tammany Parish is concerned, another very serious point is the effect that hydrfracking has on property values. A peer reviewed study in the scientific literature has shown that in areas where hydrofracking happens, it causes an average 30 percent drop in property values of homes using underground drinking water aquifers. This is all the homes in St Tammany Parish, as we have a sole source aquifer. The study showed this is only offset by an 11 percent increase due to the hydrofrack operations, for an overall net loss of 19 percent. The 30 percent drop is due merely to the perception in the public about the effects of hydrofracking, and happens even if the hydrofracking causes no contamination. Keep in mind, these are averages. The 30 percent drop is suffered by all the citizens, but the 11 percent increase mainly goes to those with the oil and gas leases. In case of St Tammany, this will be a few wealthy landowners profiting at the expense of the vast amount of ordinary citizens. In fact, the St Tammany Parish assessors office reports the

total assessed value of property in St Tammany at 2.2 billion dollars. Since residential property is assessed at ten percent of fair market value and commercial property is assessed at fifteen percent of fair market value, this means that the total market value of all the property in St Tammany Parish is between 14 and two thirds billion and 22 billion dollars. That means that the thirty percent drop in market value will cost the ordinary citizens of St Tammany Parish between 4.4 and 6.6 billion dollars and the few wealthy landowners will receive an increase in market value of over 2.4 billion dollars. This is clearly enriching the wealthy by taking twice to three times as much from the ordinary citizens.

The claims of vast economic advantage coming from hydrofrack operations really only applies to rural areas where there is little economic activity to begin with, so that hydrofracking is basically the only economy. Poor people are so easy to take advantage of. But St Tammany has a very strong economy already, and most of the economy depends on the area maintaining its residential pristine nature. If that is ruined, the economic loss will be far greater than the gains due to the hydrofrack economy. Moreover, as the per barrel price of oil drops toward the 65 dollar per barrel level, the hydrofrack economy becomes less and less viable. At this point, it is a bad bet, since the Arabians can kill it by simply increasing the oil supply a little more. You cannot compete at 5 to 1 energy return on energy invested with Arabian operations yielding 50 to 1 energy return on energy invested. The worst scenario for St Tammany Parish would be for the parish to indulge the hydrofrackers and then have the hydrofrack economy collapse at the will of the Arabians after our environment is ruined with industrialization. Then we will be left with no economy. Why should we risk such an economic disaster when there is no economic need to do so?

Finally, I would say to the oil and gas industry and anyone else who thinks that hydrofracking is environmentally safe. Why don't you advocate the removal of all your special exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and any special exemptions from liability that were granted by the federal government during the Cheney administration, all collectively known as the Halliburton

Loophole. If hydrofracking is as safe as you claim, then you have no need of these special exemptions. In addition, as there is extreme risk to the environment and to drinking water aquifers as well as risk to air quality, the industry should pool their resources to form a large emergency relief fund which would give immediate financial relief to the citizens after any disaster caused by the oil and gas industry. There is no reason that the ordinary citizens should have to suffer the consequences of industrial disasters such as the BP oil spill while the industry postpones their liability for years with lengthy court battles. The emergency relief fund could make immediate payment to those who have been damaged by industrial disasters, and then the payments of those at fault could be paid into the fund when the litigation is complete.

Conclusion: granting the Helis permit is not in the interest of St Tammany Parish.

Thankyou for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D., 1972, U of PA  
Member: American Mathematical Society  
Member: North American Society of Research Scientists  
Member: Department of Mathematics, Tulane University

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#### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 7:13 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA

Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Dupre, Maurice J" <[mdupre@tulane.edu](mailto:mdupre@tulane.edu)>  
**Date:** November 14, 2014 at 10:52:20 PM CST  
**To:** "[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)" <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, Robert Jewett <[jewettms@gmail.com](mailto:jewettms@gmail.com)>, "Robert Waldron" <[robwaldron@bellsouth.net](mailto:robwaldron@bellsouth.net)>, Ren Clark <[rylaur@bellsouth.net](mailto:rylaur@bellsouth.net)>, "Terri Lewis Stevens" <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>, stephanie grey <[shgphd1@yahoo.com](mailto:shgphd1@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** HELIS PERMIT TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IN ST TAMMANY PARISH LOUISIANA

November 14, 2014  
Department of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana  
Attn: James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
RE: Helis Oil Permit Application

From: Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D.

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As far as St Tammany Parish is concerned, another very serious point is the effect that hydrfracking has on property values. A peer reviewed study in the scientific literature has shown that in areas where hydrofracking happens, it causes an average 30 percent drop in property values of homes using underground drinking water aquifers. This is all the homes in St Tammany Parish, as we have a sole source aquifer. The study showed this is only offset by an 11 percent increase due to the hydrofrack operations, for an overall net loss of 19 percent. The 30 percent drop is due merely to the perception in the public about the effects of hydrofracking, and happens even if the hydrofracking causes no contamination. Keep in mind, these are averages. The 30 percent drop is suffered by all the citizens, but the 11 percent increase mainly goes to those with the oil and gas leases. In case of St Tamany, this will be a few wealthy landowners profiting at the expense of the vast amount of ordinary citizens. In fact, the St Tammany Parish assessors office reports the total assessed value of property in St Tammany at 2.2 billion dollars. Since residential property is assessed at ten percent of fair market value and commercial property is assessed at fifteen percent of fair market value, this means that the total market value of all the property in St Tamany Parish is between 14 and two thirds billion and 22 billion dollars. That means that the thirty percent drop in market value will cost the ordinary citizens

of St Tammany Parish between 4.4 and 6.6 billion dollars and the few wealthy landowners will receive an increase in market value of over 2.4 billion dollars. This is clearly enriching the wealthy by taking twice to three times as much from the ordinary citizens.

The claims of vast economic advantage coming from hydrofrack operations really only applies to rural areas where there is little economic activity to begin with, so that hydrfracking is basically the only economy. Poor people are so easy to take advantage of. But St Tammany has a very strong economy already, and most of the economy depends on the area maintaining its residential pristine nature. If that is ruined, the economic loss will be far greater than the gains due to the hydrofrack economy. Moreover, as the per barrel price of oil drops toward the 65 dollar per barrel level, the hydrofrack economy becomes less and less viable. At this point, it is a bad bet, since the Arabians can kill it by simply increasing the oil supply a little more. You cannot compete at 5 to 1 energy return on energy invested with Arabian operations yielding 50 to 1 energy return on energy invested. The worst scenario for St Tammany Parish would be for the parish to indulge the hydrofrackers and then have the hydrofrack economy collapse at the will of the Arabians after our environment is ruined with industrialization. Then we will be left with no economy. Why should we risk such an economic disaster when there is no economic need to do so?

Finally, I would say to the oil and gas industry and anyone else who thinks that hydrofracking is environmentally safe. Why don't you advocate the removal of all your special exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and any special exemptions from liability that were granted by the federal government during the Cheney administration, all collectively known as the Halliburton Loophole. If hydrofracking is as safe as you claim, then you have no need of these special exemptions. In addition, as there is extreme risk to the environment and to drinking water aquifers as well as risk to air quality, the industry should pool their resources to form a large emergency relief fund which would give immediate financial relief to the citizens after any disaster caused by the oil and gas industry. There is no reason that the ordinary citizens should have to suffer the consequences of industrial disasters such as the BP oil spill while the industry postpones their liability for years with lengthy court battles. The emergency relief fund could make immediate payment to those who have been damaged by industrial disasters, and then the payments of those at fault could be paid into the fund when the litigation is complete.

Conclusion: granting the Helis permit is not in the interest of St Tammany Parish.

Thankyou for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Maurice J. Dupre', Ph.D., 1972, U of PA

Member: American Mathematical Society  
Member: North American Society of Research Scientists  
Member: Department of Mathematics, Tulane University

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 8:55 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: No fracking

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tara Zeller <[tarazeller@bellsouth.net](mailto:tarazeller@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** November 16, 2014 at 7:55:03 PM CST  
**To:** "[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)" <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>, "[patrick.courreges@la.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@la.gov)" <[patrick.courreges@la.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** No fracking

Gentlemen,

I am a lifelong resident of St Tammany Parish and the mother of 3 school age children who were also born here and have lived their entire lives in Covington.

I am steadfastly opposed to fracking in our parish and ask that the DNR not grant a permit to Helis that will allow them to put our water and natural resources at risk. The desire of a few to make money should not outweigh the interests of thousands of people who will bear the brunt of their activities and who stand to suffer irreparable damage like that suffered in other places where fracking has been permitted.

Please respect the wishes of our citizens and uphold your duty to protect our health and welfare. Deny Helis Oil's permit application.

Thank you,

Tara Zeller

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 11:00 AM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges  
**CC:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nov 12 Public Meeting in St Tammany Parish

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chuck and Deb Kirby <[kirby.da.ce@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.da.ce@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 6, 2014 at 10:36:54 AM CST  
**To:** <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** Nov 12 Public Meeting in St Tammany Parish

Jim:

I want to thank you and the DNR for electing to hold a public meeting in St Tammany Parish. Some comments:

As I read the tea leaves, St Tammany citizens overwhelmingly do not want to go down the path of becoming another oil patch parish. I would submit that no more than the DNR would permit a fracking well in Death Valley, Jackson Square, New Orleans, or Oak Alley Plantation should the DNR permit a fracking well in St Tammany: perhaps this is legally possible, perhaps not: but regardless, should this be done? I would submit this is a case, like the examples, where the clear answer is : No we shouldn't.

You've seen the statistics so I won't waste your valuable time reiterating: you know they show that fracking is a short term economic shell game where the profits are privatized but the long term costs on the ground are socialized, and among these are the environmental messes to deal with for subsequent generations. In some cases where citizens have nothing they may be desperate enough to accept these terms. That is not the case in St Tammany today.

I see this as a "tipping point" moment for St Tammany parish. I would submit that long term, St Tammany (and Louisiana) is much better off, considering economics, population growth, environmental impact, and citizen quality of life

by St Tammany remaining as Louisiana's oil patch outcast. Once the genie is out of the bottle, it's messy putting ithe genie back in the bottle (see:Denton, TX).

You can help the St Tammany kids of today to grow up and live their entire lives in a parish they love, free from the ravages of long term oil patch economics and practices. Its a step is the right direction: All the DNR needs to do is, to quote Nancy Reagan, "Just Say No" to fracking in St Tammany Parish.

I hope you have a productive and safe trip.

Chuck Kirby  
605 Tanager Dr  
Mandeville, LA

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 1:29 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: to deny fracking in St. Tammany

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** erlisa boshti <[erlisaboshti@gmail.com](mailto:erlisaboshti@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 17, 2014 at 12:57:20 PM CST  
**To:** <[jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)>  
**Subject:** to deny fracking in St. Tammany

Dear sir,

I am writing from Albania.I know it is far,far away from America, but I feel like it is my obligation to share my concerns about the future of the nature. Nowadays there are only few natural recourses left and if we try to destroy them then we truly are the worst criminals. Like I said before, I live far away from St. Tammany ,but I thought it was my right as an inhabitant of this planet to interfere in this matter. I categorically oppose fracking St. Tammany because it would destroy the only aquifer that supplies 100% of the water for every home and business.

Thank you for your time. I hope my voice was heard.

With respect

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**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 10:26 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; Patrick Courreges; John Adams (DNR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg

Fyi.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens <[terri@lsarchitecture.com](mailto:terri@lsarchitecture.com)>  
**Date:** November 15, 2014 at 9:57:53 AM CST  
**To:** <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** Robert M MVN Tewis <[Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil)>, "'Farabee, Michael V MVN'" <[Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil)>, Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, Patrick Courreges <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>, Greg Lemons <[greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com](mailto:greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com)>, 'Lisa Jordan' <[lwjordan@tulane.edu](mailto:lwjordan@tulane.edu)>, 'Donald Lee' <[donaldplee77@gmail.com](mailto:donaldplee77@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all  
**Reply-To:** <[Terri@LSArchitecture.com](mailto:Terri@LSArchitecture.com)>

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

Then I went on to suggest at the DNR hearing that if this is true, then what must be considered by the DNR is HOW the act of drilling will impact this community, beyond the act of punching a hole.

The article, however, suggested that, "According to Courresges, if Helis proves they can meet DNR's requirements, they will be issued a permit. Public comment about quality of life concerns won't suffice to stop it."

<http://desmogblog.com/2011/07/07/ditians-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-sist-tammany-parish>

Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond simply granting a permit to drill hydraulically fracture. Your title and authority is Commissioner of Natural Resources, which implies not simply for oil/gas resources. This would suggest that your authority is to consider of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted. If this would not be the case, then why not simply dole out permits which could be used anywhere? Why care what happens to the lakes, streams, air and earth in the course of fracking it with toxic chemicals?

The specific, and as we have learned minimal, criteria for injecting toxic chemicals into the Natural Resources below us, and the processes by which this resource is extracted, and the resulting emissions, wasted water, contamination inherent with the process, truck traffic and emissions associated with the mineral removal must all be considered as an impact of the permit. One effort is not mutually exclusive of the others. It cannot be.

This would be tantamount to suggesting that you regulate the use of matches being lit beneath a house and then not being responsible when the house burns down. The action directly affects the other.

No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. From my understanding no other community within has objected to a permit being granted. For those communities I suggest, live and let live.

This community's residents, however, must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. We have Rights in the granting of the permit as well, do we not? And why wouldn't we, if you are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared both above and below ground, by us all. So such, should the residents not be entitled to reasonable consideration as well?

Once the resources reach the surface are when they become the property of Helis but until that time they are Natural, shared and unclaimed. The process is the critical aspect which must be considered in all that you approve.

I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

Because the risks to the masses by far outweigh the potential benefit to one single private Limited Liability company, I will urge you, once again, to deny the permit on the basis that **it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration toward the residents where this action is to occur**. Equal consideration must be given to all who share the Natural Resources of La. Tammany Parish.

Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue. The resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Helix permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:42 PM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all  
**Attachments:** mime-attachment.jpg

FYI.

James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Charles Goodwin <[bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net](mailto:bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net)>  
**Date:** November 16, 2014 at 7:17:50 PM CST  
**To:** <[Jim.Welsh@la.gov](mailto:Jim.Welsh@la.gov)>  
**Cc:** <[Terri@LSArchitecture.com](mailto:Terri@LSArchitecture.com)>, Robert M MVN Tewis <[Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.M.Tewis2@usace.army.mil)>, "Farabee, Michael V MVN" <[Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil)>, Rick Franzo <[rick@uniam.net](mailto:rick@uniam.net)>, "Patrick Courreges" <[Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV](mailto:Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV)>, Greg Lemons <[greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com](mailto:greg.lemons@townofabitasprings.com)>, 'Lisa Jordan' <[lwjordan@tulane.edu](mailto:lwjordan@tulane.edu)>, 'Donald Lee' <[donaldplee77@gmail.com](mailto:donaldplee77@gmail.com)>, League of Women Voters <[info@tammanytogether.org](mailto:info@tammanytogether.org)>, Joan Simon <[joan154.simon@gmail.com](mailto:joan154.simon@gmail.com)>, "stp Jake Groby stp council" <[jbgroby@stpgov.org](mailto:jbgroby@stpgov.org)>, "stp Marty Gould, stp council" <[mgouldjr@charter.net](mailto:mgouldjr@charter.net)>, stp Marty Dean stp council <[mdean2799@gmail.com](mailto:mdean2799@gmail.com)>, "stp Dennis Sharp, stp council" <[fdsharp@stpgov.org](mailto:fdsharp@stpgov.org)>, "stp Maureen Obrien stp council" <[mobrien@stpgov.org](mailto:mobrien@stpgov.org)>, "stp James Thompson, stp council" <[jthompson@stpgov.org](mailto:jthompson@stpgov.org)>, stp Gene Bellisario stp council <[genebell07@yahoo.com](mailto:genebell07@yahoo.com)>, stp Jerry Binder stp council <[jbinder@stpgov.org](mailto:jbinder@stpgov.org)>, stp Steve Stefancik stp council <[steves@stpgov.org](mailto:steves@stpgov.org)>, "stp Chris Canulette stp council" <[canulette@stpgov.org](mailto:canulette@stpgov.org)>, "stp Richard Tanner, stp council" <[ret1186@charter.net](mailto:ret1186@charter.net)>, "stp Reid Falconer, stp council chair" <[rrfalconer@stpgov.org](mailto:rrfalconer@stpgov.org)>, m Donald Villere Mayor <[dvillere@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:dvillere@cityofmandeville.com)>, m Ernest Burguieres <[eab3@bellsouth.net](mailto:eab3@bellsouth.net)>, "m Clay Madden" <[cmadden@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:cmadden@cityofmandeville.com)>, m Rick Danielson <[rdanielson@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:rdanielson@cityofmandeville.com)>, m David Ellis <[dellis@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:dellis@cityofmandeville.com)>, m Carla Buchholz <[cbuchholz@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:cbuchholz@cityofmandeville.com)>  
**Subject: Re: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all**

Mr. Welsh,

First, I agree totally with Terri Lewis Stevens letter (below) to you.

Second, granting a permit defies your own Mission Statement.

Third, either decline this permit or change your Mission Statement. (1)

Fourth, if you intend to issue a permit per this quote "State law is very clear," Couregess told DeSmogBlog. "If the Helis permit complies with the rules they will get their permit." (2) then that confirms the rules to get a permit are laughable, meaningless, insulting and a bar set low enough to trip a turtle.

Possibly, and justifiably, DNR may become the laughing stock of all Louisiana agencies, and probably other state DNRs as well.

ASPER TCT SA AY D Y T S RR T A D C Y Y T Y R  
S STAT T

B.C. Goodwin  
Mandeville, La  
985-635-1900

**(1) MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.*

(2) <http://desmogblog.com/more-oil-companies-disclose-fracking-in-climate-change-pestors>

If fracking is so safe.....

If fracking is so safe, why won't frackers guarantee to clean-up the mess they make, and to provide an irrevocable performance bond to do so?

If so safe, why won't the frackers provide their plan to clean up what they pollute? What is their "Plan B" ??

If so safe, why has the North Carolina legislature proposed jailing anyone who reveals what chemicals are actually used in fracking?

It so safe, why would fracking be severely curtailed if it had to pass the Clean Water Act? (It was exempted in 1995 by Dick Cheney aka Halliburton.)

If so safe, why does the so-called "treated" toxic waste water cause numerous earthquakes in areas that have previously had few or none?

If so safe, why are there more annual spills in the US than Exxon Valdez?

If so safe, why do property values drop, and why do realty disclosure statements now ask how far you are from fracking injection well sites?

If so safe, why did Exxon's CEO protest fracking in his area, where it would affect His Property Value, His Clean Air, His Clean Water?

The property rights of the many trump the mineral rights of the few.

Clean energy creates more jobs than fossil fuel energy.

On 11/15/2014 9:57 AM, Terri Lewis Stevens wrote:

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

Then I went on to suggest at the DNR hearing that if this is true, then what must be considered by the DNR is HOW the act of drilling will impact this community, beyond the act of punching a hole.

The article, however, suggested that, "According to Courresges, if Helis proves they can meet DNR's requirements, they will be issued a permit. Public comment about quality of life concerns won't suffice to stop it." <http://desmogblog.com/2014/11/14/citizens-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-s-st-tammany-parish>

Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond simply granting a permit to drill/hydraulically fracture. Your title and authority is Commissioner of Natural Resources, which implies ALL, not simply for oil/gas resources. This would suggest that your authority is to consider ALL of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted. If this would not be the case, then why not simply dole out permits which could be used anywhere? Why care what happens to the lakes, streams, air and earth in the course of fracking it with toxic chemicals?

The specific, and as we have learned minimal, criteria for injecting toxic chemicals into the Natural Resources below us, and the processes by which this resource is extracted, and the resulting emissions, wasted water, contamination inherent with the process, truck traffic and

emissions associated with the mineral removal must all be considered as an impact of the permit. One effort is not mutually exclusive of the others. It cannot be.

This would be tantamount to suggesting that you regulate the use of matches being lit beneath a house and then not being responsible when the house burns down. One action directly affects the other.

No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. From my understanding no other community within LA has objected to a permit being granted. For those communities I suggest, live and let live.

This community's residents, however, must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. We have Rights in the granting of the permit as well, do we not and why wouldn't we, if you are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared-both above and below ground, by us all. As such, should the residents not be entitled to reasonable consideration as well?

Once the resources reach the surface are when they become the property of Helis but until that time they are Natural, shared and unclaimed. The process is the critical aspect which must be considered in all that you approve.

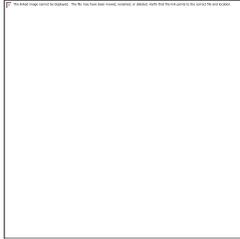
I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

Because the risks to the masses by far outweigh the potential benefit to one single private Limited Liability company, I will urge you, once again, to deny the permit on the basis that **it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration toward the residents where this action is to occur**. Equal consideration must be given to all who share the Natural Resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-the resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Helis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Kaysey Hasslock [kmliaison@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:46 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Helis Oil Drilling Permit Application in St Tammany Parish

---

**From:** Kaysey Hasslock  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014  
**To:** Jim.welsh@la.gov

Louisiana Dept. of Conservation  
Commissioner James Welsh

Dear Sir,

Thank you for holding the recent Helis Oil well permitting hearing here in Mandeville. It was a very long night for all, we too stayed until almost midnight, and were impressed by the strong, clear and well researched statements presented by many of our neighbors to your committee. We stand with them in requesting that the Louisiana Department of Conservation denies the Helis Oil & Gas Lacombe Bayou permit application on the basis of the unavoidable compromise to our community resources. The health, safety and welfare of an entire community and the natural resources upon which we depend should not be put at risk. This project WOULD create severe and irreparable environmental degradation right in the middle of a flourishing residential community, endangering health and lowering our property values.

Our vibrant community is based upon attracting residential development. The new Lakeshore High School (1000 students) is adjacent to the proposed drilling field an area completely incompatible with any drilling development. It is also worthy of note that within 1-3 miles are Mandeville Middle School (800+ Students), two rapidly growing subdivisions with many young families and the Louisiana Heart Hospital (500+ Patients, First Responders and staff). The tract in question is presently zoned A-3, and if this project is permitted it would kill the development of this as residential community. In other words this area is flourishing as a residential one, NOT as one of a risky drilling industrialized one.

This proposed well is not being requested to serve the public good. The vast number of residents of St. Tammany will reap no benefit from approval of this unit permit---nor from the numerous ones which would then surely follow---instead would be forced to bear the vast array of immediate and long term risks to our health, our natural resources, our property values (hence diminishment of vital Parish tax revenue) and our future Parish development.

I ask that you step up to the opportunity to protect the people and the land of St Tammany Parish, say NO to this project!

Sincerely,  
Kaysey Hasslock  
Dr. Michael Finn

1317 Livingston St  
Mandeville, LA 70448

**From:** mrstoth [mrstoth@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:01 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Helis oil permit denial

Mr. Walsh,

Please deny the Helis oil permit. If fracking does come to St. Tammany, my family will be moving out of state. This is a very serious issue for us. Please protect our parish. The majority, has spoken and is against this happening.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** Kelly E. McGee [kem\_lmt@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:44 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Helis permit

Please deny the Helis permit.  
Kelly McGee

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** Gordon Cain [gordonrcain@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:49 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**CC:** Tom Himes  
**Subject:** Helis Well in St. Tammany Parish

Commissioner Welsh - I have lived in St. Tammany Parish for over thirty years. I own property and mineral rights in St. Tammany Parish. I strongly support the issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully submit that it be issued forthwith. To not issue the permit would deprive me and all other landowners in St. Tammany Parish of a very basic property right.

I consider the objections to the Helis well to be without merit. Helis is a superb operator as evidenced by their record of safe drilling over many years. They have drilled over sixty wells in resource plays, so have extensive experience in this sort of drilling. Their well plan as presented at the November 12 hearing is safer than the well plans already successfully drilled in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale trend by other operators. Again, please issue the drilling permit promptly.

Regards - Gordon R. Cain  
321 Oak Drive  
Mandeville, La. 70471

**From:** AL Rice III [al\_rice\_iii@me.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:36 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Hellis Oil well  
**Attachments:** Hellis Well support letter.pdf

Dear Commissioner:

Please see attached letter.

Thanks,

A.L. Rice III

**Atwood L. Rice III,  
M.D., J.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.E.P.  
14300 Autumn Place Drive  
Gonzales, Louisiana  
70737  
337-962-4153  
[alr3mdjdmph@yahoo.com](mailto:alr3mdjdmph@yahoo.com)**

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al  
No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

My family owns property on Hosmer Mill and River Road near the St. Joseph Abbey which has been in the family since the late 1800s. We are keen in wanting to protect the value of the property and the health of the environment in an area which we hope to develop dwellings upon in the near future. I have also known members of the Poitevent family for some time and know that they will be responsible people who would not permit any activity which would have a negative impact upon the environment in the Parish. I also believe that should the well that they are proposing be successful, there would be serious positive economic growth for the parish, and Louisiana as a whole.

Therefore I am requesting that you grant the requested drilling permit for the benefit of the Poitevent's, St. Tamany Parish, and the state of Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Atwood L. Rice III

**From:** Kiana Rugar [kianarugar@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:29 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** hydraulic fracking

I am writing to you to let you know that I oppose Helis Oil's wish for fracking in St. Tammany.. Please deny it.

Thank you,  
Kiana Rugar

**From:** Villő Csiky [gingerhair44@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:14 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Hydraulic Fracking

Dear Sir!

My name is Anna and I'm 14 years old. I live in Hungary, far from America and St. Tammany Parish but I want to help Ian Somerhalder and the others who want you to don't do it. Please please don't try to fix something not broken! We want St. Tammany Parish to stay this beautiful, me too, even if I have never been there. Thank you for your attention.

Anna

**From:** Chuck O'Neil [chuck@georgebass.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:58 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** I stand with Helis Oil in Drilling in St. Tammany

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads  
Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPsbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. That SEMS means for Helis St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US’ reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at

the same time over 2,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 20 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well is drilled to a depth of approximately 2,222 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 2,222 feet, Helis' well is 2,222 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/21/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production; that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas—including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states—contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking—surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted—are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, lotions, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac201122k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/21/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

### **The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and

severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled “The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy”. His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis’ well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 20 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis’ well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 20,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis’ plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council’s endorsement of Helis’ as combined all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis’ drilling permit and plans.

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see <http://www.gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles O'Neil, St. Tammany resident

**From:** Chuck O'Neil [chuck@georgebass.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** I stand with Helis on the proposed well in St. Tammany

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94000

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re Engineering Docket No. 14-00000 Drilling Permit Application, Pads  
Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas as Helis for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-00000 Drilling Permit Application, Pads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

### **Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

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Helis' drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, complete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please

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- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
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- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
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Respectfully Submitted,

Charles O'Neil

**From:** Anita Deyoung [anitalov6@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:11 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** In regards to the fracking

This fracking I believe is aiming to destroy the only aquifer that supplies 100% of the water for homes and businesses. This is my concern and I wish you address it. Thank you for your time Sincerely, Anita

**From:** Paige [paige@yourpetbutler.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:00 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** : Isf Louisiana is STANDING UP TO NO FRACKING

**To whom it may concern!!!!**

To the Project Manager of the Army Core of Engineers, and all of the government officials in charge of making St. Tammany's water supply damaged,

Helis Oil wants to Hydraulic Fracture in St. Tammany Parish.  
This FRACKING threatens to destroy the only aquifer that supplies 100% of the water for every home and business in this area.  
How can a government even begin to think to let this happen????  
As a resident of Louisiana I can not sit by and watch my state take bad measures.  
If it happens in St. Tammany....it could happen in my Parishes here too....  
Stop this!!!!  
It is not fair!!!!  
What is this really benefiting and how is it going to leave things once you start messing with our environment?  
A very concerned and passionate Louisiana tax paying parishioner!  
Thanks

Paige B. Treadwell  
Registered Community Crew ISF Louisiana  
Owner, Your Pet Butler Llc  
Pet Hotel & Spaw  
2258 Benton Rd.  
Bossier City, La. 71111  
(318)759-PETS  
[www.yourpetbutler.com](http://www.yourpetbutler.com)  
[@isf\\_louisiana](https://www.facebook.com/yourpetbutlerllc)

**From:** Toni Eastham [tonieastham@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:32 PM  
**To:** Jeff Wells; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Just say "NO" to Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Wells and Welsh:

Thank you for staying last week during the permit hearing in Mandeville. There are so many reasons to deny a drilling permit to Helis and we heard many of them last Wednesday evening. The damage that can be done far outweighs and outlasts the possible positives, of which there are few, if any, for an average citizen.

For me, the worst thing is that I cannot encourage my daughters to return to St. Tammany Parish to raise their families. The health risks around fracking sites are huge, including still births and child developmental delays. I wouldn't want my grandchildren to grow up (if they are born and if they are not so delayed that they never grow up) in an industrialized setting. I will actively encourage them to live elsewhere if fracking comes to St. Tammany.

I love St. Tammany and moved here very purposefully in 1995, from New Orleans. I'm glad I had the opportunity to raise my children here. I consciously made a choice to live here in 2005, when I bought my house for retirement. Like others, I doubt that I will stay if this permit is granted. Who wants to ruin their health or live in a place that will become so unhealthy that inviting friends becomes a health risk to them? I own my own business, so moving will not be an easy thing to do and continue working in my profession.

For four months, I have intensively researched and written about fracking in St. Tammany. I helped begin Fracking 101 and its Storefront. I spent hours with other researchers, who are researchers by virtue of their jobs. It was insulting to listen to Helis' "expert" witnesses and not be able to answer simple questions about drilling and the process.

I ask you to do your job and protect the people and the environment (which keeps/doesn't keep) the people healthy. Hydraulic fracturing is not a safe practice, and in fact, a dangerous one. Now that gag orders have been removed from doctors in other states and real scientists have investigated some of the outcomes, many of the results are in.

--

Toni Eastham

Home:

71388 St. Joseph Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420

Office:

607 E. Boston Street, # 205  
Covington, LA 70433

985-502-3926

**From:** Edward Poitevent [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**CC:** Daniel Henry; Richard W. Revels, Jr. (rwrevels@liskow.com); Tom Himes; Gordon Cain; David Kerstein <dkerstein@helisoil.com>; Virginia Miller; greg Beuerman (gbeuerman@e-bmf.com); Donna Roebke; Robin M. Rockwell \*\*\* Rockwell Properties & Technologies; Mike Barham (mbarham@helisoil.com); Charlotte Batson  
**Subject:** Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** 11-18-14 Ltr to LOC re Helis permit.pdf

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

I represent P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C. (collectively, the "Landowners"). Together, the Landowners own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit as noted in the captioned Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully submit that it be issued forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in the attached letter which they hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Edward B. Poitevent, II**

Edward B. Poitevent, a PLC  
One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
Direct: 504-648-4109  
Cell: 713-540-8577  
E-mail: [epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com](mailto:epoitevent@poiteventlaw.com)  
[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

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EDWARD B. POITEVENT, A PLC

One Lakeway  
3900 North Causeway Blvd.  
Suite 1200  
Metairie, LA 70002  
(504) 648-4109

[www.poiteventlaw.com](http://www.poiteventlaw.com)

November 18, 2014

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Via email to [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Re: Louisiana Office of Conservation--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This firm represents P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C., PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C., (collectively, the "Landowners"), which together own nearly 2/3rds of the undivided interest in the lands they have leased to Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, for which Helis has applied to the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") for a drilling permit in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well.

The Landowners strongly support the LOC's issuance forthwith of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626 and respectfully for the following reasons:

## **Helis Has An Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of outstanding safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest oil and gas industry standards and legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including the following:

- (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record;
- (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; and
- (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.

Helis has drilled and fracked some 60 wells similar to the one it proposes to drill here and has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.<sup>1</sup>

## **Helis' Operations Will Be Conducted in a Safe and Environmentally Sound Manner**

Helis has publicly committed that its drilling and fracking operations in St. Tammany Parish will be conducted in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office and Helis' outstanding track record, prove that Helis will drill, compete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and

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<sup>1</sup>See the detailed information on Helis' website for its well and its You Tube video at <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

production operation by Helis.<sup>2</sup>

One significant way in which Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is its agreement to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called “SEMS”) for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis’ St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a significant additional sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, as noted on its website and You Tube video referenced in footnotes 1 and 2, Helis has agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. This means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing— and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections.

Thus, Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Helis has carefully designed its wellsite in an environmentally sound and secure way, with the following features being prominently used to assure that this happens<sup>3</sup>:

1. Helis’ well pad and access road improvements consists of a total of 3.21 acres, yet only 2.81 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. Access road improvements and the construction of a guard shack will result in only an additional 0.32 acre of wetland impacts for a total of only 3.13 acres of wetlands to be directly impacted by Helis’ well, which is a very minimal impact.
2. Helis’ wellsite plans have incorporated a ditch and ring levee abutting and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk).

<sup>3</sup> For items 1-9 below, see the Joint Public Notice of the New Orleans District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (the “Corps”) for Helis’ wetlands application number MVN-2013-02952-ETT.

circumventing the drill pad and would be contiguous with a planned 125 ft. elevated entrance driveway. Its drill pad surface has been designed with sloping features to drain stormwater to a 2,500 sq. ft. drainage sump within the drill site and abutting the perimeter ditch. Its design is for the purpose of managing stormwater runoff within the drill pad site for containment, use and proper disposal.

3. The water Helis will use for its vertical well operation will be obtained from private ponds, not from groundwater sources in St. Tammany Parish (the Southern Hills Aquifer).
4. Helis' drill rig deck design incorporates a basement/sump underneath the rig to capture drill deck drainage for collection, transport and proper offsite disposal.
5. Helis will install "sentinel wells" up-gradient and down-gradient of its well site to assess and monitor water quality of the Southern Hills Aquifer in the vicinity of its well site.
6. Helis will compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts by purchasing the appropriate credits from a mitigation bank approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps").
7. There are no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near Helis' proposed wellsite, or any presently known archeological, scientific, prehistoric, historical sites or data.
8. There are no species or designated critical habitat, listed by the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), which may be directly affected by the proposed activity. Its initial finding was that the proposed work would neither affect any ESA listed species nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species.
9. On July 29, 2014, a geological review meeting ("GR") coordinated by the Corps and facilitated by the Louisiana Geological Survey was held to discuss geological aspects associated with Helis' permit application. The GR was attended by the applicant and their consultants along with other state and federal resource agencies

representatives. The focus of discussion was on the viability of the proposed location as a production site for fossil fuels to be extracted from the Tuscaloosa Shale Play. Upon reviewing the information presented by Helis, the consulting geologist at the GR recommended that a single exploratory well be constructed for the purpose of obtaining more data to better assess the site's viability as an oil and gas production site. The Corps concurred with that recommendation.

Helis' proposed location is approximately 12 miles from the nearest structure, and over 2 miles from the nearest subdivision. Therefore, its work acres will have no impact whatsoever on the residents of St. Tammany Parish. The surface area of the wellsite is uninhabited pine-savannah acreage and the only use thus far has been as a pine tree farm under a long term (90 year) timber lease to a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Corporation. If its well is successful, Helis will drill multiple horizontal wells from one surface location. Therefore, even after full development of this vital resource with multiple well pads, impacts on the surface will be negligible.<sup>4</sup>

### **Helis' Fracking Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the US' reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas,

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<sup>4</sup> While St Tammany Parish zoned the Landowners' lands for future uses several years ago, as of today no such development exists on the surface of the property and any future development other than agricultural and oil and gas is many years away as the current timber lease on the land expires in 2043. Agriculture and mineral development is therefore most appropriate use at this time.

Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have also provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues through bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer—the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

There is no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, the Landowners are convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Many of Helis' opponents have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides St. Tammany its drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it is curious that these same opponents ignore the fact that over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through the Southern Hills Aquifer over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination. They also ignore the fact that there are many thousands of water wells in St. Tammany that were drilled using many of the same substances that Helis will use in its operations and that these water wells are completely unregulated.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>.

In addition, as Helis will separate its borehole from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if any ever occur, will occur many years after Helis' well is placed on production. However, by that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer were to occur, water would flow into the production tubing above the oil, and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, again, no credible evidence exists that their use will harm the Southern Hills Aquifer. In fact, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics

and household cleaners.<sup>5</sup>

### The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success

Production of oil and gas is vital to the economic health of our state and nation. From a national perspective, continued production of shale oil and gas will power a US manufacturing renaissance, fill state and local tax coffers, and power the creation of another 1,000,000 jobs in the US over the next decade, over and above the 9.2 million jobs the US energy industry already has created. See <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>. This report dramatically notes the following:

- The US tracking industry supported 2.1 million jobs in 2012, in every state and will support 3.9 million by 2025.
- In 2012, energy from fracking and related chemical activity contributed almost \$284 billion to GDP while abundant, affordable energy from shale has helped fuel a U.S. manufacturing resurgence.
- For U.S. households, the energy surge made possible by tracking has produced household savings through lower natural gas prices estimated at \$1,200 per US household in 2012.<sup>6</sup>

In Louisiana, fracking has provided numerous jobs and greatly aided its economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically

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<sup>5</sup>See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

<sup>6</sup> Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and President Obama's former White House Chief of Staff, said recently "Cheap energy-the revolution that's going on in America's heartland on energy-is making sure that America now has a manufacturing renaissance." <http://www.energyfromshale.org/americas-energy/economy>

shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry.

<http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>.

Significantly and specifically, it cannot be ignored that the Northshore Business Council--representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region--strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

In addition, all of the following regional business groups--representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area--also strongly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>7</sup>

If successful, the oil and gas development will generate significant tax revenue and jobs for St. Tammany Parish. Specifically, if full development occurs, severance taxes, ad valorem taxes, and sales taxes will generate tens, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind--business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

for St. Tammany Parish. It will also generate significant income for St. Tammany Parish residents in bonus and royalties from the oil and gas development. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, it is crystal clear that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit and successfully drills and fracks its proposed well, similar benefits will undoubtedly come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

### **THE OPPONENTS' LEGAL OBJECTIONS ARE UTTERLY INCORRECT**

Objections to Helis' application are utterly unfounded in Louisiana law. These objections pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of for the reasons noted below.

The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as the Landowners and thousands of St. Tammany Parish residents, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

Specifically, Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient

authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed strictly to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

Finally, any road use and noise from Helis' drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in St. Tammany. Significantly, all road use by Helis will either be on the federal interstate highway system (I-12) or on State highway 1088, and no parish roads will be used. Moreover, drilling activity is temporary in nature and will be mitigated by Helis and by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It would be grossly unfair and unjust to deny the Landowners and Helis their lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of temporary and minor annoyance or inconvenience to a few in St. Tammany and it would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of property based on such utterly insignificant reasons.

For all of these reasons, the drilling permit application submitted to your office by Helis as captioned should be granted without delay as issuance of the permit is clearly in the public interest of the citizens and State of Louisiana, and particularly the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish (due to, among others, the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other

local governmental agencies), and Helis' operations will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Poitevent, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Edward B. Poitevent, II

Attorney for P&F Lumber Company (2000), L.L.C.,  
PF Monroe, L.L.C. and Markle Interests, L.L.C.

**From:** Teresa beckerdite [nursern2b@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:22 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** No fracking

Please no fracking! Listen to the people, we don't want it. We don't need it! Save the planet

**From:** Linda Buttafogo [linda229@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:40 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING

MR. WELSH,

PLEASE STOP! NO FRACKING IN ST. TAMMY PARISH! SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES! WE NEED OUR FRESH WATER AND CLEAN AIR!!!!

PLEASE LET ST. TAMMY STAY CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL!

THANK YOU! ☐

Linda

**From:** Jade Bennett [jdbennett197@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 7:35 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR CITIZENS

Dearest Mr. Jim Welsh,

I am writing to you due to my concern of fracking in St. Tammy. Fracking is the process of Drilling and injecting fluid into the ground at a high pressure in order to fracture shale rocks to release natural gas. I understand how important gasoline is toward our economy; but, is it more important that your citizen's health?

One of the disadvantages of fracking is that during the process, methane gas and toxic chemicals will leach out from the system and contaminate nearby aquifers and ground water. This water will be contaminated, and will be taken from wells unknowingly to be used as drinking water.

So Mr. Welsh, I ask you, which is more important the lives of your citizens or a nonrenewable source of energy that can poison the people who look to you for guidance?

Jade Bennett

**From:** deborah [d.centola@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:48 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** No Fracking in St Tammany Parish!!!

Please don't vote to support fracking.

Thank you,  
your constituent,  
Denise Centola

**From:** miguelmauricio92@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** no fracking in St. Sammy Parish

You've probably begun receiving copious amounts of emails recently regarding the situation at St. Sammy Parish. I ask that you reconsider your intentions; fracking there would only grant you *very temporary* reward, and in the long run, you **will** find that money won't make you feel satisfied especially after knowing that it cost innocent people so much just so you could make some extra profit. I ask that you find an alternative and harmless way to do business.

**From:** Robyn [robysomerhalder@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:51 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** No Fracking in St. Tammany

Mr. Welsh, I attended the hearing last Wednesday evening (5 hours of it, as I had to get my 1st and 3rd graders home to bed) and was not swayed by Helis' presentation. I truly do not believe the risks outweigh the benefits in this situation.

I was born and raised in St. Tammany in the 70's and 80's and have recently moved back a couple of years ago to raise my family and open a restaurant. I wanted my children to enjoy the incredible experience of our amazing rivers and bayous that I was fortunate enough to enjoy throughout my own childhood. Unfortunately, if the permit is issued to Helis to frack at the proposed site, I fear the rivers and bayous that I look forward to exploring with my children will no longer be safe or even navigable, as the delicate ecosystem will be destroyed. Either by over use of water or poisoned by chemicals. Please, I ask you to deny the permit to Helis.

Thank you for your time,  
Robyn Balmer (A concerned citizen, mother, and business owner)

**From:** Jennifer Booth [jennifer.jmbooth@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:25 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING IN ST. TAMMANY

Keep St. Tammany clean and green! It's too beautiful of an area to destroy. Simple as that, no need for the long speech!

Jennifer Edelman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Astrid Kaberna-Zelt [astrid@zelt-online.de]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:20 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** No Fracking in St. Tammany Parish

Dear Mr. Welsh,

my name is Astrid Kaberna-Zelt, I live in Germany and I am a very concerned citizen of this planet. For some time I have been following the discussion on fracking here in Germany. Here, too, a great number of German citizens oppose to using the method. The risk for the environment and the health of the people is too big and it is well known that the used chemicals can cause cancer. Triggered by a post on Facebook by actor Ian Somerhalder, I have looked into the planned fracking of St. Tammany Parish. I am shocked that Helis Oil & Gas Co. are willingly risking to destroy the beautiful landscape of this area. The damage resulting from the fracking might be irreparable and another of nature's treasures might be lost forever.

Even though I am German and I also live there, I have a great love for the USA, especially for the South. I have visited the US many times over the last 25 years and some of my closest friends live in the South of the USA. This is why I feel the urge to comment on the situation of St. Tammany Parish. It is just another example of how reckless humankind treats its wonderful and unique planet. We walk with closed eyes through this world as if we had a spare one to go to when this one is utterly destroyed. And it's all for the sake of money and profit for a few. In return, hundreds or even thousands have to suffer.

We have ONE planet and even though we are hundreds of nations we have to work together as one to save this planet and preserve it for our children and all generations to come. Sometimes I feel that all these nations are like Sumo wrestlers ... you tell them they have to loose weight because it is bad for their health. But they don't want to loose weight because the weight makes them economically successful.

My heart reaches out to all the people in St. Tammany and I hope and pray that they will succeed with their battle to avoid fracking. Please, Mr. Welsh, do what you can to help them!

Kind regards from far away Germany,

Astrid Kaberna-Zelt

**From:** thaisambrosio [thaisambrosio@uol.com.br]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 7:18 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**CC:** communitycrews@isfoundation.net; iansomerhalderfanmail@gmail.com  
**Subject:** No Fracking in St. Tammany Parish - Louisiana

Mr. Jim Welsh,

I'm Civil Engineer and researched the method of hydraulic fracturing.

This practice may contaminate aquifers and release to the atmosphere large quantities of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), which is a greenhouse gas to the atmosphere.

The main concern associated with hydraulic fracturing is the consumption and contamination of water. The process uses large amounts of water injected being about 20 million liters into each hole to create fractures in the rock, thereby releasing the gas. This is a major concern in areas like Texas and some provinces of China, which have large resources of shale gas but is subject to periodic droughts. The removal of water is also a problem, since fracking has the potential to contaminate drinking water resources and increase air pollution. Last but not least, the actual practice can actually increase rather than reduce GHG emissions due to leakage of CH<sub>4</sub>.

The application of fracking in locations closer to aquifers should however be banned.

The project in St. Tamanny - Louisiana should be reviewed using other method that don't harm the natural resources. And not using the hydraulic fracturing by the proximity of the aquifers.

Thank you for attention,

Thais A. G. Herani

**From:** Daniela Heimbach [Danihei88@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:28 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH

NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH!! Please guys be smart! STOP THIS NONSENSE. Humans have a right to clean air and clean water!

Danielle Heimbach

**From:** Rebecca Thomas [rebeccahelen11@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:25 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** No fracking in St. Tammy parish

Dear ,  
Jim Welsh

I'm writing to you on behalf of ian Somerhalder and I am instructed to tell you so, that there should be no fracking in St. Tammy and I hope you approve of this message.

Yours sincerely x

**From:** Julieniz Baez [julieniz@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH

NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH.

**From:** Corinna Adam [corinna.adam@me.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:03 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH

Dear Mr. Welsh,

today i write with purpose to protect the Hometown from my Friends.

The Bayou is worth saving, Please No Fracking in St. Tammy Parish!  
Fracking has so many bad side effects of the health, environmental and the safety of workplaces.

There are so many other ways, greener ways in our Century.

I hope You choose them, the Nature needs Our Protection.

Sincerely  
Best Wishes from Germany

Corinna Adam

**From:** Nb Niobium [sexywitch007@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:12 AM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH

Respected authority

please listen to our voice..... This fracking threatens to destroy the only aquifer that supplies 100% of water for every home . Please save this . As we all known humans have already done enough..... please....

**From:** Mirella Chiodini [mirella.chiodini@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:50 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO FRACKING ST. TAMMY PARISH

Dear Mr. Welsh,

Plz don't frack IN that beautiful place, our planet needs place like that to protect,not destroy we need natural resources to survive, for our own good future. Nature doesn't need people...WE need HER !!!

#NO FRACKLA  
NO FRACKLA  
NO FRACKLA  
NO FRACKLA  
NO FRACKLA  
NO FRACKLA

Thanks for your time, to listen US.  
Together WE can SAVE places NOT destroy them!!!

**From:** Ann Newbury [annmorey89@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:37 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** NO to Fracking

Dear Commissioner,

Please do not allow Fracking to come to St. Tammy Parish, LA. I have family in Michigan and they recall how horrible just one accident can be. A pipe ruptured and contaminated the Kalamazoo River. Cleanup was expensive and damaged wildlife in the area. Effects lasted for years. Although the oil no longer is visible in the river, experts tell us that the long term affects are still not known. You can't consider doing this in an area prone to soggy grounds and extreme weather. It shouldn't happen anywhere, but this area seems especially vulnerable. And, one accident could kill the aquifer that supplies the area

**From:** Malin Fritz [malin.fritz@live.se]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:32 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** PLEASE

NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH

**From:** - [jtrlcjtrlc@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 2:07 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:** Please Deny Fracking in St. Tammany

Dear Sir,

Please deny fracking in St. Tammany. My geophysicist wife and I both agree it's not in the best interest of our community. Thank you.

**From:** yoga liz [yoga\_liz@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Please DENY Fracking Permit request by Helis

Dear Mr. Welsh and Mr. Courreges:

Thank you for holding the recent permit hearing in a public forum, so that citizens could voice their concerns, opinions, and present facts regarding the dangers of hydrolic fracturing. I probably do not need to go into a rundown of all of the cons here, as you got an ear full of them - based not on hearsay, but on factual data, experience and scientific studies.

In the end, the bottom line is: any risk to our sole-source aquifer is unacceptable. We can live without 'oil and gas' and the dubious claims of 'increased employment opportunities' but we cannot live without water. Without a clean source of water to support the families and businesses here, this parish will not flourish, but die - no matter how much oil and gas you extract from it. As one of the citizen speakers rightly pointed out (who was also a lawyer defending the oil and gas industry for many years)...he has a job because accidents happen - 100's of cases per day handled just by his firm. Helis cannot and **WOULD NOT** guarantee no accidents...because they can't but they are asking YOU to gamble their non-guarantee and risk our singular water supply? That's ludicrous and criminal. We ask that you do what must be done, based on your sworn duties and **REFUSE** this permit. Do the right thing and the lawful thing.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Sincerely

Liz Bragdon  
503 S. Vermont St  
Covington LA 70433

The purpose of educating children is to let goodness flower in them and to help them see that knowledge is one small corner of a vast field. J. Krishnamurti

**From:** Cristiane [crismx81@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:06 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Please No Fracking

Respectable Sir,

I'm sending this email to simply ask No Fracking in St. Tammy Parish. Please listen to us sir! Let's built a better and sustainable future.

Cristiane

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Madison DiVergilio [madisondiv@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:36 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** PLEASE STOP!!

PLEASE STOP FRACKING IN ST TAMMANY PARISH!!!

**From:** Hy McEnery [hymcenery@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 10:48 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Public Hearing for Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** Fracking Letter to LA COC in SUPPORT of HELIS & POITEVENT # 1 Well in ST TAMMANY Engineering Docket No. 14-626. Due 19 Nov 2014.docx

Bonjour Mr. James Welsh,

Please see the attached letter in favor of Helis for the Poitevent well, as I strongly support the LOC's issuance of the drilling permit to Helis per its application in Engineering Docket No. 14-626, and respectfully submits that it be forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in this letter which I hereby submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.

Thanks and God bless,

**Chaplain Hy McEnery**

CH Henry Alfred McEnery III

**LAMB Ministries Inc** [www.lambnola.com](http://www.lambnola.com) **Isaiah 40:31** "...with wings as eagles;"

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5127 Laurel St, New Orleans, LA, 70115, USA, 504-269-5002 / 504-723-9369 Cell

[hymcenery@hotmail.com](mailto:hymcenery@hotmail.com) [libbamcenery@yahoo.com](mailto:libbamcenery@yahoo.com)

"Except ye... become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 18:3** "Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear." **Mark Twain** "For **God so LOVED** the world,



**CH Henry Alfred McEnery III**  
5127 Laurel St  
New Orleans LA 70115, USA  
(504) 269-5002 (504) 723-9369 cell (504) 269 5309 Fax  
[hymcenery@hotmail.com](mailto:hymcenery@hotmail.com)

November 17, 2014

Via email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation, Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am a land owner and past resident of St. Tammany Parish, and I am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of **Helis Oil & Gas, LLC** for the drilling of the proposed **Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.**

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the **public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.**

**As a lifelong (63 years) land owner, past resident (28 years), ordained minister by Collins Blvd Baptist Church in St Tammany parish, I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.**

Before I tell you why I support the permit being issued, I want to remind you that last week was **Veterans' Day**, a day when we honor the brave men and women of this country who have fought and sacrificed for us all. **I am a veteran**, and served in the **Gulf War** and **twice in Afghanistan with U.S. Army Special Forces**, and I was attached to the **Marine Corps as a counter insurgency advisor** on my last tour in **2010. As a lessor, investor, and past employee on offshore work over rigs and as a military man**, there are more than a few similarities between **my experience in the oil and gas industry and the military. A brotherhood develops** between guys in the field, mostly because you're watching each other's backs on the job. There's also **patriotism in the oilfield**, unlike any other industry, probably because of all the vets that work with us. As a **vet and a denizen of the oil patch**, it's a great honor to know that I've had the good fortune of being part of both groups. This current oil play in St Tammany will bring many **new jobs** for our greater NOLA area of which **returning vets** are in great need! Returning vets at no fault of their own add new burdens to our currently failing job markets. New petro jobs will certainly help our AO with this **well regulated, safe, and clean industry.** Helis has even set records

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

concerning this. Please see below for the stats on this page.

## **My Reasons for Supporting the Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish:**

### **The U.S. Shale Revolution and its Implications for America**

**A short five years ago**, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional **gas production declined in the United States**, it seemed that **this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports**. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. **Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East**, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta. **The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States**, where producers have taken advantage of **two newly viable technologies** to unlock resources once deemed commercially non-feasible: **horizontal drilling**, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and **hydraulic fracturing**, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations. The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between **2009 and 2012, U.S. shale gas production rose by over 10 percent each year**, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from 1 percent to **3 percent**. Terminals once intended to bring **foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG)** to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to **export U.S. LNG abroad**. Between 2007 and 2012, **fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone** that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which **grew by 10 percent between 2008 and 2013**. Thanks to these developments, the **U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower**. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and **by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia** as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required **more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers** with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by **thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company**. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an **industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.** The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has **wide-reaching geopolitical consequences**. **Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets**. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby **diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers** have wielded for decades. **Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out**, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain. The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since **1971, when U.S. oil production peaked**, energy has been construed as a **strategic liability** for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes **necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad**. But **that logic has been upended**, and the **newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world**.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the **U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works** entitled "**Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic**

Franklin and Merriam's Merriam-Webster Online, which I ask be **filed into the record** of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in Louisiana**

The **Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS)** is a **sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region** approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin Volume 7 of the Louisiana Basin Research Institute (LBRI) Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Iberia Parishes in southeastern Louisiana which includes St. Tammany Parish within an approximate depth range of **11,000 feet to the north to more than 1,000 feet to the south**. It is this resource that Helix is seeking to drill through a drilling permit from your office. The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons (oil and gas) originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock (TMS) which is now being explored for oil and natural gas hydrocarbons with advanced horizontal drilling and completion (hydraulic fracturing, called fracking)<sup>3</sup>

### **The U.S. Shale Revolution's Implications for St. Tammany**

The highly respected **LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott** just completed a very significant economic report on the **huge economic benefits** that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "**The Energy Sector Will a Giant Economy for the Louisiana Economy**" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be **filed into the record** of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

**"It is the engine that makes the difference. For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana."**

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following **very significant economic benefits** flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

**Louisiana is the nation's number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas among the 50 states.**

Louisiana ranks **number two among the states in petroleum refining capacity.**

Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry supported **\$73.8 billion in sales** in Louisiana firms, generated over **\$20.5 billion in household earnings** for Louisianans, and supported **287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.**

<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/Tuscaloosa%20Marine%20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at

<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

The **\$20.5 billion in earnings** represented **11.00 of total earnings in Louisiana**. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level. On average the **job multiplier** for the petroleum industry in Louisiana was 3.00 that is, for every job created in these sectors **3.00 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state**. Louisiana's energy industry directly paid nearly **\$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees** in FY2011, or about 4.00 of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected. Through the \$1.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an **additional \$1,388,000,000 in taxes**, for a total boost to the **state treasury of \$2.0 billion**. A very conservative estimate is that **the state government paid \$10 million in ad valorem taxes** to local governments in the state in FY2011, a **37.5% increase over 2009**. In 40 of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 10 parishes the number exceeded \$10 million.

It is important to note that that the **Northshore Business Council** representing **100 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore** region strongly supports Celis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the **West Lt. Tammany Chamber of Commerce**, which represents **1,000 members and their 30,000 employees**, which also strongly supports Celis' plans. It is also important to note that all of the **following regional business groups** representing **hundreds of thousands of jobs** in this area also sternly **support the permit and plans**

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Bayou Mines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- Lt. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- Lt. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- Lt. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

Once **Celis is granted the drilling permit**, I am confident that similar **benefits will come to the people and government of Lt. Tammany Parish**.

**Outstanding Safety and Ecology Track Record**

In the past, **the industry has drilled thousands of wells and these types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana**. Celis has an outstanding record of more than **80 years of safe and efficient operations** and extensive operations on **private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters**. Also, Celis has years of experience **drilling in sensitive environments**, such as wildlife and always has the highest regard for its surroundings. Well in advance of being required to do so for its offshore

<sup>1</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

operations, Helis voluntarily implemented the now mandatory **safety and environmental management system called HESOP** for **all** of its operations offshore and onshore. That HESOP means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this: **full time, experienced safety inspectors** on drilling and completion operations **every employee** and contractor on Helis locations is **properly trained and given full safety briefings**, and every Helis employee and contractor can **stop work on any operation** if he or she deems it unsafe.

Helis has received the following **3 commendations** for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells:

**Federal offshore regulators** have nominated Helis for the **2014 Offshore Safety Award** for its safety and environmental performance record.

The **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality** commended Helis' work for its work remediating and restoring Bone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, recognizing that Helis **went above and beyond** in its efforts.

**The Coast Guard has commended Helis** for its **environmental protection efforts**.

Helis also has received **the 2014 Environmental Protection Award** from the **Environmental Protection Agency**.

### Objections to Permit Application are Unfounded

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues principally related to zoning are relatively simple and easily disposed of, as follows:

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does **not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity** in a community. **Such activity is temporary in nature** and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is **unfair and unjust to** **seize or restrict property or prohibit a valuable business activity** simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a **terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property**.

**Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865** when use was first made of the **Roberts Torpedo**, which was **widely employed** in the **early days** of the industry. **Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1947** and **hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated** with this process being employed. **Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured** have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have **dramatically expanded domestic production** of oil and natural gas, **diminished the reliance on foreign sources** of supply and **enhanced American security**. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from **bonuses, royalties and severance tax**. Critics can point to **no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state**.

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<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L22sbr2c22E>

Concerning the **law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling**, in the highly regarded publication **and Initiative** **Fraser** survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: **states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of substate unit regulation** **Fraser** **Martin, *Drilling and Initiative*, 4.**

**Louisiana law** clearly provides as follows:

The **issuance of a permit** by the commissioner of conservation shall be **sufficient authorization** to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and **to drill** in search of minerals thereon. **No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well** or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. **Emphasis added.**

Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be **followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government**, ***Energy Management Corp. v. City of Threveport***, 2007. **Or. 4000th Or. 2000.** The **State of Louisiana** has wisely entrusted a **central agency** of the state for the **protection of the public interest**. That office, the **Louisiana Office of Conservation**, has an **emplary record of safeguarding the public** while overseeing the **orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana**. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to **relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests** or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also **deny to owners of oil and gas rights**, such as **Helis' lessors and hundreds and thousands of other Louisianans**, the **right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands**.

### **Helis will drill and produce its well in an environmentally safe way**

Objections to Helis' application based on water pollution are also utterly unfounded for the following reasons:

Helis will also employ **an extra string of casing** so that the aquifer will be protected by **three concentric strings of casing** **one more than the required two strings of casing** **along with three layers of cement**. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lsbr8c>

will be drilled to a depth of approximately **12,000 feet**. **As the southern Hills aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet**, Helis' well will be **9,000 feet below the aquifer**, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Thousands of wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, fracking projects through this same aquifer are already taking place in neighboring **Tangipahoa Parish**. There are literally **thousands of fracked wells in Louisiana** **about two thousand seven hundred** **in the Baynesville shale area in North Louisiana and some thirty-five** **in Tangipahoa Parish and other areas near to St. Tammany**. [See http://videos.loga.la/home](http://videos.loga.la/home). According to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials in those areas, there are **no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana**. If the issue is **protecting the aquifers**, then it is **just too late**, as we are **completely surrounded by hundreds of fracked wells** **and so where is the pollution**

**Several peer-reviewed scientific studies** have that concluded that **fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers**. See, for example, the report in the **Proceedings** of the **National Academy of Sciences** at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/science/study/points-to>

[well leaks not fracking for water contamination.html](#). In some areas outside of Louisiana there are **very rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers** can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented. In areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to oil and gas operations, naturally occurring **shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers**. There are **no shallow methane accumulations in Tammany Parish**, as evidenced by **electric logs run in wells previously drilled in Tammany** and by the fact that **no methane gas is found naturally in Tammany well water**. However, **thousands of potable water wells** out west and **around the world** and many **sacred pristine springs** a flame rises up in the middle of the bubbling spring have gas from low lying pockets of gas in the aquifers. Also, let's not forget the **vulcanization of aquifers under volcanic high pressure to create steam** that pump tens of thousands of some of the **most poisonous chemicals** into those very **fresh water** sources. Yellowstone's Old Faithful among others is one, and if that giant caldera ever blows, it will more than prove global warming to be the ridiculous joke that it is. If you stand near and downwind to these noxious chemical clouds, you die, and we have these **volcanic eruptions often every year** with the one in **Iceland in 2007**, pumping more pollution into the ground and upper atmosphere than **all of the pollution produced by the human race over the past 300 years every year every just one** of these volcanic eruption produces more pollution than all of the cars and factories do over the same entire year. You know, **but not to worry, as other nature has**

A study by the **University of Colorado at Boulder** published recently in the respected **Journal Analytical Chemistry** of components found in fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas **contains chemicals found in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste**. Though the fluid is mostly water and sand, many critics of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, say chemicals added to the fluid contaminate groundwater. The new study suggests that additives found in one component, **surfactants (soap)** which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted, are no more toxic than other common household items like bleach. University researchers collected samples from fracking fluid surfactants in five states **Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Texas**. Other chemicals used are commonly found in **hair color, fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners**.

The **potential for the casing to leak** has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the **Southern Illinois aquifer**. Here, as **oil** will separate oil from the **Southern Illinois aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement**, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after **oil's** well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the **Southern Illinois aquifer** therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and **no oil could flow into the Southern Illinois aquifer**.

**Earthquakes** caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is **no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel**. While this may have

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac102133> and also see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

occurred near a few waste water disposal wells, Celis has stated that wastewater from the operation of its well will not be disposed of in St Tammany. And, even if it were, the **geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Parish is different from the geology in the areas where the few earthquakes have occurred**, as those that have taken place have occurred in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress stored energy along the fault. **No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana** underlying the well site because the **unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.**

Much has been made by opponents of Celis' well about the **Southern Hills Aquifer** being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Parish, and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm it. This argument has two major problems: first, the **Southern Hills Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes.** This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for thousands of people while at the same time **over 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years, with no resulting contamination** secondly, the **Southern Hills Aquifer** may not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a subsurface fresh water zone made up of **10-15 separate fresh water sands.** These sands are **separated by impermeable shales** and are therefore **isolated from each other.** This fact makes it **all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole.** Fracking is also not new to this area of Louisiana. Major fracking operations are safely taking place **less than 10 miles away** through the **same aquifer in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish** without any incident at all. Fracking operations will begin soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany Parish.

I am quite familiar and have been familiar for over two years with Celis Oil Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. In fact, I have known and been friends with the Bitevents for over 30 years. I know both to be **wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.** In fact the Bitevent family were early Huguenot settlers arriving in St Tammany Parish in a covered wagon **some 200 years ago.**

For all of the **many solid reasons** set forth in this letter and as the Bible tells us that **God will bless us with oil riches** out of the ground "When I washed my steps with butter, and **the rock poured me out rivers of oil**" Job 20:6 and "Jacob" God made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields and he made him to **suck** honey out of the rock, and **oil out of the flinty rock**" Deuteronomy 32:13, **sweet crude out of the shale** I as Celis' well is in the **public interest**, and it will **benefit the State of Louisiana** and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish. It will not harm the air, the water, or quality of living of St. Tammany Parish. Take a look at New Iberia, LA **surrounded by oil wells** for decades. It was just voted the **best overall place for quality of living in America**

To repeat, this landowner strongly supports the LLC's issuance of the drilling permit to Celis per its application in **Engineeringocket No. 10002** and respectfully submits that it be forthwith for the detailed reasons noted in this letter which I hereby **submit for filing into the record of the matter and consideration by you in your deliberations.**

Thanks and God bless,

**Chaplain Hy McEnery**



**From:** Cynthia Brooking [sbelle1@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 8:34 PM  
**To:** Patrick Courreges; Jeff Wells; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field Engineering Docket No. 14-626

November 18, 2014

Email: [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)  
Mr. Patrick Courreges and  
Email: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)  
Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

Email: [dnrin@fo.la.gov](mailto:dnrin@fo.la.gov)  
Email: [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)  
Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh, Courreges and Wells,

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, this message is sent with the following file attachments:

11-18-14 JJ Supp. Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626..pdf

Thank you for your service and protection of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A Brooking

**From:** Barbara Dodds [dodds86772@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:18 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; patrick.courreges@lsa.gov; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field, Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
**Attachments:** LWVSTFrackinghearing Nov.12,2014 use for oral statement.pdf

**November 19, 2014**

**Email:** [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov)

James Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana

**Email:** [patrick.courreges@lsa.gov](mailto:patrick.courreges@lsa.gov)

**Email:** [jeff.wells@la.gov](mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov)

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field

Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Gentlemen:

In an abundance of caution, I am sending the comments that were given at the November 12, 2014 public hearing regarding the above referenced permit application.

You will find them in the attachment to this electronic submission.

Thank you.

Barbara Dodds, League of Women Voters of St. Tammany, Environmental Chair

985-892-8671

[barb35@bellsouth.net](mailto:barb35@bellsouth.net)

November 12, 2014 –DNR Office of Conservation Hearing

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

My name is Barbara Dodds and I speak on behalf of the League of Women Voters of St. Tammany.

Commissioner Welsh,

The League of Women Voters of St. Tammany fervently requests that no oil or gas drilling permits be issued in St. Tammany Parish. Title IX of our State Constitution demands that you do no less than deny permits for this industry.

St. Tammany Parish has been in the forefront of land use planning and zoning in Louisiana. Directions 2025 was held over a period of four to five years before Katrina, driven by hundreds of citizens giving thousands of hours to make a plan for the future of the Parish. This plan was constructed by our citizens and designed to conserve the environment that makes our Parish unique – our trees, waterways, clean air and excellent water from the Southern Hills aquifer. We have recently completed the Comprehensive Rezoning of the entire Parish to further that plan. All of our efforts have been aimed at orderly growth and preserving the quality of life most have found here.

In looking at the location map and considering that our drainage is sheet-flow, runoff from the proposed site and all the trucks that would be servicing it (many hundreds of truck trips – maybe thousands ) will flow toward Fontainebleau State Park, Cane Bayou, Bayou Liberty and Bayou Castine. Fontainebleau State Park is a jewel of flora and fauna, with surrounding areas hosting many native and migratory bird species including the endangered red cockaded woodpecker and rare floral specimens. Bayou Cane and Bayou Liberty are classified as Scenic Streams. A Scenic Stream permit must be required if our request is ignored by you.

Trucks that will service the proposed project will carry chemicals and pollutants to and from the site. Trucks leak and have accidents, polluting rainwater runoff. They destroy roads as well, leading to dust and air pollution. Their exhausts foul the air. Surely our environment deserves protection from this danger. Any proposed well will require flaring of excess gas. In the future, should this industry be allowed

here, storage tanks will vent toxic fumes 24/7. An Air Permit should be required but sadly, the industry, by special exemption, escapes this law. We also question the statement by Helis Oil and Gas that they will truck in the millions of gallons of water they will need and truck out the wastewater they will produce in their fracking operation. A study by Environment America published in 2013 states that 280 billion tons of wastewater was produced from fracking operations in 2012. Where will the needed water come from? Will it be from ponds supplied by wells drilled into the Southern Hills aquifer? Or some other drinking water supply? And will the wastes be trucked to a licensed Exploration and Production Waste facility? Where?

And finally and perhaps most importantly, St. Tammany Parish depends on a sole source of drinking water supply, the Southern Hills Aquifer, which could be impacted by any oil and gas drilling action. Were an accident to occur, our citizens would have no other source of potable water adequate to supply the population. This is a risk no one should ask us to take and indeed the Federal EPA may require an environmental study. What will happen ten or twenty years from now?.

The League stands united with many other citizens, organizations and Parish and local governments and requests that you deny the drilling permit request from Helis Oil and Gas.

**From:** Hunter Charbonnet [hcharbo1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:26 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh; LDNR Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
**Attachments:** CCC Energy Renaissance.pdf

To: Office of Conservation, Engineering Division

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626 Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Mr. Commissioner:

I am writing you today in support of the above Drilling Permit Application.

*Before I give you my reasons, I would like to say that I attended last week's hearing and I find it troubling that the discussion did not center around what I thought this hearing was about – whether indeed the application applied for conformed on all conditions, requests, and requirements as defined by the application process including how Helis planned to address the obvious concerns of the general public. I thought Helis made a conscience effort to show that they had fully covered their bases, the risks involved, and those concerns expressed by many citizens of St. Tammany; however, I thought the condescending attitude and questioning offered by those representing the opposition was deplorable and served little to providing added insight as to the issues at hand other than to stir up further public rhetoric and emotion.*

There is no doubt that there is an Energy Renaissance occurring in this country. In fact, many say in about 6-8 years, the United States will not only be energy independent but it will also be a net exporter of energy.

As the world's largest economy, the US has long been a top market for manufacturers' products. In contrast to other countries, our political stability and lack of business risk continue to draw companies to operate in the US. Given the increasing global demand for energy, the lack of economical alternative energy sources has caused other resources to be considered. Fortunately our improved technology in untraditional extraction methods has allowed the US to become a low cost energy provider.

These developments have provided positive results in this country. Using natural gas is cleaner than burning coal and safer than generating nuclear energy; hence, utilizing natural gas is environmentally friendly. I suspect there are reasons the Saudis have recently reduced the cost of their crude and it is probably not because of a reduction in global demand for energy forcing prices lower or a reduction just out of their generosity. They hope to keep the US dependent on their oil by making it uneconomical to drill via our nontraditional extraction methods. I guess many St. Tammany residents don't recognize or realize that they are already benefiting from these new drilling efforts showing up as reduced prices at the pumps.

Cheaper energy has caused manufacturing to move back to the United States. The Petrochemical Industry uses Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) – butane, propane, ethane, etc. to make plastics and other products. For the last 30 years, many in this industry have moved to places like India, Brazil, Trinidad, and the Middle East where NGL sources were closer at hand. Now, they are coming back to the US and they are not alone.

Airbus is building an aircraft assembly plant in Mobile because they can save on manufacturing costs compared to their plants in Hamburg, Germany and Toulouse, France.

British based Rolls Royce decided against expanding a plant in the UK and instead built a plant in Price George County, VA for producing engine parts.

The Austrian steelmaker Voestalpine AG is building a \$715 Million plant near Corpus Christi, TX.

Royal Dutch Shell, headquartered in the Netherlands, announced it would build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant in Pennsylvania.

Siemens, a German multi-engineering and electronics company is making turbines for fossil fuel power plants in Charlotte, NC.

If you have driven I-55 or I-65 North in the last few years, who hasn't seen the large automobile plants that have been built along those highways?

My point is, why would we deny St. Tammany and its' residents the opportunity to participate in the economic renaissance and the investments that will be made here in the United States potentially including areas of St. Tammany Parish. Whether you are a land owner, business owner, or a working man, all will benefit by the potential economic impact this new energy resource can and will provide. Lastly, the tax revenues this might create for St. Tammany Parish will go a long way to subsidizing and/or increasing our overall budget including helping to fund the much needed infrastructure improvements that are our community needs rather than achieving same via higher taxation.

I ask that you approve this drilling permit and place into the record the attached white paper from the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund that discusses what this energy renaissance means to our country. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted:

Hunter N. Charbonnet  
16423 Summerhill Rd.  
Covington, LA. 70435

See Attachment: Center Coast MLP Fund Focus Fund - US Energy Renaissance





# The Continued US Energy Renaissance and Infrastructure Build-out: Capturing the Reenergizing of America with MLP Investing

*This paper aims to inform investors of the ongoing Energy Renaissance and resultant infrastructure build-out in the United States. Over the past decade, the nation's production and capacity has swiftly increased, and there is even greater projected growth ahead. According to the U.S. Energy Information Association, the U.S. was expected to be the largest producer of hydrocarbons in the world in 2013.*

*The accompanying infrastructure development that is necessary to treat, store and transport the natural resources of the Renaissance's continuing shale boom is very significant. This infrastructure build-out will be fueled by five underlying drivers that could, in our opinion, power strong continued investment and growth through 2025. These drivers are: 1) new supply basins; 2) electricity source switching; 3) a resurgent domestic petrochemical industry; 4) manufacturing growth; 5) rerouting of supply to existing refineries.*

*While the US economy is in a stage of slow recovery and many expect continued soft to moderate GDP growth, these*

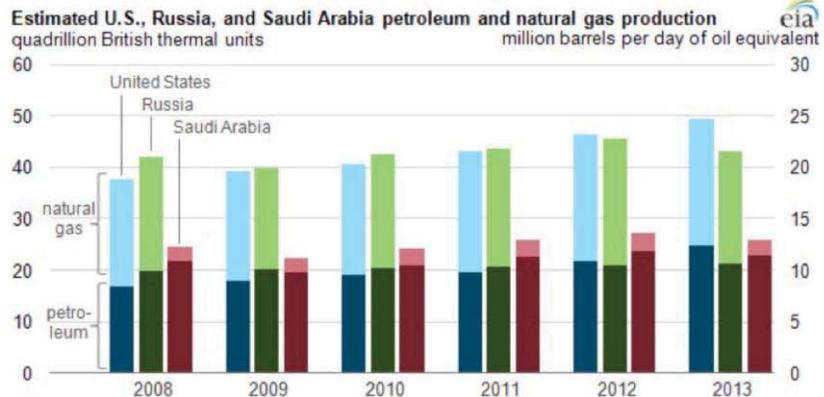
*five drivers should propel the infrastructure build-out largely irrespective of broader economic activity. Robust development of infrastructure and associated activity, however, has the potential to brighten the overall outlook for the US economy.*

*Our Renaissance investment thesis in this paper is focused on Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) as they are one of the asset classes positioned to participate in the continued infrastructure build-out, which is necessary to accommodate the production growth and overall transformation of the US energy landscape. We foresee opportunity for continued attractive, and less-correlated, risk-adjusted returns in MLPs that may benefit from the energy Renaissance over the next few years. The search for ways to participate in the Renaissance, as well as the continued desire for yield, has brought significant capital inflows to the MLP space; however, we believe skillful, active management and deep sector experience is required to identify the right opportunities while attempting to avoid some of the risks associated with any accelerated sector growth.*

## U.S. Expected to be Declared as the Largest Producer of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hydrocarbons for 2013

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Note: Petroleum production includes crude oil, natural gas liquids, condensates, refinery processing gain, and other liquids, including biofuels. Barrels per day oil equivalent were calculated using a conversion factor of 1 barrel oil equivalent = 5.55 million British thermal units (Btu).



### Main Points:

- The U.S. is undergoing an Energy Renaissance and has rapidly become a leading global energy producer
- Projected continued growth in the energy sector through 2025 is significant, well above the expected level of broader economic growth<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated \$500 to \$750 Billion of energy infrastructure investment is needed over the next decade to support the build-out of the Renaissance
- This infrastructure growth will be supported by five powerful drivers generally unrelated to broader economic strength
- MLPs have provided and may continue to provide the crucial infrastructure to accommodate the swift rise in domestic exploration and production of natural resources
- In the continuing energy and infrastructure build-out through 2025 MLPs may have the potential to more than double the size of their asset base. With this growing investment landscape, discerning, experienced active management is required for the greatest possibility of successful investment outcomes and potential avoidance of the risks often associated with sector expansion

## THE U.S. ENERGY RENAISSANCE: THE ENVY OF THE WORLD

Something has quietly happened in recent years, largely under the radar screen of the general public, and at a much quicker pace than anticipated by the investment community. The U.S. has somewhat silently become the current leading global producer of natural gas and the fastest growing producer of crude oil, coming in 1st in combined global production. Additionally, production growth of natural gas liquids (NGLs) further brightens the Energy Renaissance underway in America today.

In very recent memory, the dominant conversation from a growing chorus of pundits, politicians and alternative energy proponents centered around peak oil projections and skepticism that a dependency on foreign energy – a primary source of a widening trade gap – would prove debilitating, bringing a superpower to its knees by weakened foreign policy leverage and concerns for national security. That has not been the case, and now the world's largest economy has lowered its reliance on foreign energy at an astonishing rate.

### *How did this turnaround occur?*

We often hear about the latest setback for energy: the BP spill in the Gulf; the historical trade deficit and trade imbalances due to energy importing; Federal restriction on exploration and development of sources (e.g. Alaska) and infrastructure (e.g. Keystone XL). But the truth is that a resurgence over the last decade – fostered by rising global demand, lack of economical alternative energy sources, improved technology for

untraditional extraction methods, utilization of MLPs to provide the necessary infrastructure and steady flows of capital being put to work – has allowed the U.S. to grow its domestic capabilities to be the envy of the world.

While we later show that the drivers of this momentum are not dependent on certain of economic factors, increased production and capacity hold the potential to improve the domestic economic outlook and could prove impactful in strengthening foreign policy and national security. When viewed through the lens of the Energy Renaissance, America's growth prospects haven't looked this strong in decades.

For investors the roadmap of how we get to 2025 and beyond is the exciting part.

## THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD

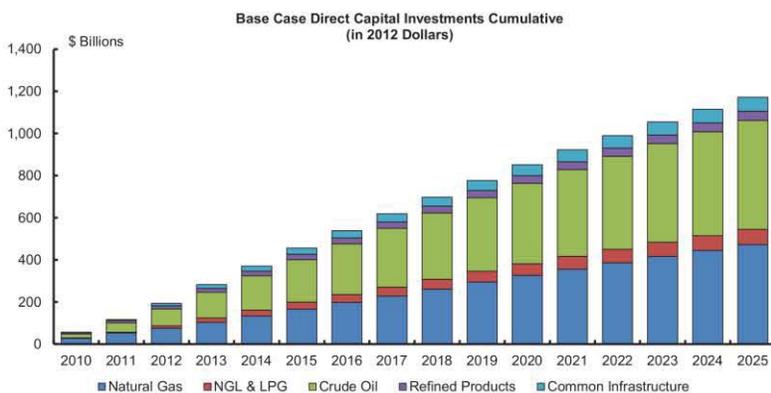
With the growth of energy production over the past decade, the U.S. has witnessed robust increases in energy infrastructure capital investment. Transportation, storage and treatment for oil, gas (midstream and downstream assets) has increased by 60 percent, growing to nearly \$90B in 2013 from \$56.3B in 2010, according

to a report from IHS Global Inc. for the American Petroleum Institute. This increase is telling of the impact the shale boom has had on the energy infrastructure landscape.

New extraction techniques and expanding exploration have made the construction of new transportation and infrastructure networks, as well as the reconfiguring of legacy infrastructure assets, pivotal to the Renaissance.

Further, according to the report, the amount of investment required over the next seven years in U.S. midstream and downstream assets is estimated to exceed \$568 billion. This capital spend is not expected to halt after year seven either—another \$60-\$80 billion is estimated to be spent annually through 2025. While API's forecast concludes in year 2025, we believe there will be continued strong investment beyond the forecast period. And that is the conservative, base case. Estimates for a bullish case, dependent on policy loosening and other factors, place capital investment at up to \$1.15T through 2025.<sup>1</sup>

This validates the thesis that the required energy infrastructure build-out is not only significant but has the ability to continue for many years to come.



For all the media attention and noise out of Washington, the scale or size of opportunity is certainly not dependent on Keystone XL. In fact, Keystone is just one of hundreds of projects proposed in the infrastructure build-out. In truth, there are already hundreds of other non-politicized projects currently under construction or already online serving the demand to transport natural resources to market.

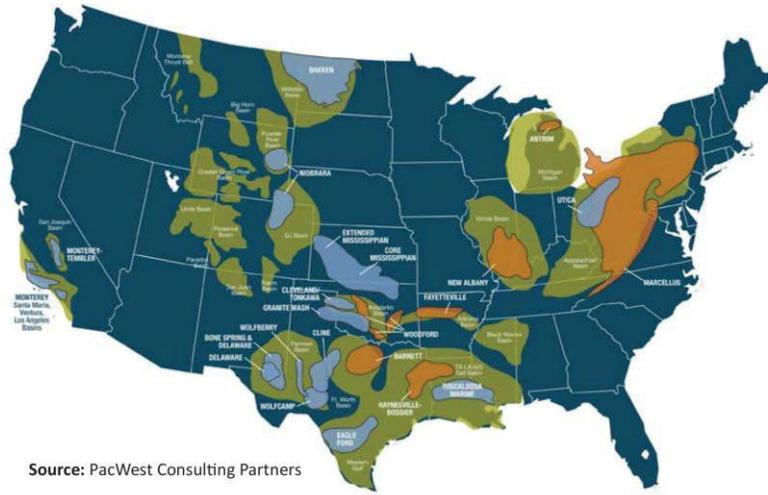
Political risk is an important factor to recognize in the Energy Renaissance. The relative political stability and lack of business risks in the U.S. has always been a draw for companies to operate domestically. In addition, the U.S., as the world's largest economy, has long been a top market for manufacturers' products. In addition to being an attractive place to do business, the U.S. is now also a low cost energy provider. This change is drawing manufacturers and the petrochemical industry back to the U.S. in a material way, and these industries are earmarking investments to expand domestic operations that will alter global production maps over the next decade.

So, we've gotten here with largely existing infrastructure. In the last five years, however, we've seen significant growth in infrastructure investment that is necessary for the U.S. to realize its full potential as an energy producer.

## FUELING THE ENERGY RENAISSANCE'S INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDOUT

**Five** drivers are underpinning the build-out of U.S. Energy infrastructure assets:

**1. New supply basins:** The opening of new supply basins has been essential to recent production

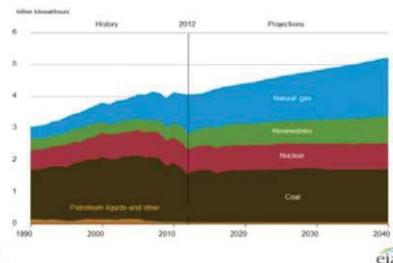
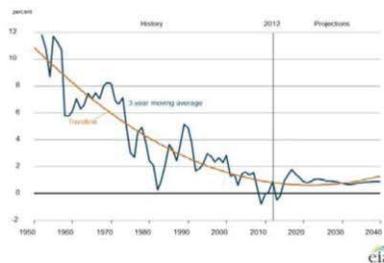


Source: PacWest Consulting Partners

## ELECTRICITY DEMAND

Growth in the electricity use slows but use still increases by 29% from 2012 to 2040

By 2035, natural gas surpasses coal as the largest source of U.S. electricity generation



Source: www.eia.gov

growth, and the future outlook is extremely encouraging. Technology and infrastructure are making historically uneconomical basins more economical. Consider that certain basins, such as North Dakota's Bakken, (now responsible for >10% of U.S. daily oil production, with reserves >20 BBoe), held near zero production in 2000 due to a lack of economical extraction.<sup>2</sup> Now that it has proved economical, the demand for infrastructure to transport the reliable flow of natural resources is tremendous and has long outstripped the current pipeline capacity. Similar cases are

unfolding today in the Marcellus, Utica, Permian, and Eagle Ford basins just to name a few. As investors, we are very excited by the infrastructure buildout required to bring the natural resources from these new basins to market.

## 2. Electricity Source Switching:

America's prominent electricity sources have historically been coal, nuclear and natural gas, in that order.<sup>3</sup> The risks of both nuclear and coal are well known. With recent nuclear incidents (Fukushima) and the heavy environmental taxes on coal, the traditional heavyweight sources of electricity are consistently being

replaced with cleaner, safer natural gas. Accounting for over 52% of electricity generation as recently as 2000, today coal accounts for less than 37% of total electricity output.<sup>4</sup> This number is widely expected to continue its downward trend as natural gas continues to replace it. In 2000, Natural Gas accounted for just 16% of total U.S. electricity production, as of 2012 it represented 30%. Transportation is key with electricity switching though; natural gas needs to be brought to the centers of demand, densely populated areas. This requires infrastructure (e.g. midstream companies). Motivated by its abundant and decreasing costs, companies are willing to build new infrastructure to bring the natural gas to power plants.

With the vast supplies coming to market, natural gas seem poised to take an ever-more prominent role in the production of U.S. electricity. How it gets to market can provide opportunity for investors.

### 3. Resurgent Domestic

**Petrochemical Industry:** The petrochemical industry uses Natural Gas Liquids (“NGLs”) – butane, propane, ethane, etc – to make plastics and other products. Traditionally, the U.S. did not have significant NGL

production. For the past 30 years, therefore, most large petrochemical companies were moving offshore, closer to NGL sources. India, Brazil, Trinidad and the Middle East all became increasingly in favor to both multinational and U.S. petrochemical companies. New extraction techniques, however, have allowed U.S. producers to drill significant wet gas reserves that are rich in NGLs.

NGLs have distinct treatment and transportation requirements. Gas and associated NGLs are typically processed before being transported via pipeline, and growing demand from the domestic petrochemical industry has necessitated the continued development of processing and transportation infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>

With the Renaissance and its underlying shale boom, the petrochemical industry is coming home. Less robust technology, political risk, increased costs and resultant inefficient markets abroad cannot compete with the stability, technology and rapidly expanding supply and infrastructure that have brought down costs in the U.S.<sup>6</sup>

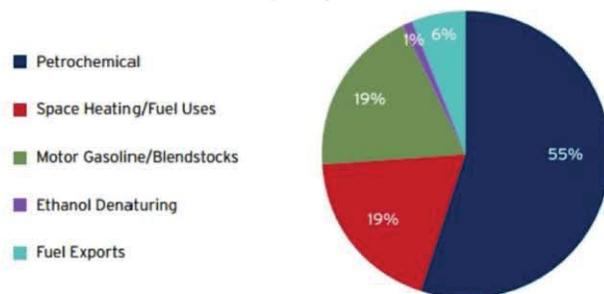
**4. Manufacturing Growth:** Industrial manufacturing is energy intensive. With decreased

energy costs, and relatively attractive labor inputs given growing salaries in emerging markets, the U.S. is seeing an industrial manufacturing resurgence fueled by its Energy Renaissance. Foreign firms, particularly European companies exposed to the risks of Russian belligerence and associated natural gas market inefficiencies, are finding an oasis in America. Costs per cubic foot of natural gas in the U.S. are one third of what they are abroad in Europe, and one quarter of what they are in Japan.

It's no wonder more European companies are opening or expanding facilities in the U.S., and more U.S. multi-nationals are shifting overseas operations back home:

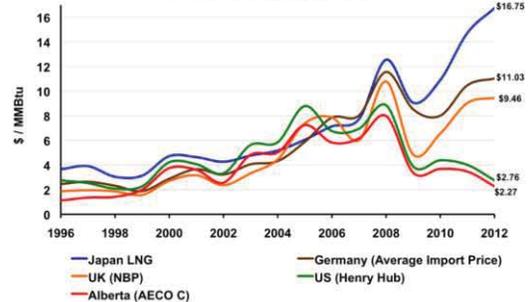
- Airbus is building an aircraft assembly plant in Mobile, Alabama. It will produce A320 jets for the American market. Der Spiegel noted that Airbus “could save on manufacturing costs compared to its plants in Hamburg, Germany, and Toulouse, France.”
- Siemens, a German multi-national engineering and electronics company, is making turbines for fossil fuel power plants in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- BASF, the German chemical

NGL Consumption by Sector



Source: Presentation by Peter Fasullo, Outlook for U.S. Propane Supplies, “En\*Vantage, January 30, 2012

Average Natural Gas Prices



Source: <https://rbnenergy.com/courtesy-of-the-red-white-and-blue-how-the-us-shale-gas-boom-benefits-asian-lng-importers>

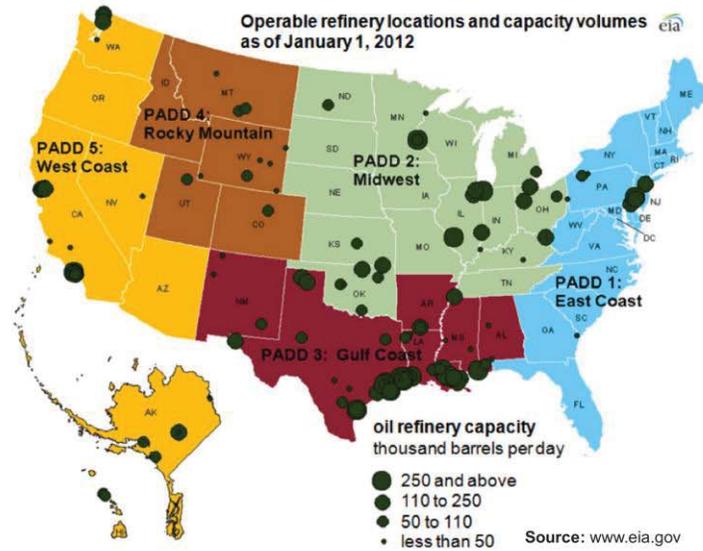
company, has opened a \$33 million facility expansion in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

- Michelin, the French tire producer, is developing a \$750 million facility in Greenville, South Carolina.
- BMZ GmbH, a German company, opened its U.S. facility in Virginia Beach, Virginia for research, development, assembly and distribution of lithium ion rechargeable batteries.
- British-based Rolls Royce decided against expanding a plant in the U.K. and instead built a plant in Prince George County, Virginia for producing engine parts.
- The Austrian steelmaker Voestalpine AG is building a \$715 million plant near Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Royal Dutch Shell, headquartered in the Netherlands, announced it would build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant in Pennsylvania.
- Dow Chemical closed facilities in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the U.K., while opening a plant in Texas.

Other recent significant investments have been seen by BASF, the world's largest chemical maker, which has made and planned nearly \$7 billion in U.S.-based manufacturing-related investments.<sup>9</sup> The German firm has called the outflow of European manufacturing "a self-accelerating process, which will move production into the U.S."<sup>10</sup> This growth in domestic manufacturing will drive demand and necessitate capital investment in infrastructure.

#### 5. Refinery Landscape

**Transformation:** The Energy Renaissance is reshaping America's historical refinery landscape. Long stagnant due to prohibitions and lack



of permits, the refinery picture was set 40 years ago and that system was built to service yesterday's energy realities. This meant refineries designed to process the heavy crude originating from the Middle East, Mexico and South America were built along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. The refineries built in the Northeast were designed to process light sweet crude originating from the Brent "(North) Sea" and finally the West Coast refineries were built to process both light and heavy crudes.

With the Energy Renaissance the supply locations have changed; heavy crude which is needed for the Gulf Coast refineries is now coming from the North in Canada and the light sweet that the coastal refineries require is originating in North Dakota and Texas.

Refineries, however, are cost prohibitive to convert and permits to construct new or relocate are non-existent. A new refinery has not been constructed in the United States in over 35 years. This means the energy transportation network must be

significantly expanded and re-routed to bring the proper sources of crude to the refineries that can process them – from Texas and North Dakota to the East and West coasts and from Canada down to the Gulf Coast. This is where transportation infrastructure, including pipelines, storage facilities, terminals etc...all come into play.

#### MLPS: LEADING THE BUILDOUT

The above five tenets will drive demand and encourage the continuation of the infrastructure build-out associated with the Energy Renaissance. The projected capital investment of \$500-\$750B to accomplish this is just the beginning, getting the resources where they are needed based on existing demand.

This infrastructure build-out of the future will be led by MLPs. For the first 15 years in the brief life of MLPs, there actually was a much smaller percentage of organic infrastructure development being done. MLPs primarily took over or acquired existing

infrastructure assets from larger companies (e.g. oil companies) that transitioned to the tax-advantaged MLP status. That has changed significantly in the past decade and may drastically accelerate through 2025 and beyond.

Much of the future capital expenditures will take place at the MLP level, which in turn will drive new asset development, increased revenues generated by those assets, and ultimately distribution growth to investors. To put the magnitude of such spend into context, if only 50% of the estimated required capital is spent at the MLP level, or ~\$284 billion, that equates to roughly 60% of the market capitalization of the entire MLP sector today.<sup>11</sup> This is an impressive figure and should translate into continued top-tier growth well beyond the next 10 years.

To remind us why MLPs are essential to the continuing build-out, it is important to remember that MLPs are companies that by law must have 90% of their asset base producing revenue from the transportation, storage and/or treatment of a natural resource. Due to the tax structure of the vehicles, MLPs must distribute all of their distributable cash flow to shareholders.

While acceleration of US GDP growth above current levels and projections should only accelerate the build-out associated with the Energy Renaissance, the drivers underpinning

the infrastructure development and accompanying MLP growth are not dependent on aggregate US economic activity. The projected high investment growth of the base case, coupled with the relatively low correlation to total economic activity, highlights the compelling nature of the investment thesis and the sector as an attractive option.

### ON MLP INVESTING: EXTRACTING QUALITY AND MANAGING RISK IN AN EXPANDING SECTOR

Because of the growth in both the market capitalization and the number of companies involved, investors have become more aware of the MLP sector. As with any growing asset class with an expanding universe of assets, sometimes less than optimal business models and management teams gain access to capital markets. There has also been an increase of different types of companies coming to market in the MLP structure. With these evolving dynamics, it is likely we will see a greater bifurcation in the operating results of individual MLPs. As such, we recommend a discerning, conservative approach to investing in the expanding sector.

Though historically a small pool, recent growth over the last five years has bumped MLP total market capitalization from \$220 billion to over \$464 billion, and the total number

of MLPs has increased from 73 to 110 as of March 31, 2014. With the tremendous amount of capital that needs to be spent to develop, process and transport growing U.S. production, the MLP investment universe is poised to continue its growth.

This increased attention from investors and continued acceptance by the capital markets provides exciting opportunities for experienced and capable operators, as well as to seasoned investment managers, who should be able to navigate risks for successful investment outcomes.

Importantly, we must consider the risks to an investment in MLPs. Firstly, there are new business models being brought to market in the MLP structure. Some will likely have untraditional distribution, or payout, others will have business models that are different from the traditional reputation for stability that MLPs have become known for. There is the potential for unsteady, volatile dividends/distributions with new businesses and having an understanding of these models and their compatibility with the MLP structure is necessary to know before investing.

Refineries are one such example. Refineries have an outsized commodity risk exposure via crack spreads that many traditional MLPs in the cash-steady midstream (transportation and storage) space are much less



Source: UBS Investment Bank, Bloomberg, CapIQ (As of March 31, 2014)

susceptible to. Crack spreads are essentially the difference between the price received for the sale of refined gasoline minus the cost of the crude oil input.

The fluctuation and volatility inherent in crack spreads/commodity prices drive this risk profile. Commodity risk introduces the potential for great returns, but also outsized downside due to surplus external factors that management or operators cannot control.

Indeed, one only needs to look back to 2008 to see the impact of excess commodity exposure. Leading up to 2008, vigorous capital inflows were chasing several MLP propositions as natural gas reached \$14 per thousand cubic feet in 2007. But the next year, natural gas plummeted to

\$2 per thousand cubic feet and those new businesses built with a base case of \$10 gas were forced to drastically reduce distributions, scaring some investors from the sector. But not all MLPs are created equally. Those businesses operating in transportation and storage held ironclad contracts dependent on renting pipelines as opposed to commodity prices, for instance, while the price for energy declined dramatically the volume demand did not. This meant their distributions to investors remained on track throughout the downturn.

### OUR OUTLOOK: SAFETY FIRST

Going forward, we imagine continued capital inflows and the expanding universe of MLPs might bring dispersion in returns and distributions. Investors will need to understand

distribution risk, the way contracts are structured and the manner in which revenues are generated. Leverage is also crucial to watch as less mature ventures with limited asset bases and various sources of revenues are increasingly able to access the capital markets and attract investors with forecasts of distribution growth. We feel low leverage, consistent distribution growth supported by long-term, fee-based contracts that could bring dependable cash flows is the most attractive way to invest.

In the face of the Energy Renaissance and accompanying infrastructure build-out, skillful active management by seasoned operators may assist investors in capitalizing on these exciting developments for the coming decade and beyond.

<sup>1</sup>IHS Global Inc. Report "Oil & Natural Gas Transportation & Storage Infrastructure: Status, Trends, & Economic Benefits"

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakken\\_formation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakken_formation)

<sup>3</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US\\_Electrical\\_Generation\\_1949-2011.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:US_Electrical_Generation_1949-2011.png)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.cfm?t=epmt\\_es1a](http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_es1a)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.pwc.com/en\\_US/us/industrial-products/assets/pwc-shale-gas-us-manufacturing-renaissance.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/industrial-products/assets/pwc-shale-gas-us-manufacturing-renaissance.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.pwc.com/en\\_US/us/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-shale-gas-chemicals-industry-potential.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-shale-gas-chemicals-industry-potential.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/development/pgd/44457738.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html)

<sup>9</sup><http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/02/basf-results-idUSL6N0NO09920140502>

<sup>10</sup>[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html)

<sup>11</sup>Center Coast Capital Advisors, LP. Capital IQ.

**SEE IMPORTANT RISKS & DISCLOSURES ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

***Before investing you should carefully consider the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other information is in the prospectus and summary prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained by calling 877-766-0066 or by visiting the Fund's website at [www.ccfocusfund.com](http://www.ccfocusfund.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.***

**RISKS AND OTHER DISCLOSURES:**

An investment in the Center Coast MLP Focus Fund ("The Fund") is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested and including, but not limited to, the following risks, which are more fully described in the prospectus:

- The Fund concentrates its investments in master limited partnerships (MLPs), which involve additional risks compared to those from investments in common stock, including, but not limited to, cash flow risk, tax risk, and risks associated with limited voting rights.
- Unlike most other open-end mutual funds, the Fund will be taxable as a regular corporation, or "C" corporation. Consequently, the Fund will accrue and pay federal, state and local income taxes on its taxable income, if any, at the Fund level, which will ultimately reduce the returns that the shareholder would have otherwise received. Additionally, because the Fund is taxable as a "C" corporation, the Fund's net asset value per share ("NAV") will include a deferred tax expense or asset, which is reflected in the Fund's NAV on a daily basis. The Fund's deferred tax expense or asset is based on estimates that could vary dramatically from the Fund's actual tax liability/benefit and, therefore, could have a material impact on the Fund's NAV.
- The Fund, unlike the MLPs in which it invests which are treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is not a pass-through entity. Consequently, the tax characterization of the distributions paid by the Fund, such as dividend income or return of capital, may differ greatly from those of its MLP investments. An investment in the Fund does not provide the same tax benefits as a direct investment in an MLP.
- The Fund currently anticipates paying monthly cash distributions to shareholders at a rate that over time is similar to the distribution rate the Fund receives from the MLPs in which it invests, without offset for the expenses of the Fund. Because the Fund's distribution policy takes into consideration estimated future cash flows from its underlying holdings, and to permit the Fund to maintain a stable distribution rate, the Fund's distributions may not represent yield or investment return on the Fund's portfolio. To the extent that the distributions paid exceed the distributions the Fund has received, the distributions will reduce the Fund's net assets.
- The Fund is not required to make distributions and in the future could decide not to make such distributions or not to make distributions at a rate that over time is similar to the distribution rate it receives from the MLPs in which it invests.
- It is expected that all or substantially all of the distributions to shareholders will be tax-deferred return of capital (ROC). Historically, the Fund's distributions have been considered 100% ROC. ROC is tax deferred and reduces the shareholder's cost basis. When the Fund shares are sold, if the result is a gain, it would then be taxable at the capital gains rate. There is no guarantee that future distributions will maintain the same classification for tax purposes as past distributions.
- The MLPs owned by the Fund are subject to regulatory and tax risks, including but not limited to changes in current tax law which could result in MLPs being treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes or the elimination or reduction of MLPs tax deductions, which could result in a material decrease in the Fund's NAV and/or lower after-tax distributions to Fund shareholders.
- As a non-diversified fund, the Fund may focus its assets in the securities of fewer issuers, which exposes the Fund to greater market risk than if its assets were diversified among a greater number of issuers.
- Equity securities issued by MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling.
- A substantial portion of the MLPs within the Fund are primarily engaged in the energy sector. As a result, any negative development affecting that sector, such as regulatory, environmental, commodity pricing or extreme weather risk, will have a greater impact on the Fund than a fund that is not over-weighted in that sector.

The Fund may not be suitable for all investors. The views in this material are intended to assist readers in understanding certain investment methodology and do not constitute investment or tax advice (please consult your tax professional). The Center Coast MLP Focus Fund and Center Coast Advisors, LP do not render advice on tax and tax accounting matters to clients. This material was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used or relied upon by any recipient, for any purpose, including the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer under U.S. federal tax laws. The views in this material were those of the author as of the date of publication and may not reflect his view on the date this material is first published or any time thereafter.

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*For more information, please contact the Fund at (877) 766-0066 or visit the Fund's website. Financial Professionals only may contact **HRC Fund Associates, LLC** member FINRA/SIPC at (212) 240-9726. HRC is the affiliated broker-dealer of **Liberty Street Advisors, Inc.**, the Advisor to the Fund.*

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**From:** Sam Poitevent [sampoitevent@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:43 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Re: Helis Oil & Gas, LLC--Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Hon. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Office of Conservation

Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I want to offer my thoughts on the application of Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") for a drilling permit to be issued by the Louisiana Office of Conservation ("LOC") to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. I am an interested citizen and have property in St. Tammany.

**Helis' Excellent Track Record Of Safe and Effective Oilfield Drilling and Fracking**

My research shows me that Helis has a longstanding and excellent track record of top-notch safe and technologically advanced performance in accordance with the highest industry standards and in accordance always with legal and regulatory requirements. Helis has received many commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells, including (i) a nomination by Federal offshore regulators for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record; (ii) a commendation by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, which recognized that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts; (iii) a US Coast Guard commendation for

its environmental protection efforts; and (iv) numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation.

Helis has also drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past. These types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. It has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters and knows how to drill safely in sensitive environments.

Helis drilling and fracking will be done in strict accordance with the highest and best standards employed in the oil and gas industry and in strict accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, I understand that Helis has agreed with St. Tammany Parish officials to far exceed the already stringent oil well drilling and fracking protections Louisiana law and regulations enforced by your office impose on Helis. These concessions, coupled with the stringent laws and regulations enforced by your office, give me comfort that Helis will drill, complete and produce its well under the highest and best practices in the oil and gas industry in order to ensure a safe and technologically advanced drilling, completion and production operation by Helis. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPsbr8cqJk>.

One significant way that Helis has shown its commitment to safe and environmentally secure drilling and fracking procedures in St. Tammany is that Helis has agreed to implement the stringent Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for its operations in the Parish. What SEMS means for Helis's St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and
- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

As a further sign of its commitment to protect the water, air and land resources of St. Tammany, Helis has also agreed to use an extra string of casing in its well. That means that the Southern Hills Aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the legally required two strings of casing and three layers of cement. Helis has also agreed to noise dampening protection, traffic restrictions on its equipment going to and from the wellsite, air and water monitoring, and other extra protections. This shows me that Helis is committed to always “go the extra mile” to show its respect for the people and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

### **Fracking is Safe and Effective and Will Not Harm the Southern Hills Aquifer**

I am aware that hydraulic fracturing of wells dates from 1949, and that hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Overall, fracking has dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security.

Many thousands of wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in Louisiana, so fracking is not new to this area. As you are aware, major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away and drilling is now going on safely through the Southern Hills Aquifer the same aquifer Helis will drill through and protect-- in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations are about to start soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany.

I have also found no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state due to fracking. In fact, your office and local officials in Louisiana show that there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana. Specifically, I am also convinced that Helis will employ techniques that will protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and the air and land resources of this Parish.

Some have said that, because the Southern Hills Aquifer in St Tammany Parish provides us our drinking water, no oil and gas activities should be allowed. However, while the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes and provides fresh water for many, it nevertheless must be acknowledged that at

the same time over 5,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination.

Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html>. In addition, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.

As to the chemicals that Helis may use in its fracking, a study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found that fracking fluid injected into shale to release oil and gas (including samples from fracking fluid from Louisiana and four other states) contains chemicals in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. The study indicates that additives found in one component used in fracking (surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted) are no more toxic than common household items. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners. Please see <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>.

**The Citizens of Louisiana and St. Tammany Parish Will Benefit Economically By Helis' Success**

Fracking has provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have greatly aided Louisiana's economy and its revenues by way of bonuses, royalties and severance tax. For evidence of this, please see the recent study by highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy". His report dramatically shows the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>. While there are currently no oil and gas wells in the Parish, I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

I also cannot ignore the recent strong endorsement of Helis' well by the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans. Significantly, the Northshore Business Council's endorsement of Helis was joined by all of the following regional business groups, which represent hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>[1]</sup>

For the full text of the announcement, please see

<http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

As Helis has agreed to go above and beyond already-established safe and effective methods of drilling, completing and producing minerals in connection with its proposed well that will protect the resources of St. Tammany, and also weighing the temporary inconvenience that some may experience during the brief time Helis is drilling its well against the significant economic benefits that will accrue to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish by way of high quality jobs, higher sales tax revenues and increased property taxes paid to Parish government, the St. Tammany Parish School Board and other local governmental agencies, I urge that you issue Helis the drilling permit that it has applied for without delay.

Regards,

Sam Poitevent

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[1] <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

**From:** Patrick Courreges [Patrick.Courreges@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 5:03 PM  
**To:** Don Shea; Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

Received, will do

Patrick Courreges  
La Department of Natural Resources  
225 454 8223

---

**From:** Don Shea  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 16:48  
**To:** Jim Welsh; Patrick Courreges  
**Subject:** Fwd: RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry

Please shRe this with Daniel Henry

Don Shea

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Donald A. Shea" <[dshea@stpgov.org](mailto:dshea@stpgov.org)>  
**Date:** October 30, 2014 at 4:30:41 PM CDT  
**To:** Don Shea <[donshea0220@gmail.com](mailto:donshea0220@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: **RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry**

Don Shea

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Greater New Orleans, Inc."  
<[communications@gnoinc.org](mailto:communications@gnoinc.org)>  
**Date:** October 30, 2014 at 4:21:39 PM CDT  
**To:** <[dshea@stpgov.org](mailto:dshea@stpgov.org)>  
**Subject:** **RELEASE: Regional Business Community Stands behind Northshore Business Council In Support of Energy Industry**

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

October 30, 2014



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**From:** Charles Goodwin [bcharlesgoodwin@earthlink.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:18 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**CC:** Terri@LSArchitecture.com; Robert M MVN Tewis; 'Farabee, Michael V MVN'; Rick Franzo; Patrick Courreges; Greg Lemons; 'Lisa Jordon'; 'Donald Lee'; League of Women Voters; Joan Simon; stp Jake Groby stp council; stp Marty Gould, stp council; stp Marty Dean stp council; stp Dennis Sharp, stp council; stp Maureen Obrien stp council; stp James Thompson, stp council; stp Gene Bellisario stp council; stp Jerry Binder stp council; stp Steve Stefancik stp council; stp Chris Canulette stp council; stp Richard Tanner, stp council; stp Reid Falconer, stp council chair; m Donald Villere Mayor; m Ernest Burguieres; m Clay Madden; m Rick Danielson; m David Ellis; m Carla Buchholz

**Subject:** Re: Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all

Mr. Welsh,

First, I agree totally with Terri Lewis Stevens letter (below) to you.

Second, granting a permit defies your own Mission Statement.

Third, either decline this permit or change your Mission Statement. (1)

Fourth, if you intend to issue a permit per this quote "State law is very clear," Couregess told DeSmogBlog. "If the Helis permit complies with the rules they will get their permit." (2) then that confirms the rules to get a permit are laughable, meaningless, insulting and a bar set low enough to trip a turtle.

Possibly, and justifiably, DNR may become the laughing stock of all Louisiana agencies, and probably other state DNRs as well.

**PLEASE PROTECT LOUISIANA BY DENYING THIS PERMIT AND COMPLYING WITH YOUR MISSION STATEMENT.**

B.C. Goodwin  
Mandeville, La  
985-635-1900

**(1) MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to ensure and promote sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources of our state so that they are available for the enjoyment and benefit of our citizens now and in the future.*

**(2) <http://desmogblog.com/2014/10/17/more-oil-companies-disclose-risks-fracking-climate-change-investors>**

If fracking is so safe.....

If fracking is so safe, why won't frackers guarantee to clean-up the mess they make, and to provide an irrevocable perfo

rmance bond to do so

If so safe, why won't the frackers provide their plan to clean up what they pollute? What is their plan?

If so safe, why has the North Carolina legislature proposed fining anyone who reveals what chemicals are actually used in fracking?

If so safe, why would fracking be severely curtailed if it had to pass the Clean Water Act? It was exempted in 2005 by Dick Cheney aka Halliburton.

If so safe, why does the so-called "treated" toxic waste water cause numerous earthquakes in areas that have previously had few or none?

If so safe, why are there more annual spills in the US than in the entire world?

If so safe, why do property values drop, and why do realty disclosure statements now ask how far you are from fracking/injection well sites?

If so safe, why did Ron's protest fracking in his area, where it would affect his property value, his clean air, his clean water?

The property rights of the many trump the mineral rights of the few.

Clean energy creates more jobs than fossil fuel energy.

On 11/15/2014 9:57 AM, Terri Lewis Stevens wrote:

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initial discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

Then I went on to suggest at the DNR hearing that if this is true, then what must be considered by the DNR is HOW the act of drilling will impact this community, beyond the act of punching a hole.

The article, however, suggested that, "According to Courresges, if Helis proves they can meet DNR's requirements, they will be issued a permit. Public comment about quality of life concerns won't suffice to stop it."

<http://desmogblog.com/2014/11/14/citizens-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-s-st-tammany-parish>

Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond simply granting a permit to drill/hydraulically fracture. Your title and authority is Commissioner of Natural Resources, which implies ALL, not simply for oil/gas resources. This would suggest that your

authority is to consider ALL of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted. If this would not be the case, then why not simply dole out permits which could be used anywhere? Why care what happens to the lakes, streams, air and earth in the course of fracking it with toxic chemicals?

The specific, and as we have learned minimal, criteria for injecting toxic chemicals into the Natural Resources below us, and the processes by which this resource is extracted, and the resulting emissions, wasted water, contamination inherent with the process, truck traffic and emissions associated with the mineral removal...must all be considered as an impact of the permit. The effort is not mutually exclusive of the others. It cannot be.

This would be tantamount to suggesting that you regulate the use of matches being lit beneath a house...and then not being responsible when the house burns down. The action directly affects the other.

No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. From my understanding no other community within LA has objected to a permit being granted. For those communities I suggest, list and let list.

This community's residents, however, must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. We have Rights in the granting of the permit as well, do we not? And why wouldn't we, if you are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared-both above and below ground, by us all. As such, should the residents not be entitled to reasonable consideration as well?

Once the resources reach the surface are when they become the property of the state...but until that time they are Natural, shared and unclaimed. The process is the critical aspect which must be considered in all that you approach.

I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

Because the risks to the masses by far outweigh the potential benefit to one single private Limited Liability company, I will urge you, once again, to deny the permit on the basis that **it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration toward the residents where this action is to occur**. Equal consideration must be given to all who share the Natural Resources of the Tammany Parish.

Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-the resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the state permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



[www.LSArchitecture.com](http://www.LSArchitecture.com)

Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

**From:** Ann [dsbrneyedgrl@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:28 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Save

Please no fracking in St. Tammy!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Miranda Stickland [stickland86@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St tammany parish

No fracking in St tammang parish please

**From:** Miranda Stickland [stickland86@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 7:25 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St Tammany Parish

Please do not allow this company to frack in St tammany parish.

**From:** Grace Grazier [graceag@hotmail.co.uk]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:33 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St Tammy Fracking

Dear MR Jim Welsh My name is mason and I'm nearly 10 years old and I am writing you this email to ask for a really big favour. Please no Fracking In ST.Tammy Parish it's really beautiful and a big part of nature and the people that live there. Fracking has a lot of bad side effects that is harmful to the people that live there and even you. Like this list

- Contamination of groundwater
- Methane pollution and its impact on climate change
- Air pollution impacts
- Exposure to toxic chemicals
- Blowouts due to gas explosion
- Waste disposal
- Large volume water use in water-deficient regions
- Fracking-induced earthquakes
- Workplace safety
- Infrastructure degradation

I would like St.Tammy to stay clean and green and beautiful and for everyone and you to be healthy and well, There is lots of cleaner and greener ways and I pray you choose them.

Thank you Mr Welsh for listening

Mason :)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** cniehuis@yahoo.de  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 11:25 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St. Tamary

Dear Mr. Welsh! Stop fracking St. Tammary Parish please, help us LG Claudia Niehuis

Von meinem iPhone gesendet

**From:** Jim Welsh [Jim.Welsh@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 9:17 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry; John Adams (DNR); Patrick Courreges; Gary Ross  
**Subject:** St. Tammany fracking opponents not open to discussion: James Varney

**St. Tammany fracking opponents not open to discussion: James Varney**

Standing outside the door to the Lakeshore High School gym in St. Tammany Wednesday evening was a gentleman in a sweatshirt that read, "Fracking Equals Death." Whispering feverishly in his ear was another mustachioed gentleman insisting that some unnamed cabal wants to poison the national water sup...

[Read More...](#)



James H. "Jim" Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
(225)342-5500(O)  
(225)342-3705(F)

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**From:** Britni Turner [crookedhalo09@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:23 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St. Tammany Parish

Dear Mr. Tewis,

I am writing to urge you to NOT Bring hydraulic fracturing to St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana. I am strongly in opposition of this happening.

Hydraulic fracturing threatens to destroy the aquifer that supplies 100% of the water in the parish for the homes and businesses. On average, a single fracturing attempt entails injection into the ground of 5 million gallons of water, including fresh water. The fluid used in this average "frack" would also include 10,000 gallons or more of toxic chemicals, including known carcinogens, volatile organic compounds, hydrochloric acid, carbon disulfide, petroleum distillates, mercury, and other toxic metals. Dozens, even hundreds, of additional chemicals are also used, and all are considered proprietary and thus hidden from public scrutiny.

Air quality is another issue with hydraulic fracturing. Sources of toxic emissions such as nitrous oxide are not limited to the wells themselves, but are also traced to combustion-powered drills and pumping rigs and heavy equipment for transporting waste fluids. In addition, VOC and methane compounds (a greenhouse gas that is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide) are released during the completion phase of well fracturing. Highly toxic chemicals also enter the atmosphere through evaporation when fracking waste is deposited in open holding ponds.

Nothing is more essential to all of us than clean air and safe water.

Sincerely,

Britni Turner

**From:** tsimpson3 [tsimpson3@student.yosemite.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:11 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** st. Tammany Please Read

Mr. Jim Welsh,

My name is Tabatha Simpson I am from California, I am sending you this email because I heard about the fracking that is suppose to be taking place in St. Tammany Illinois and I wanted to voice that if this fracking takes place it will destroy the only aquifer that supplies 100% of the water for every home and business in surrounding areas!

Please, this CANNOT take place, this CANT happen!

Please get back to me on this matter...

Thank You,

~Tabatha Simpson~

**From:** Ilaria Silletti [ilaria95@web.de]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:54 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St. Tammy

NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH PLEASE.  
Do the Nature a favor and let it like it is and for it was created.

Thank you

--

Sent from my Android phone with [WEB.DE](http://www.web.de) Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

**From:** NateAndRaine Miller [wearethemillers17@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 8:43 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St. Tammy NO FRACKING

Commissioner Walsh,

Please listen to the numerous voices belonging to St. Tammany Parish's residents and other concerned citizens as we say NO to the fracking proposal. We do not think this would be good for our community and are looking to you to act on our behalf. Do not let this happen! Please deny fracking permits and preserve the lives of all those in and connected to our parish! Thank you for considering my opinion.

M. Lorraine Sanders

**From:** Kaleah Pauley [kaleahenator@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 9:27 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** St. Tammy Parish Fracking

Dear Mr Welsh,

I am writing as a concerned person about the current fracking of St. Tammy's Parish, although never having been to your beautiful state of Louisiana I have had the fortunate opportunity to travel the east and west coast thanks to my father's military background I am a proud navy brat I have seen many beautiful parts of this world

The very idea of ruining such a beautiful place such as St Tammy parish is sickening fracking shouldn't even be allowed in the dictionary but then again neither should bootylicious!

Again my point please I urge you on behalf of those people who grew up with this picture perfect place to stop this horrible event from happening, I could go on as to the consequences of why but I am certain you have heard and know them all!

Please Mr Welsh I beg of you to think about future and present generations who don't need their water contaminated, CO2 in the air, etc.

Thank you for listening I wish you a beautiful day,

Leah Pauley

**From:** vicky caballero [vico.caballero@live.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:44 PM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**Subject:** St.Tammany

Good afternoon. My name is Victoria I'm from Mexico and I wrote this email to support st.tammany cuz I really opposed to fracking the aquifer, I mean why to destroy nature? It's a beautiful place and it helps people! Please don't do it.  
Sincerely. Victoria Caballero

**From:** Catarina Guerreiro [catarina.guerreiro.cristina@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:36 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** ST.TAMMY PARISH

No fracking in St.Tammy Parish PLEASE !!

**From:** sylwiak5\_87 [sylwiak5\_87@o2.pl]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 5:04 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** stop

Hello  
STOP FRACKING IN ST TAMMANY PARISH ENDS TODAY !NOT TOMORROW AS CITIZENS WERE  
TOLD  
!DISAPPOINTING  
YES-PLEASE

**From:** rkeloverxxcarola@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:05 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** STOP

I'm mailing you from the Netherlands. And I'm facking you to stop your plans. You are going to distroy the beautiful nature in ST Tammany Parish. Al the people there need it and love it and what you are planning to do is disgusting! It is just like the discussion here in the Netherlands about "Zwarte Piet" it will not help you to get though with it because al the people will hate you if you set this plan in working. Just let for 1 time the nature for what it is now: a beautiful place where people over the world need to go because it is so amazing!! Please let the nature win 1 time and search for an different way so the nature will not be damaged!!

Just for 1 time listen to the people how life there en look how lovely the nature is there!!

Carola Stam  
The Netherlands

**From:** Virginia Garcia [vgarcia@moranindustries.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:35 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** stop fracking

Today is the last day to email the Dept. Of Natural Resources to them to deny fracking in St. Tammany.

Virginia Garcia  
Systems Administrator  
Moran Family of Brands  
4444 W. 147th St. | Midlothian, IL 60445  
ph 800.377.9247 | ph 708.389.5922 | fx 708.389.9882  
vgarcia@moranbrands.com

[www.moranfamilyofbrands.com](http://www.moranfamilyofbrands.com) | [www.altamere.com](http://www.altamere.com) | [www.mrtransmission.com](http://www.mrtransmission.com) |  
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**From:** Michelle Bruno [mbruno@gardnerrealtors.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 7:33 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Stop Fracking

Please add us to your list to Stop Fracking in St. Tammany  
Thank You.  
Michelle Flach Bruno 504-512-2011  
Barry M. Flach 504-487-9995  
Carol Flach 504-466-2251

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**From:** Sara [sara.hinojosa97@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:39 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Stop hydrofracking in st.tammy

PLEASE NO HYDROFRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH I understand that you need natural gas and oil but putting chemicals in the earths surface is contamination. Think of what your doing to the earth and all the creatures in it!!!

Sincerely,  
Sara Hinojosa

**From:** Anna Bruno [annamariebruno@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:38 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** STOP THE FRACKING

STOP THE FRACKING in St. Tammany

**From:** Kira Cattan [kiradcattan@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:52 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Stop the Fracking of St. Tammany Parish

I live up here in Washington State, but I always am concerned with protecting the environment. ANY Environment.

Recently, I've learned that Fracking waste water is being dumped, or will be dumped, into the waters of St. Tammany Parish. This water is drinking water for thousands of residents, not to mention it is home to a diverse mix of flora and fauna.

Please, don't let them dump potentially poisonous water into the eco system. Make them accountable for their actions if they do something that destroys this.

Seriously, would you want your family drinking water that was dumped into YOUR water supply? Would you trust that the Water Treatment plant could filter out all the garbage? I wouldn't. So please, stop this.

Sincerely,  
Kira D. Cattan

**From:** Jayden Gauchier [jayden.gauchier@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:21 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Stop!!

NO FRACKING IN ST.TAMMY PARISH!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Cynthia Brooking [sbelle1@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 8:54 PM  
**To:** patrick.courreges@lsa.gov; Jim Welsh; Jeff Wells  
**Subject:** Supplemental Opposition to Permit Eng.Docket No. 14-626

Cynthia A Brooking  
23015 Hwy 1084 Telephone (985) 985-3014  
Covington, LA 70435 Email: sbelle1@bellsouth.net

November 18, 2014

Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94275 P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275 Baton Rouge. LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

Dear Mr. Welsh, Courreges and Wells,  
On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I  
emailed several letters to Mr Welch, also Mr. Courreges, and attended the  
Public hearing on 11/12/2014 at Lakeshore High School.

Please note my presence at the Public meeting on 11/12/2014, my letters  
dated 11/16/2014 and 11/17/2014 and this letter dated 11/18/2014 as  
opposition by me, my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St.  
Tammany Parish, to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on  
the Eads Poitevant et al's well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced  
in the above permit applications.

Please make my letters a matter of public record as relates to this matter.

I request you deny Helis' drilling for these additional reasons:  
First and foremost, you should rule, morally and legally, for the Citizens of St.  
Tammany Parish's right to health, safety, and welfare under the Constitution of  
the United States, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and St. Tammany  
Parish's Home Rule Charter, all of which support our right to deny Helis'  
drilling permit.

1. GRANTING HELIS A PERMIT TO DRILL AND FRACK WILL DESTROY OUR  
WETLANDS.

During the Public hearing on 11/12/2014, as part of the hearing, Adam T.  
(Ted) Bourgoyne, Jr., Ph.D. P.E., 1969, Professor Emeritus of Petroleum  
Engineering, Louisiana State University and Vice-President, Bourgoyne  
Enterprises Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana stated, "The Economic impact  
COULD be considerable". We urge you to focus on and give every consideration

against granting Helis a permit to drill where Helis will destroy our wetlands and wildlife.

## 2. GRANTING HELIS THIS PERMIT WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

Using a conservative estimate of 2,500 trucks per drilled well to carry equipment and supplies to and from the well site. Granting Helis this permit will generate more applications for additional wells from Helis and many more oil companies. Just examine Texas. You would be opening the floodgates to an estimate 6,000 wells in St Tammany Parish would require more than 15 million more 18 wheelers on our roads in St. Tammany Parish. That's a tremendous increase in traffic congestion, which our every day traffic can not handle. Going to and from work has already caused terrible delays and the increase in the risk of traffic accidents, injuries and death. In particular, consider the risk of our children and teachers at Lakeshore High School. Drilling across from Lakeshore High School would generate two thousand five hundred (2,500) 18 wheelers on the same parish road upon which our teachers and high school students travel and drive twice a day. Traffic congestion increases the potential for accident by or including 18 wheelers, loaded with numerous toxic chemicals.

Those 2,500 trucks driving to and from the well site across the street will be bringing these chemicals to the site, and removing the frack water which has been polluted with these chemicals. Any kind of leak, traffic accident, or intentional spill of any of these compounds will be hazardous to these children at Lakeshore High School.

Who is most effected by such accidents? Not Helis, the benefactor of these 18 wheelers, but our children, their families, the Lakeshore High School, residents in the area and all citizens who use the parish roads by these 18 wheelers!

## 3. FRACKING RESULTS IN TOXIC AIR POLLUTION.

Emissions from diesel-fueled engines are composed of thousands of substances including more than 40 air toxins that are known or suspected carcinogens. Diesel, a dirty fuel, is heavier and oilier than gasoline. Diesel exhaust is a complex mixture of carbon, ash, and sulfate particulates, and hydrocarbons. In addition, the engine produces nitrous oxide (NOx) a precursor of smog. One heavy-duty diesel truck can produce as much air pollution as 150 passenger cars.

Increasing evidence links exposures to these substances with lung cancer, upper respiratory illness, allergies, asthma attacks, and death from heart and respiratory disorders. In fact, recent EPA data indicate that diesel exhaust is likely the main air pollutant contributing to cancer risk in Oregon. On road emissions are particularly dangerous for those who share the road. When cars follow diesel trucks or buses, the levels of soot INSIDE those cars are 6 to 8 times higher than the ambient air outside those cars.

Using figures from a study on diesel pollution in Oregon, 2,500 trucks, needed for Helis' ONE well, going up and down the highway right outside Lakeshore High School will result in the Lakeshore High students, teachers and all school personnel breathing:

1,240,000 lbs Volatile Organic Compounds  
2,717,500 lbs Carbon Monoxide  
32,500 lbs Particulate Matter  
139,645,000 lbs Carbon Dioxide  
3,225,000 lbs Nitrogen Oxides

This is an unacceptable level of toxic air and pollution. When those figures are multiplied by a potential 6,000 wells, our air quality will be heavily toxic and polluted in St Tammany Parish.

#### 4. CLEAN WATER and TOXIC WASTE:

In order to frack, Helis will use at least two and a half million (2,500,000) gallons of water per well. With a potential of six thousand (6,000) wells, fifteen BILLION(15,000,000,000) gallons of water will be forever full of toxic chemical, lost forever to our eco-system.

Our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded:

"More than one billion people - one in five people- on this planet we live on, lacks access to safe drinking water.

By the year 2050, 40 percent of the world will suffer water shortages. Less than 3% of the world's water supply is fresh water and much of that is inaccessible."

<http://www.savewateramerica.com/index.htm>

Our State of Louisiana government is giving our water away to hydraulic fracturing projects - even from our scenic rivers! We have already given away 105 million gallons, with more permits pending. In Baton Rouge, our State Capital, major industries are using aquifer water to the tune of millions of gallons per day, when the Mississippi River is right there.

Is this moral and ethical for our State governing bodies to allow our waters to be given away to when it forever removes our water from the eco-system? Oil companies should and can afford to pay for what they take from Louisiana. The real issue here is even more important:

Louisiana should not sell its Citizens' water! We ALL own that water. We ALL need water to survive and it is your solemn duty to protect All of us from the loss of our waters.

#### 5. CHEMICAL USED IN FRACKING ARE TOXIC TO HUMANS.

Between 2005 and 2009 the most widely used chemical in hydraulic fracturing, as measured by the number of compounds containing the chemical, was methanol which was used in 342 hydraulic fracturing products. Methanol is a hazardous air pollutant on the candidate list for potential regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Some of the other most widely used chemicals are isopropyl alcohol (used in 274 products), 2-butoxyethanol (used in 126 products), and ethylene glycol (used in 119 products).

Between 2005 and 2009, the oil and gas service companies used hydraulic fracturing products containing 29 chemicals. These 29 chemicals were components of more than 650 different products used in hydraulic fracturing that are:

- (1) known or possible human carcinogens,
- (2) regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for their risks to human health, or
- (3) listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Fracking itself will release compounds into the air such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and n-hexane; long term exposure to these has been linked to birth defects, neurological problems, blood disorders and cancer.

#### 6. ST. TAMMANY PARISH WILL NOT PROSPER FROM FRACKING.

Louisiana has a severance tax exemption on minerals extracted using directional drilling for 2 years or until the cost of drilling the well is recovered, whichever comes first. After these exemptions are exhausted, the oil company can drill another well and restart the process of another severance tax exemption.

#### 7. OUR STATE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MONITORING OF DRILLING OPERATIONS TO PROTECT US.

The Office of Conservation has also been unable to develop an effective enforcement process to address non-compliance.

The Office of Conservation does not have adequate funds to properly regulate and inspect the state's oil and gas wells, and to properly overseeing a growing number of "orphaned" wells abandoned by private operators, (Legislative Audit June 2014). The Office of Conservation was unable to inspect at least 53% of the 50,960 oil and gas wells in the state at least once every three years between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2013, as required by department rules. That resulted in more than 12,700 wells not being inspected at all during that time. Add this to the many exemptions for hydraulic fracturing under United States Federal law: the oil and gas industries are exempt or excluded from several of the major federal environmental laws. These laws range from protecting clean

water and air, to preventing the release of toxic substances and chemicals into the environment:  
the Clean Air Act,  
the Clean Water Act,  
the Safe Drinking Water Act,  
the National Environmental Policy Act,  
the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,  
the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and  
the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act(Superfund).

We have valid concerns for our health, safety and welfare and you should NOT grant this drilling permit or any other drilling permit using hydraulic fracturing in St Tammany Parish.

Thank you for your service and protection of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia A Brooking  
23015 Hwy 1084 Covington, LA 70435

**From:** Jade Hall [jade14h@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 1:42 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Tracking is dangerous

Dear Mr. Welsh

I am writing this e-mail from across the globe in order to stop Fracking in St. Tammany  
Fracking **(the process of drilling and injecting the ground with fluid)** is dangerous and destroying the environment and people's lives.

The fact that these problems reach people worldwide means something.. I hope you realize that this area and these people deserve protection.

I understand that there's not always an easy solution for each problem that pops up.  
But I ask you to take these e-mails in consideration and think and debate about this issue.

Thank you

Kind regards

Jade Hall

**From:** paulinewebster\_1985 [paulinewebster\_1985@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 4:22 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** Urgent

SCOTLAND SAYS NO FRIGGIN FRACKING... DON'T RUIN YOUR WONDERFUL  
COUNTRY... PLEASE

Sent from Samsung Mobile

**From:** Jo-anne Veltman [joanneveltmannat@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 6:49 PM  
**To:** Jim Welsh  
**Subject:** URGENT - Hydraulic Fracturing St Tammany Parish LA

FAO:  
Mr. J. Welsh, Commissioner of the Office of Conservation, DNR  
17th November 2014

Dear Mr Welsh,

I am writing to you concerning the issue of plans to extract natural gas in St Tammany Parish, Louisiana, via the controversial method of hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking").

I am not a citizen of Louisiana or even the United States of America: nonetheless I feel compelled to write to you about this matter & I sincerely hope you feel open to considering my perspective as expressed here.

I write to you as a citizen of our shared world & a medical doctor (paediatrician, with significant experience in all aspects of child health including mental well-being) who is citizen, resident & currently practising medicine in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, owing to the unexpected early deadline of the opportunity for public comment, what I write here is briefer & less detailed than I would have otherwise provided.

My concerns relate primarily to the issue of Public Health. These concerns are both for the local community but also wider - as an issue for Global Public Health.

With regards to concerns locally, I feel sure that you must be aware of the concerns re. protection of the community's only aquifer. There are also a

multiplicity of concerns relating to other aspects related to local public health including air & noise pollution & I would add - issues related to the overall general well-being of the community. Unquestionably gas drilling in communities such as St Tammany parish has a significant impact on the well-being (including emotional) of individuals, families & a community's functioning & cohesiveness as a whole. It is easy to underestimate the various costs to individuals & communities including with regards to social & emotional impacts. Of course there are also serious concerns with regards to other environmental impacts of the proposed drilling in a sensitive wetland ecosystem such as that of St Tammany & the surrounding area.

With regards to wider, i.e. global issues - these I also find I cannot ignore - & I believe must be taken into consideration with regards to planning decisions for unconventional gas extraction worldwide. As a world community our single current greatest challenge & global public health threat is that posed by climate change. What we all do matters. We can no longer act without consideration for our world & its citizens as a whole. We share the same climate & our ecosystems, water and so on - they are all interconnected. My understanding about this comes largely from the fact that, as well as medicine I have significant training in "systems" or complexity thinking (this has wide applications, including the fields of aviation safety, medicine & environmental science). As noted by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) as well as other authorities: although it has by some proponents of unconventional gas development been suggested that hydraulic fracturing offers a "cleaner alternative to coal, that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this assertion has been increasingly challenged by a number of recent studies (Wigley 2011, Hultman et al 2011, Howarth et al 2011)."

Quoting directly from the UNEP Global Environmental Alert Service (GEAS): "Ultimately the question of coal-to-gas substitution is a misguided debate, as none of the scenarios leads to satisfying results to limit global warming. Comparisons should be made with other alternative energy such as hydro, solar & wind."

In addition to climate impacts, there is the concern of the water resources needed to extract natural gas using fracking. Clean fresh water is already a precious resource. Shortages of water are already being experienced both globally & in the United States. In my opinion it behoves us all to take much more seriously the issue of using our water resources responsibly. Polluting

vast quantities of water which then have to be stored safely in order to extract natural gas by fracking does not seem to me to be responsible planning for our future water needs. Many of the chemicals used in the processes involved in hydraulic fracturing are known to be seriously hazardous to human health as well as dangerous for other organisms, marine & wildlife. Biodiversity is another issue that concerns me as it also, like climate change, threatens catastrophic impacts for human health.

I have never been an environmental or social "activist". I am however a concerned doctor, mother & world citizen. I am also a law-abiding citizen who has never chosen previously to speak up in such a way as I currently feel compelled to do. I have invested some considerable time into researching hydraulic fracturing as well as climate & other issues - as they directly relate to human health. As noted above, owing to the earlier than thought cut off in date of the opportunity for public response, the information I have provided here is somewhat limited. Nevertheless, I ask please that you consider my views alongside the more directly relevant views of the local people of St. Tammany.

As a concluding comment - I also note that Helis Oil & Gas Company have committed to avoiding wetland areas for fracking. Therefore I am incredibly puzzled by their desire to drill for unconventional gas in an area such as St. Tammany. Additionally they have pledged to act with "an acute sensitivity to the community". From what I have observed there is strong opposition, from at least a very significant proportion of the community in St. Tammany, to the proposed drilling. As noted by UNEP (GEAS) "observed impacts (*of hydraulic fracturing*) on the

environment & human health raise legitimate public concerns". (*italic in for clarity*) I particular note the use of the word "observed" as opposed to "theoretical".

Many thanks for your careful consideration of this matter.  
Respectfully & sincerely yours,

Dr. Jo Veltman MBBS

[Specialty Doctor  
Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation  
Trust  
United Kingdom]

**From:** Terri Lewis Stevens [terri@lsarchitecture.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 9:58 AM

**To:** Jim Welsh

**CC:** Robert M MVN Tewis; 'Farabee, Michael V MVN'; Rick Franzo; Patrick Courreges; Greg Lemons; 'Lisa Jordon'; 'Donald Lee'

**Subject:** Your authority as Commissioner must be exercised to protect us all

Dear Commissioner Welsh,

Yesterday I was informed that comments made in advance of your permit decision suggested that Helis would likely be granted a permit if the minimum permit criteria was adequately met.

During the hearing we learned that the permit criteria was little more than the payment of a fee, a completed application and the assurances by Helis that BMP's (Best Management Practices) would be employed during their drilling activities. During the hearing I reminded Patrick that during our initially discussions on this issue he'd indicated that the DNR was assigned the task of the "how" of drilling, not the "where" of drilling. Patrick responded affirmatively when I spoke that message.

Then I went on to suggest at the DNR hearing that if this is true, then what must be considered by the DNR is HOW the act of drilling will impact this community, beyond the act of punching a hole.

The article, however, suggested that, "According to Courreges, if Helis proves they can meet DNR's requirements, they will be issued a permit. Public comment about quality of life concerns won't suffice to stop it."

<http://desmogblog.com/2014/11/14/citizens-protest-fracking-permit-louisiana-s-st-tammany-parish>

Your authority as DNR Commissioner extends well beyond simply granting a permit to drill/hydraulically fracture. Your title and authority is Commissioner of Natural Resources, which implies ALL, not simply for oil/gas resources. This would suggest that your authority is to consider ALL of the natural resources, their use and impact on a community where a permit is granted. If this would not be the case, then why not simply dole out permits which could be used anywhere? Why care what happens to the lakes, streams, air and earth in the course of fracking it with toxic chemicals?

The specific, and as we have learned minimal, criteria for injecting toxic chemicals into the Natural Resources below us, and the processes by which this resource is extracted, and the resulting emissions, wasted water, contamination inherent with the process, truck traffic and emissions associated with the mineral removal...must all be considered as an impact of the permit. One effort is not mutually exclusive of the others. It cannot be.

This would be tantamount to suggesting that you regulate the use of matches being lit beneath a house...and then not being responsible when the house burns down. One action directly affects the other.

No permit is granted without a specific location being designated. From my understanding no other community within LA has objected to a permit being granted. For those communities I suggest, live and let live.

This community's residents, however, must be fairly and equally considered in the permit process. We have Rights in the granting of the permit as well, do we not? And why wouldn't we, if you are to determine the impacts of the act of drilling in protecting our shared Natural Resources. They are shared-

both above and below ground, by us all. As such, should the residents not be entitled to reasonable consideration as well?

Once the resources reach the surface are when they become the property of Elis...but until that time they are Natural, shared and unclaimed. The process is the critical aspect which must be considered in all that you approve.

I will maintain that obtaining a building permit to construct a pizza restaurant appears to require much more permitting review and approval criteria than to obtain a permit to inject toxic fluids into the earth and atmosphere and then pollute everyone on the surface during its collection. There is something inherently askew with that picture.

Because the risks to the masses by far outweigh the potential benefit to one single private Limited Liability company, I will urge you, once again, to deny the permit on the basis that **it is your right to impose a greater level of caution and judicious consideration toward the residents where this action is to occur.** Equal consideration must be given to all who share the Natural Resources of N. Tammany Parish.

Whether or not there are safe means and methods to extract is not the issue-the resultant industrial devastation to our living, breathing neighborhoods and built environment, must be protected equally by your action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request, please deny the Elis permit until such time as the process can be achieved without toxic chemicals used, and without the collection nuisances inappropriate to urban life.

Regards,  
Terri



[www.LSArchitecture.com](http://www.LSArchitecture.com)

Terri Lewis Stevens  
Architect / NCARB  
LSArchitecture, PLLC  
409.299.0162  
[LSArchitecture.com](http://LSArchitecture.com)

Honorable James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
617 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Attn: Daniel D. Henry, Jr.

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626: Hearing to Consider Issuance of a Drilling Permit for the Proposed Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC; Eads Poitevent, et al No. 1 Well, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

I most strongly support current efforts to drill for oil and gas in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) in St. Tammany Parish. An increase in local petroleum production represents both a financial boon for the area and reduces America's degree of dependence on foreign oil.

The chief concerns of the opponents of such efforts appear to be fears of contamination of local water supplies by fracking in the TMS and possible surface contamination by the drilling operations. Perhaps these concerns are due to reports (true or not, but hotly disputed) of water contamination in other areas of the country where fracking is conducted, particularly in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania. However, the Marcellus Shale extends to the surface in Pennsylvania, so that some communication between the drilling operations (5,000 or more feet beneath the surface) and drinking water wells (less than 500 feet) is conceivable, if unlikely. In contrast, the TMS lies 10,000 to 15,000 feet below St. Tammany Parish, with no means to communicate with surface or near-surface water, other than the well itself, which is a sealed pipe. The possibility of surface contamination by drilling operations cannot be discounted, but these risks are no different than those of ordinary petroleum exploration, with which Louisiana has had extensive and generally favorable experience.

Sincerely,

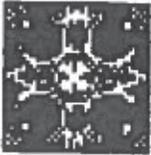
Margaret H. Mervin  
Property Owner, St. Tammany Parish

40872

cc: Daniel D. Henry, Jr.

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WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)



**PAULETTE K. BARRAS  
3235 RAMA STREET  
SLIDELL, LA 70458  
504-913-8778  
NOVEMBER 11, 2014**

Department of Natural Resources

RE: Hells Oil & Gas Co. LLC--  
Permit Application #MVN-2013-02952-ETT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

First, may we thank DNR for holding this meeting to allow the citizens of St. Tammany to voice their opinions on the proposed "fracking" that Hells is attempting to perform in St. Tammany Parish. I am an 11 year resident of St. Tammany Parish, reside in Slidell, and am a member of CCST (Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany).

For 30 plus years, I lived in St. Bernard Parish and had my business in St. Bernard. As you probably already know, St. Bernard Parish's economy is heavily oil industry reliant, with two refineries miles from each other and in unbelievably close proximity to entire residential neighborhoods.

Each year the refineries expanded, encroaching closer and closer to the residences with no discouragement from government. Citizens groups complained about the air quality, the water quality, the fact that children there had a high incidence of Asthma and there were streets known as "Cancer Alley" because cancer deaths were so prevalent on those streets that were close to the refineries. LDE Q enforcement was nil. When there was an air quality call made to LDEQ, they (LDEQ) would call the refinery before a representative of LDEQ would come out to investigate! I was one of the original organizers of St. Bernard Citizens for Environmental Quality, which was the precursor for the Bucket Brigade. I know first hand the problems with enforcement of environmental regulations in Louisiana.

My family and I left St. Bernard in 2003 and spent our life's savings on a home here in St. Tammany. We moved here FOR OUR HEALTH! We moved here because the air was clean and the water was some of the best in the State! My health improved 200% in the first year! From a diagnosis of Chronic Bronchitis/Asthma and severe dermatitis, I was no longer Asthmatic, have not had a bout of bronchitis since I moved to St. Tammany, and no longer have skin irritations. We moved to St. Tammany BECAUSE OF ITS HEALTHY OFFERINGS!

When we built our home there were so many permits and regulations that we had to follow based on the regulations of City of Slidell, and the Parish of St. Tammany. It cost us thousands of dollars more to follow those regulations and guidelines, and those

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
ENGINEERING DIVISION

2014 NOV 17 PM 8:33

regulations, permits, guidelines were all to protect our neighbors. We understood that we lived in a "community" and what we did/do affects our neighbors. Common sense! Those same guidelines should follow for any BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL WHO WANTS TO LIVE OR DO BUSINESS IN ST. TAMMANY. I know what a contaminated environment is, and I do not want to live in one! Hells' request is just the beginning of the end.

Please consider our pleas and not allow Hells to ruin our pristine living environment! Our family and so many others have left unhealthy settings for St. Tammany and its clean living. Isn't it the right of each citizen to live a healthy life and have a say in what endangers their environment? There will not be the oversight and enforcement that is needed to keep our parish a healthy pristine place we call home.

Very truly yours,

  
Paulette K. Barras

ENGINEERING DIVISION  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



FOREVER

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Paulette K. Barras  
Edmond T. Barras  
3235 Rama Street  
Slidell, LA 70458

Department of Natural Resources  
| P.O. Box 94396  
| Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9396



70804939696

*Re: Helix Oil*

**Dick Blossman**  
400 Country Club Drive  
Covington, Louisiana 70433  
November 12, 2014

phone # 985-264-5406  
email: dickblossman@hotmail.com

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P. O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, La. 70804

Ref: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Eads Poitevent et al No 1 Well

Dear Sir;

I am a life time resident of ST. Tammany Parish ( 78 years)  
I am a small land owner (unfortunately not near the subject Unit)  
I have studied the Oil & Gas Industry for a lot of years  
-This country is the leader in Drilling and Fracking of the world.  
-I believe that Drilling and Fracking is very safe  
-I know that Oil and Gas Production makes an area very wealthy.  
-I know that Oil and Gas Production increases land values  
-I know that this country needs to have enough Oil & Gas Production  
to be independent and not counting on imports to be safe.  
\_I know that ST Tammany Parish would be lucky if it had Production.

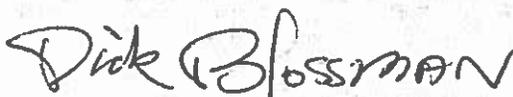
**Fact: Mineral Rights are part of Property Rights**  
Every Land Owner has mineral rights (if those right have not been sold)  
The law of the land is: No Government Agency can take ones property  
without just compensation .

The word "Taking" covers a very wide range of acts, including taking ones  
title to the land or making rules, ordinances, damaging, or making less  
valuable.

Neither the state of Louisiana or the Parish of ST Tammany have a right to take  
ones property ( which includes ones mineral rights.

I hope the Parish of ST Tammany is not foolish enough to create a very large  
potential liability – by taking of ones mineral rights.

Sincerely,

  
Dick Blossman

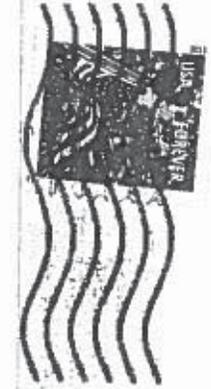
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Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Mr. Richard Blossman  
400 Country Club Dr  
Covington, LA 70433



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*Daniel*  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
ENGINEERING DIVISION

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

70804927575 

George & Annabelle McDermot  
2580 Rue Weller  
Mandeville, LA 70448

November 14, 2014

The Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge  
Louisiana 70804

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NOV 17 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**

We attended a meeting in Mandeville on Wednesday November 12, 2014 at Lakeview High School to hear testimony from the well permit applicant (Helis Oil and Gas).

- The hearing began at 5.00 p.m. and went on till almost 10.30 p.m. Helis took almost 3 hours going over the expertise of their witnesses, slides on forestry going back to 2009, (I don't know what that had to do with fracking), information we already heard in Abita Springs. That was intentional, to reduce the amount of time left for cross examination and public comments. Their ruse was effective. By the time the public had an opportunity to voice their concerns it was 9.30 p.m. and half the public had left to go home and feed their kids.
- The experts HIRED BY HELIS stated how safe fracking is. Yet, each day we read about accidents from fracking sites all around the United States and the devastating effects on the people and the environment. These announcements are not being made by the industry itself but watch dog groups in the country, and some are even covered up by our own government officials.
- We now know that Helis plans to transport their oil by trucks, on our roads (which we pay for), through our neighborhoods, using our ground water. In Abita Springs, we were told that the ground water would be trucked from elsewhere. Last night, they said the water would come from 2 ponds in St. Tammany; That each pond had a couple of inches of water; They did not know the volume in those two ponds; They did not know where the water came from that fed those ponds; But they knew that both ponds had sufficient for their first well, and subsequent wells they would like to drill. A few inches of water in a pond is insufficient for one Frack incident let alone future fracking events in our parish.
- One of their experts said there was a 50/50 chance they would find oil, while another testified under cross examination that they were 100% sure they would find oil. We know also that there is an effort by government agencies to allow the drawn down of the Amite and Falaya rivers.... We assume to accommodate Helis Oil and Gas's fracking, since it is obvious to us that the two ponds they mentioned last night have inadequate volume to support fracking. So much for TRUTH!
- They claim that Helis has a perfect safety record, but we learned through testimony that they have been cited for at least 10 safety hazards that were brought to their attention in an audit of their operations. Those are 10 too many citations, even if they have now been fixed.
- Helis contradicts themselves each time they are asked direct questions. They are unable to say that the safety guidelines they have in place which are "above and beyond" the requirements will be included in legal documents they plan to sign. Experts have also said that our Government's safety guidelines are insufficient. So, what we have is only the word of mouth of their paid experts! How many audits, and how often do we need to have that oversight to keep the citizens of St. Tammany safe from this industry, and do the agencies who conduct the oversight been given the resources necessary to conduct it? This question has already been answered by the agencies themselves.... Insufficient!
- Greg Beuerman of Helis Corp. says Louisiana "has some of the toughest water quality regulations in America because Louisiana has some of the highest quality water in the nation". The fact is, Louisiana is behind only Texas in bad water quality, corporations having released 3,147,313 Toxicity weighted pounds equivalent released in our waterways. Who stopped them? Our Government?

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Once polluted by fracking or any other industry, there is no going back for our aquifer, streams, wetlands, rivers and lakes, because not even the Oil and natural Gas Industry, nor the EPA have any idea on how to clean up this kind of mess in a timely, manageable, environmentally friendly and cost effective way. This State has not dedicated the necessary resources to this industry, either in manpower, knowledge or funding to monitor their activity or to mitigate disasters caused by them.

We know that Fracking creates air pollution, depletion of fresh water, ground water contamination, noise pollution, well explosions, chemical spills, earth subsidence/earthquakes, fires, industrial accidents, rig accidents, truck and vehicle accidents, train derailments, reduced home values and the list goes on. Knowing all of this, our Government continues to allow Fracking within yards of homes, hospitals, small towns, schools and even playgrounds where our children play.

WHO IS GOING TO MONITOR THE WATER IN OUR WELLS AND THE AIR WE BREATHE;  
WILL IT BE DAILY, ONCE A MONTH, OR EVERY 3 YEARS? WHICH GOVERNMENT AGENCY  
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TELLING US WHEN NOT TO DRINK THE WATER IN OUR PIPES OR TO  
HOLD OUR BREATH AND NOT BREATHE?

**If there is even 1% possibility of an accident that can adversely affect our SOLE SOURCE  
AQUIFER WHERE WE GET 90% OF OUR DRINKING WATER, then WE SHOULD HAVE A  
BAN ON FRACKING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH.**

Knowing all of the above, we ask simply that you do everything possible to BAN Fracking in St. Tammany Parrish. Thank you for your kind consideration.

George & Annabelle McDermot

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is more legible and appears to read 'Annabelle McDermot'. The bottom signature is more stylized and less legible, likely belonging to George McDermot.

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NOV 17 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

  
Mr. George E. McDermott  
2580 Rue Weller  
Mandeville, LA 70448

The office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge  
Louisiana 70804

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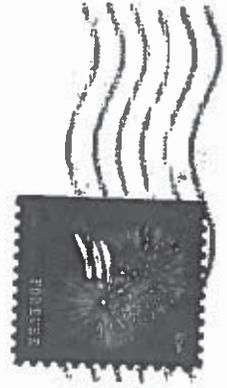

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Mr. George E. McDermott  
2580 Rue Weller  
Mandeville, LA 70448

The office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge  
Louisiana 70804

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DNR:Guys:

Hey . . . just wanted to share a personal note:

Good job last night. Tough crowd. You all showed lots of patience. Very professional.

And no nodding off that I saw: don't know how you did it.

Hope the trip back to BR was uneventful.

CEK

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NOV 17 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

From: Chuck Kirby

Date: November 13, 2014

605 Tanager Dr

Mandeville, LA 70448

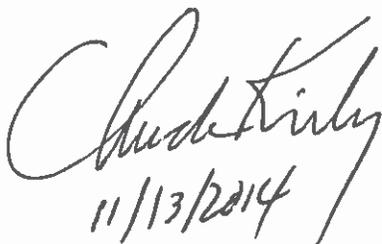
Subject: DNR Public Hearing, November 12, 2014

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

This augments my verbal response given last evening.

1. I mentioned that Helis' comments on the well location proximity consistently referenced the well location distance to Lake Shore HS. This is misleading and an attempt by the applicants to minimize the obvious risk in their layout design creating close contact of their heavy trucks with high school students and personnel. Note that the Helis "driveway" is within the south school slow down zone for traffic on Highway 1088, and is not 1.8 miles distant but only about 250 feet from the high school entrance. This is clearly shown on Helis' revised October 14, 2014 document package, page entitled "Project Plan View", Section 26. I would submit this is an unsafe relationship and requires redesign.
2. I am a member of Concerned Citizens of St Tammany; I have a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering; I have about 35 years work experience as a Research and Development Technologist.
3. I moved here from Cincinnati, OH about 5 years ago for work purposes. About 3 years ago I retired and my wife and I elected to remain in St Tammany Parish because we love the people, the lifestyle, the quality of life, and, of course, the food.
4. **But if St Tammany becomes part of the oil patch parishes – which is what this and similar applicants will create – we will be moving: out of St Tammany, out of LA. We do not want any part of personally experiencing the decline in quality of life associated with adjusting to living in an oil patch parish.**

Therefore I respectfully request the DNR deny this and all future drilling permits in St Tammany.

  
11/13/2014

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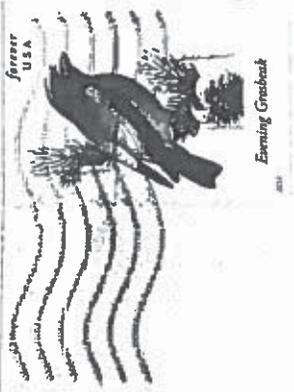
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Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

Kirby  
605 Tanager Drive  
Mandeville, LA 70448

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Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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Dept. of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

Dear Folks,

I surely hope you count the quality of water, and the quality of life in the balance of your decision to allow fracking in St Tammany Parish in reference to Engineering Docket 14-326. Thank you for considering our dissent on this issue. We are certainly concerned about any catastrophic consequences that could result from this form of extraction in our Parish of St Tammany.

Truly  
Donald R. Castel

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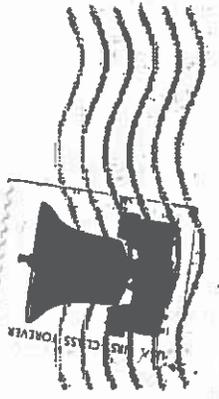
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Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

Donald R. Costello  
82050 Paalen Road  
Buell, La 70431

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Dept of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge La

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Honorable James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
617 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Attn: Daniel D. Henry, Jr.

Re: **Engineering Docket No. 14-626: Hearing to Consider Issuance of a Drilling Permit for the Proposed Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC; Eads Poitevent, et al No. 1 Well, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana**

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

I most strongly support current efforts to drill for oil and gas in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) in St. Tammany Parish. An increase in local petroleum production represents both a financial boon for the area and reduces America's degree of dependence on foreign oil.

The chief concerns of the opponents of such efforts appear to be fears of contamination of local water supplies by fracking in the TMS and possible surface contamination by the drilling operations. Perhaps these concerns are due to reports (true or not, but hotly disputed) of water contamination in other areas of the country where fracking is conducted, particularly in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania. However, the Marcellus Shale extends to the surface in Pennsylvania, so that some communication between the drilling operations (5,000 or more feet beneath the surface) and drinking water wells (less than 500 feet) is conceivable, if unlikely. In contrast, the TMS lies 10,000 to 15,000 feet below St. Tammany Parish, with no means to communicate with surface or near-surface water, other than the well itself, which is a sealed pipe. The possibility of surface contamination by drilling operations cannot be discounted, but these risks are no different than those of ordinary petroleum exploration, with which Louisiana has had extensive and generally favorable experience.

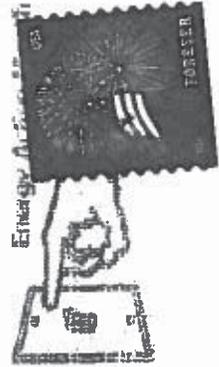
Sincerely,



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**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



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Hon. James H. Welsh - Comm. of Cons.

Daniel D. Henner Jr.

617 North Third St.

Baton Rouge LA 70802

70802+5431



Honorable James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
617 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Attn: Daniel D. Henry, Jr.

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626: Hearing to Consider Issuance of a Drilling Permit for the Proposed Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC; Eads Poitevent, et al No. 1 Well, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

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Sincerely,

Margaret H. Mervard  
Property Owner, St. Tammany Parish

40872

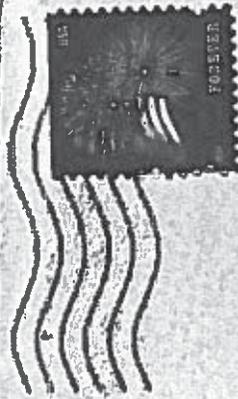
cc: Daniel D. Henry, Jr.

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WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)

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David R. Henry, Jr  
617 North Third St.  
Baton Rouge, LA

70802

..... Menard  
219 Country Club Bldg  
Slidell, LA  
70458

Honorable James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
617 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Attn: Daniel D. Henry, Jr.

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626: Hearing to Consider Issuance of a Drilling Permit for the Proposed Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC; Eads Poitevent, et al No. 1 Well, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

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Sincerely,



40872

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WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)



GULFPORT MS 395

12 NOV 2014 PM 2 L

Daniel D. Henry Jr.  
Dept. of Conser.  
617 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA.

70802

70802+5431



POB 3904  
COR., L.A.

70434-3904

FRED A. REIMERS  
445 KINGS HIGHWAY  
JACKSON, WY 83001

STATE EXHIBIT NO. 9  
DOCKET NO. 14-626

October 1, 2014

Office of Conservation, LA DNR  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE :Comments in Support of Issuance, Eng. Docket 14-626, Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevant et al No.1 well, Bayou Lacombe Field, St. Tammany Parish.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Domestic oil/gas production provides economic security for LA and USA, especially during this period of political and economic instability around the world.

Should oil/gas production occur in Tuscaloosa Marine Shale(TMS) in St. Tammany Parish, the economic impact would be significant. To date, no studies substantiate that horizontal hydraulic fracturing well completion methods (much less vertical wells), creates environmental risk.

The absence of natural faulting in St. Tammany further reduces the risk of hydraulic fracturing fluids migrating more than a few hundred feet about the TMS depth of 13,000+ feet.

Should the Office of Conservation fail to grant the referenced drilling permit, it would unlawfully and unreasonably usurp landowner rights and be a taking of private mineral rights.

Since the current permit application authorizes only a vertical well, a horizontal lateral in the TMS would require an amendment to the current permit.

Permits to drill vertical wells are routinely issued by the Office of Conservation, and I encourage you to issue the referenced permit in a timely manner.

Yours very truly,



Fred A. Reimers

RECEIVED

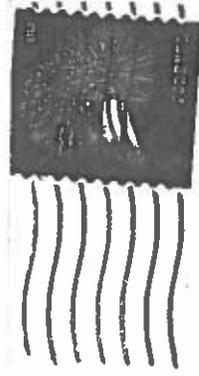
OCT 06 2014

Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**



Mr. Fred Reimers  
445 W Kings Hwy  
Jackson, WY 83001-9588



OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, LA DNR  
ENGINEERING DIVISION  
P.O. Box 94275  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804

7080439275



Susan J. Tyler  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

dnrinfo@la.gov

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Engineering Docket No. 14-626

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2014 NOV -5 AM 11:56

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
ENGINEERING DIVISION

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Susan J. Tyler

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NEW ORLEANS LA 700

03 NOV 2014 PM 3 L



Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

708049275



Susan Tyler  
7816 Brewster Rd.  
Madisonville, LA 70447

Charles W. Sapp  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

dnrinfo@la.gov

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Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

2014 NOV -5 AM 11:56  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
ENGINEERING DIVISION

  
Charles Sapp  
786 Brewer Rd.  
Meadowville, LA 70447

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

03 NOV 2014 PM 4 1



Mr. James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

70804927575



Susan J. Tyler  
786 Brewster Road  
Madisonville, LA 70447

November 2, 2014

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Engineering – Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Jeff.Wells@la.gov

RE: Eads Poitevent, et al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
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NEW ORLEANS LA 700

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Permits & Reservoir Section Mgr.  
Engineering - Regulatory Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Louisiana  
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Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

70804927575



Susan Tyler  
781 Braubster Rd.  
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Additionally, despite countless instances of health problems documented in people and wildlife living near fracking operations, the industry is still presently exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Hopefully this particular legislative travesty will be corrected soon, but in the meantime, residents are expected to "trust" that this largely unregulated industry will simply not have an accident. The industry is rushing to exploit as many of the "shale plays" as possible across the country, and is doing its best to deny the many emerging scientific studies documenting harm to air, water, health and ecosystems. I will provide a list of just a few of these below.

Another major concern is the lack of contingency planning. Has Helis Oil submitted any type of plan to handle a catastrophic accident in St. Tammany Parish? Recent events in Louisiana, such as the disastrous BP Oil Spill and the Bayou Come Sinkhole, as well as in many other parts of the country, have proven that the oil and gas industry is very short on contingency planning for bad or worst-case scenarios. In June of 2014, a fire on a drill pad in Ohio burned for five days, exposing the volunteer fire department responders to toxic chemical exposures as well as exposure to radioactive elements. Additionally, during the Ohio incident, waterways were fouled and 70,000 fish were killed. How would St. Tammany handle such an event? On a more basic level, why, and by whose authority, should we be put in a position to have to deal with such a contingency? (Please see <http://www.theoec.org/sites/default/files/Eisenbarth%20well%20pad%20fire.pdf>).

Industries cannot be counted on to self-regulate, and hydraulic fracturing is no exception. State agencies do not have the resources to adequately monitor their activities. Instead we, the residents, are told to involuntarily assume all the risks of permanent damage, for no gain.

As a property owner whose water is supplied by a well, I have a simple question: why should my drinking water, along with that of all of my fellow St. Tammany residents, be put at risk for permanent damage without my/our consent? If our water is damaged, our health is at risk and our property values go to nil.

We are fundamentally entitled to clean air, clean water and a safe environment. A clean, safe and poison-free environment is necessary for our constitutionally-protected rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No industry has the right to enter our parish and trample on those rights. The risks to the safety and health of the residents, communities and ecosystems of St. Tammany Parish should far outweigh any potential gains to a few individuals and one company, none of whom reside in our parish. We, the residents, have everything to lose. We would be risking our health, property and peace of mind to gain nothing, again, without our consent. Please respect the wishes of St.

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ENGINEERING DIVISION

Tammany's residents, and deny any and all permits requests by Helis Oil and Gas.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Sapp

Links to Articles:

Compendium compiled by Concerned Health Professionals of New York:

<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

Two links on a very recent study on well contamination:

<http://www.neomatica.com/2014/09/24/trace-isotope-analysis-reveals-fracking-contaminating-well-water-3-ways/>

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/39/14076.abstract> (with link to supporting info.)

Interesting article on how local governments suffer after effects of fracking:

<http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-frackings-financial-losers.html>

Hydraulic Fracturing Fluid kills 18 cows in Louisiana:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2009/04/30/726340/-Hydraulic-Fracture-Fluid-Kills-18-Cattle-Near-Chesapeake-Well-in-LA>

US Fish & Wildlife Service Report on (produced water) sludge pit contamination/death of migratory birds and wildlife:

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/contaminants/documents/reservepits.pdf>

Conclusive link between fracking and aquifer contamination found in Texas:

<http://www.southernstudies.org/2014/06/conclusive-link-between-fracking-aquifer-contamina.html>

Just released from U.S. News & World Report:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/30/toxic-chemicals-and-carcinogens-skyrocket-near-fracking-sites-study-says>

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ENGINEERING DIVISION

Charles Sapp  
786 Brewster Rd.  
Madisonville, LA 70447

Charles Sapp  
786 Brewster Rd.  
Madisonville, LA 70447

**MAILING ADDRESS OF COMMENTS**

Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

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PERMIT SECTION

**RE:       Comments in Support of Issuance  
          Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
          Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well  
          Bayou Lacombe Field  
          Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 12 East  
          St. Tammany Parish, LA**

My name is Brian Thomas Himes. I support of the issuance of the Helis St Tammany Ph drilling permit. I have been a resident of St Tammany Ph for 32 years and own property and mineral rights (like most of the citizens in St Tammany). I have worked for over 30 years in Louisiana as a professional petroleum geologist and I am very familiar with the subsurface geology in St Tammany Ph. My knowledge of the geology in St Tammany Ph compels me to make the following statements.

First, there have been a number peer reviewed scientific studies that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. In some areas outside of Louisiana there are rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented . In the areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to Oil and Gas operations, naturally occurring shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers. There are no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Ph as evidenced by electric logs run in wells previously drilled in St Tammany and by the fact that no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water.

The potential for the casing to leak has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills aquifer. Here it can be argued that oil will be separated from the aquifer by three layers of pipe and three layers of cement and extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. The problem with the opposition to the subject well is they on focus on extremely unlikely scenarios. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen years after the well was placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the aquifer, therefore if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the aquifer.

Earthquakes caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel, but there is some evidence that quakes have been generated near the location of a few waste water disposal wells. Here again it's location, location, location. Helis has stated that waste water from the operation of the subject well will not be disposed of in St Tammany and even if it were, the geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Ph is

different from the geology in the areas where some quakes have occurred. It appears that the quakes have taken place in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana because the unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.

There has been much said about the Southern Hills aquifer being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Ph. and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm the aquifer. The problem with this argument is two fold. First the Southern Hill aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for hundreds of thousands of people while at the same time over 1000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through this aquifer over the past 50 years with no resulting contamination that I am aware of. Second, an argument can be made that the Southern Hills aquifer is not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub surface fresh water zone made up of 10-15 separate fresh water sands. These sands are separated by impermeable shales and are therefore isolated from each other. This fact makes it all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole.

The subject well will be located within a commercial pine tree farm. This property covers over 40,000 acres and has only been used as agricultural timber land for over 100 years. The current operator of the pulp wood enterprise is Weyerhaeuser, and their lease to operate an agricultural business on the surface of the 40,000 acres is in effect for another 30 years. The St Tammany Ph Government zoned most of this 40,000 acres as possible future residential use years ago, but as of today no such residential development exists on this property and any future development other than agricultural and oil & gas would be many years away. The dual use of the subject land (agriculture and mineral development) would seem to me to be the most appropriate use at this time.

Finally, some people opposed to the drilling permit put forth the narrative that St Tammany Ph is an oasis separated from the oil and gas industry and they want to keep it that way. The reality is St Tammany Ph is a vital link in the daily oil and gas operations for the Nation. There are numerous oil and natural gas interstate pipelines that cross St Tammany. These pipelines are located directly over the Southern Hills aquifer and have caused no issues with water quality or the quality of life in the Parish after being in service for decades. The Helis operations would make for beneficial synergies between the existing oil and gas transportation infrastructure and oil field development.

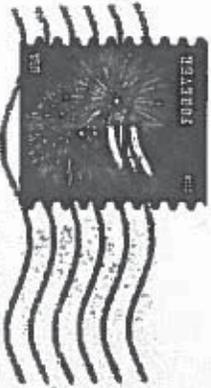
Brian Thomas Himes  
Slidell La.

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Mr Brian Himes  
299 Rue Piper  
Slidell LA 70461



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Office of Conservation, DNR  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, La. 70804

Mr. Robert Tewis Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans, Mr. Michael Farabee, Director Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans  
United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch Post Office Box 60267 New Orleans, Louisiana  
70160-0267 Project Manager Elizabeth Johnson Mr. James H. "Jim" Welsh, Mr. Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section  
Manager Commissioner of Conservation Engineering - Regulatory Division Department of Natural Resources Department of  
Natural Resources State of Louisiana State of Louisiana

RE: Permit Application Number MVN-2013-02952-ETT, WQC Application Number WQC-140328-02

Dear Mr. Tewis, Mr. Farabee, Mr. Welsh, Mr. Wells, and Ms. Johnson:

The following letter by Jan Jumonville, which we have been given permission to reprint as our submission expresses our concerns as we also oppose the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil and Gas on the Eads Poinevant et. Al well. In addition, we would appreciate it if you would post answers publically to the queries of this letter, as well as letters sent to you by Ms. Terri Lewis Stevens.

On behalf of my Family, Friends and the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish, I am opposed

to the issuance of a drilling permit to Helis Oil & Gas, LLC on the Eads Poitevant et al well location in the Lacombe Bayou Field referenced in the above permit applications.

Based on the opinions of many well known and respected scientist and environmentalist and citizens who have witnessed the effects of drilling, I oppose this extremely high risk operation with low chances of success documented by company and energy industry experts familiar with the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formations. Helis' own representatives have acknowledged that their chances of success in striking oil in the shale below and around the proposed drilling site are no better than 50-50. Based on recent industry-backed studies, Helis' offer to drill only a vertical well in order to run additional tests on the formation before they begin the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") is no assurance or guaranty that our groundwater will not be contaminated in areas where fracking has been proposed. A recent report issued by researchers at The Ohio State University involving work conducted by researchers at Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester determined that groundwater contamination in fracking areas was attributable to faulty production casings. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences. In Science Daily the leader of the study, Thomas Darrah, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, stated: "There is no question that in many instances elevated levels of natural gas are naturally occurring, but in a subset of cases, there is also clear evidence that there were human causes for the contamination. However our data suggests that where contamination occurs, it was caused by poor casing and cementing in the wells." While the findings might have the effect of allaying some concerns about fracking, Darrah and Researchers from Duke, Stanford, Dartmouth and the University of Rochester's report is actually an indictment of the oil and gas drilling industry because the concrete casings used in virtually every drill job have been there for decades.

For nearly a century of drilling activity in Louisiana alone, the industry has not been

willing or able to master the essential work of producing reliable cement jobs on casings, leaving my family, friends and the citizens of St. Tammany parish with the inescapable fact that groundwater contamination is a natural byproduct of oil and gas drilling. Our Parish of St. Tammany is noted for the great quality of our natural spring water. We sit at the southern edge of the Southern Hills Aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water not only for our family, friends, but for all of its citizens and businesses. The Southern Hills Aquifer supplies water not only to our Parish, but the homes and businesses of a millions of people living between Baton Rouge and Slidell and as far north as Jackson, Mississippi.

Fracking is Oil Companies' industrialized approach to extraction of oil and gas. The Oil companies tout the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale as "the next Bakken field", the large shale oil field that straddles the border of Montana and North Dakota. There are at least 30,000 oil and gas wells drilled in that thinly populated area of those two states. There are more citizens living in Baton Rouge than in all of North Dakota. Should oil and gas companies be allowed similar levels of drilling activity across the

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Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, their drilling would not only contaminate our sole source of drinking water, it would fundamentally alter the ecology and culture of our region. This permit sought by Helis is the tip of the tip of the iceberg. If there is any hint of success with their first well, larger and many more oil and gas companies will join the foray demanding permits to drill in our St. Tammany Parish.

There is no compelling economic argument to be made for the exploitation of whatever oil and gas can be found in the shale beneath St. Tammany Parish.

Oil and gas companies are well aware of and have taken advantage of Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption on horizontal drilling. It is clear that Louisiana, Parish and local governments stand to make virtually no money off severance taxes. Royalties due local governments will be non-existent as a result of the oil and gas companies' right to the two-year severance tax exemptions, a well documented ongoing fact. The oil companies promise of jobs for St. Tammany Parish is bait. There will be no such jobs coming to St. Tammany as a result of this drilling. We will be no different than Mississippi where the "man camps" have been constructed for drilling activities. The undisputed facts are workers have been imported for those "man camps" for drilling.

Helis has given no indication where they will obtain the millions of gallons of water they will need to conduct fracking operations at this and other well sites they might develop. They have provided no information as to where they will dispose of the millions of gallons of contaminated fracking water ("produced water") that results from those operations. There are no rules in place in Louisiana to govern the disposal of water used in fracking. The fact that this water has been declared by Congress to be "non-hazardous" is of no consequence as that is a legal definition that completely ignores the actual chemical makeup of the water.

We know from the nearly 100 years of experience with this industry in our state, that unless they are required to take steps to protect our air and water, they will not. In particular, Helis has a record of ignoring the Safety Regulations in Willow Cove St. Martin Parish, North East of Crowley, North West of Lafayette and South West of Opelousas.

Contrary to their Representatives who claim Helis is not a threat to our water supply, Helis violated 10 Safety Regulations and entered a Consent Judgment on 6/23/2013 signed by Helis Production Manager, David McKnight, in the Matter of Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC Respondent, regarding the Willow Cove Facility, Case No. CW A-06-2013-4815. A synopsis of this Judgment and 10 violations are:

On February 27, 2013, the EPA inspected the facility and found Helis failed to fully implement its SPCC plan for the Willow Cove facility as follows:

1. Helis failed to conduct inspections and tests in accordance with written procedure, failed to keep written records and tests signed by the appropriate supervisor or inspector and failed to keep them with the SPCC Plan for a period of three years. Specifically the facility tank inspection forms are not for individual tanks, the inspection forms are generic with missing required information and the facility is not inspecting the interstitial space in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(e).
2. Helis failed to designate a person as accountable for discharge prevention at the facility that reports to facility management in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(f)(2)
3. Helis failed to provide a discussion on brittle fracture evaluation of field constructed aboveground containers conducted after tank repair, alterations, reconstruction, or change in service that might affect the risk of a discharge in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.7(l).
4. Helis failed to discuss in plan the handling of dump valves that are apart of separators and treaters to equip facility to prevent discharge of oil in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).
5. Helis failed to discuss in plan suitable corrosion protection for containers. Specifically, the plan only discusses corrosion protection for piping and not the containers in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(D).

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6. Helis failed to discuss in plan and to conduct testing and inspection of pollution prevention equipment and systems conducted on a scheduled periodic basis commensurate with the complexity, conditions, and circumstances of the facility and any other applicable regulations. Additionally, the facility failed to discuss in plan and conduct simulated discharges used for testing and inspecting human and equipment pollution control and countermeasure systems. Specifically, the facility failed to discuss the testing of the sump system and the facility failed to keep records on testing in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(I).
7. Helis failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained regarding the method of activation or control, such as pressure differential, change in fluid or flow conditions, combination of pressure and flow or manual or remote control mechanisms. The facility failed to discuss in plan how records are maintained for the pressure safety valve (PSV) test in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(G).
8. Helis failed to discuss in plan blowout prevention assembly and well control system installation before drilling below casing string and during work over operations, and failed to discuss if blowout prevention assembly and well control system was capable of controlling any well-head pressure that maybe encountered while on the well in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(K).
9. Helis failed to discuss in plan adequate protection of sub-marine piping against environmental stresses. Specifically, the plan failed to discuss how submerged piping and appurtenances are protected in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(O) 10. Helis failed to discuss in plan and failed to conduct periodic inspections or tests, at a regular schedule on sub-marine piping and appurtenances for failure prevention and failed to maintain records of inspections or tests in accordance with 40 CFR § 112.11(P).19. Respondent's failure to fully implement its SPCC plan for the facility violated 40 CFR § 112.3, and impacted its ability to prevent an oil spill."

As a result, Carl Edlund, P.E. Director, Superfund Division of the EPA signed this FINAL ORDER on 7/10/2013, ordering Helis to pay a fine of \$12,100.00 to the Environmental Protection Agency:

"Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Act, 33 USC § 1321(b)(6) and the delegated authority of the undersigned, and in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits," codified at 40 CFR Part 22, the forgoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order, and the Stipulations by the parties and Allegations by the Complainant are adopted as Findings in this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement."

In summary, we have no guarantee that there will be sufficient jobs, if any, for our citizens. Helis has the right and can easily avoid state, parish or local tax revenue through Louisiana's two-year severance tax exemption. Helis has demonstrated it's lack of compliance with lawful safety procedures. There is no guarantee from Helis that there will be no contamination of our sole water supply. Yet, we are being asked to assume the risk of the contamination of our groundwater and the pollution of our air, including the risk of methane leaks, and a wide range of toxic chemicals put in the ground during fracking, in exchange for the extremely short-term financial gains of Helis and the Poitevaut family. No monetary value can be attached to our clean air and water and the natural beauty to which all of us are entitled.

**WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER, CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE OUR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATED BY DRILLING ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND AND DEMAND THAT YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, DENY THIS PERMIT!**

Thank you for your service in protecting St. Tammany Parish.

Sincerely,

William and Marta Badon 59591 Badon Rd Slidell LA 70460



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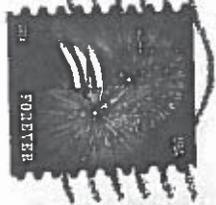
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Maria Badon  
59591 Badon Rd.  
Slidell, LA 70460

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Ms. Jeffrey Wells  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275-  
Baton Rouge LA 70864

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November 13, 2014

Mr. Daniel D. Henry, Jr., Attorney  
State of Louisiana  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Post Office Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626

ALSO SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Dear Mr. Henry:

I am a resident of St. Tammany Parish. I am a homeowner in St. Tammany Parish. I am a land owner in St. Tammany Parish. I operate a business that employs twenty people with a significant payroll that is headquartered in St. Tammany Parish. I also pay significant monies into the parish and state coffers in the form of ad valorem property taxes, sales taxes, and income taxes. My family has been involved in this parish dating to my great grandfather's era, John McEnery, when he was elected governor of this state.

I was in attendance at Wednesday evening's hearing regarding the referenced matter. I must first confess my utter and complete disappointment in the manner in which the hearing was handled. Any level of decorum and protocol that should have been present was seriously jeopardized by the behavior of those present. To even countenance the "Jerry Springer" like performance from the same small group of malcontents who have attended every meeting to date in this regard does not reflect well on our State or we, the citizens of Louisiana.

I am also saddened by the threat from those in opposition to the Helis permit, the elected officials of St. Tammany Parish, and the appointed state officials now engaged as this relates to our individual property rights and the attempted theft thereof. I am saddened by the lack of input from any knowledgeable party noting the departure from the Home Rule Charter's clear mandate that we the citizens of St. Tammany not only recognize but accept the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana. I am saddened that our elected officials would pursue litigation in this matter accompanied by the frivolous expenditures of money being used by them to press their claim, a claim that is clearly contradictory to Louisiana's Revised Statutes that states no political subdivision can in any way attempt to interfere or prohibit your office from conducting the business of your office.

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810 UNION STREET, FOURTH FLOOR  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70112  
TELEPHONE: 504-274-2701  
FACSIMILE: 504-274-2702

10411 HELENBERG ROAD, SUITE 103  
COVINGTON, LOUISIANA 70433  
TELEPHONE: 985-890-3900  
FACSIMILE: 985-890-3901

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

REAL ESTATE LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS HELD IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA AND TEXAS

Mr. Henry  
Page Two  
November 13, 2014

I am saddened by what is at stake in the possible taking of every man, woman, and child's natural and constitutional right in the form of what can only be viewed as a regulatory taking of mineral ownership without consideration of just compensation if your office fails to approve the Helis permit.

Why has the state not seen fit to issue the Helis permit? If the permit is in good order, why has it not been issued? Why has the State refused to address and counter directly and in a firm manner the opposition to a procedure, namely the exploration for oil and gas using hydraulic fracturing that has now been ongoing for many, many years?

I support the issuance of a permit to drill for oil and gas in St. Tammany Parish. I do not support the local politicians who are squandering our tax revenues. I do not support any further tolerance of those who would impoverish the public at large and steal prosperity from future generations because of their Marxist agenda in what has now become a not only a real threat to us all, but an embarrassment to me, to my family, and to our State.

I thank you for the opportunity to air my opinion on this important matter. The future of the residents of St. Tammany and the State of Louisiana resides in your decision.

Please approve the Helis permit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter M. McEnery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter M. McEnery, MAI, President

Ref: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

I support Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well. Despite hysterical protests and refusal to hear alternative points of view regarding this project, I have yet to see a legitimate concern raised by the opposition. Louisiana is an energy rich state and depends on this type of exploration to create jobs and wealth for our community and citizens. By all measures, Helis Oil & Gas has an outstanding record of safe and successful operations. Extreme environmentalists are a danger to the wellbeing of our society with their mindset of trampling on the rights of private property owners to do with their property as they please. Extensive rules and regulations are set in place to oversee this type of project, and Helis has proven an ability to follow these rules and regulation. There is no evidence to suggest Helis will not be able to execute the project successfully and with great benefit to St Tammany Parish. Therefore, I support Helis Oil & Gas.

Perry Williams

Covington, LA

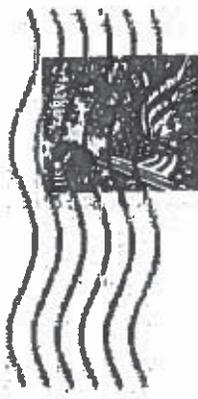


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920 Village Walk  
Covington, LA 70433

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Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

70804927575



Formal Comment for Record

November 16, 2014

Louisiana Office of Conservation

Attn: Engineering Division

P.O. Box 94275

Baton Rouge, La. 70804

Subject: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent, et al. No. 1 well

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to request that the permit to Helis Oil and Gas Co. to begin fracking on land in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, be denied. Although the Office of Conservation, under LA RS §30.28, has complete authority to grant or deny permits in the State of Louisiana, I hope that the agency will acknowledge a parish's right to regulate uses of land.

Under LA RS §140.10, the state requires parishes to write and adopt a master plan to guide the growth and development of its land. These master plans are crafted with citizen participation and reflect the needs and demands of a parish.

If the Office of Conservation does not acknowledge the master plan and zoning ordinance adopted by St. Tammany Parish, the agency will essentially depreciate the hard work of planners and citizens and their desires to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their community. I urge the Office of Conservation to deny the referenced permit to Helis Oil and Gas Co. in order to help safeguard these essential liberties as American citizens.

Thank you,

A Concerned Citizen of Louisiana



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17 NOV 2014 PM 3 L

Office of Conservation  
Attn: Engineering Dept.  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

70804927575



Charley Marcussen Jr.  
 24187 Sunny Meadow Dr.  
 P.O. Box 126  
 Abita Springs, LA 70420

15 November 2014

Via Fax: 225-242-3428

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Office of Conservation, Engineering Division  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No.1 Well**

Dear Gentleman:

Thank you for allowing us, the property owner's affected, the opportunity to respond to the Helis Oil and Gas proposal to drill a hydraulic fracturing well through our Southern Hill's Aquifer.

We are **opposed** to the drilling permit for the following reasons.

This is St. Tammany Parish's only water source serving over three hundred thousand (300,000) residents. There have been hundreds of documented cases of water contamination next to fracking wells. This contamination has resulted in cases of sensory, respiratory and neurological damage due to ingested contamination. The toxic fracturing fluids containing ethylene glycol, hydraulic acid, lubricants, poisons just to name a few, are pumped into the well under pressure in the process of hydraulic fracking. There will be many well casing joints; a small casing leak could spell disaster for our residents of St. Tammany. The toxic fluids are not biodegradable, if the aquifer is contaminated it is not possible to clean it, as brought out in the open meeting. I am now retired from sailing as Chief Engineer on offshore and coastwise tanker vessels. I want to bring to your attention it is illegal to discharge overboard these hazardous substances anywhere into the Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes and most, if not all oceans. If the waste fluid is left in an air pit to evaporate it will release harmful Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) into the atmosphere creating contaminated air - Acid Rain - and contaminated Ground Level Ozone along with Methane Gas emissions only 1-1/2 miles from Lakeshore high school.

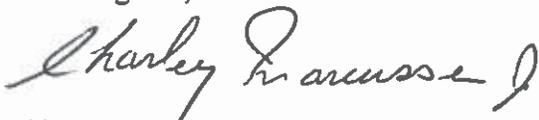
Before permits can be issued to drill hydraulic fracturing wells through communities' only source of water, Congress needs to implement strict guidelines. Congress must pass the FRAC Act ( Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemical's Act requiring energy industries to disclose all chemicals used in fracking fluids.

Congress must repeal Fracking's exemption from the "Safe Drinking Water Act"

This is a very tough non-forgiving industry where we have seen Murphy's Law proven on many occasions with horrifying consequences.

We observed two multi-million dollar superfund projects in Slidell a few years back. Southern Shipbuilding and the Old Creosote Plant. These clean up sites took months and months to complete and did not involve citizen's drinking water. A major mishap involving Hydraulic Fracturing drilling would be catastrophic to the three hundred thousand citizens of St Tammany Parish.

Kind regards,



Charley Marcussen Jr

**Peggy R. Lord**  
 26479 Richoux Road  
 Ponchatoula, LA 70454

November 12, 2014

Via USPS and email to: [jim.welsh@la.gov](mailto:jim.welsh@la.gov) and [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
 Office of Conservation  
 Engineering Division  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

DATE RECEIVED			
11-19-14			
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION			
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Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am a citizen and resident of Tangipahoa Parish and am employed in St. Tammany Parish. I am writing you to join those urging the Office of Conservation to grant the application of Helis Oil & Gas, LLC for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Please include this letter as part of the comments made for purposes of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing on November 12, 2014 in the captioned matter.

I strongly support the issuance of a drilling permit by the Louisiana Office of Conservation (the "LOC) to Helis in Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well for the reasons noted below in this letter.

**THE US SHALE REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICA**

A short five years ago, the world's supply of oil was peaking, and as conventional gas production declined in the United States, it seemed that this country would become dependent on costly natural gas imports. But in the years since, those predictions have proved spectacularly wrong. Global energy production has begun to shift away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East, as producers tap unconventional gas and oil resources around the world, from the waters of Australia, Brazil, Africa, and the Mediterranean to the oil sands of Alberta.

The greatest revolution, however, has occurred in the United States, where producers have

taken advantage of two newly viable technologies to unlock resources once deemed commercially infeasible: horizontal drilling, which allows wells to penetrate bands of shale deep underground, and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses the injection of high-pressure fluid to release gas and oil from rock formations.

The resulting uptick in energy production in the U.S. has been dramatic. Between 2007 and 2012, U.S. shale gas production rose by over 50 percent each year, and its share of total U.S. gas production jumped from five percent to 39 percent. Terminals once intended to bring foreign liquefied natural gas (LNG) to U.S. consumers are being reconfigured to export U.S. LNG abroad. Between 2007 and 2012, fracking also generated an 18-fold increase in U.S. production of what is known as light tight oil, high-quality petroleum found in shale or sandstone that can be released by fracking. This boom has succeeded in reversing the long decline in U.S. crude oil production, which grew by 50 percent between 2008 and 2013. Thanks to these developments, the U.S. is now poised to become an energy superpower. Last year, we surpassed Russia as the world's leading energy producer, and by next year, according to projections by the International Energy Agency, it will overtake Saudi Arabia as the top producer of crude oil.

The fracking revolution required more than just favorable geology; it also took financiers with a tolerance for risk, a property-rights regime that lets landowners claim underground resources, a network of service providers and delivery infrastructure, and an industry structure characterized by thousands of entrepreneurs rather than a single national oil company. Although many countries possess the right rock, none, with the exception of Canada, boasts an industrial environment as favorable as that of the U.S.

The American energy revolution has more than commercial implications. It also has wide-reaching geopolitical consequences. Global energy trade maps are now being redrawn as U.S. imports continue to decline and exporters find new markets. As U.S. production increases, it will put downward pressure on global oil and gas prices, thereby diminishing the geopolitical leverage that some energy suppliers have wielded for decades. Most energy-producing states that lack diversified economies, such as Russia and the Gulf monarchies, will lose out, whereas energy consumers, such as China, India, and other Asian states, stand to gain.

The biggest benefits, however, will accrue to the United States. Ever since 1971, when U.S. oil production peaked, energy has been construed as a strategic liability for the country, with its ever-growing thirst for reasonably priced fossil fuels sometimes necessitating incongruous alliances and complex obligations abroad. But that logic has been upended, and the newly unlocked energy is set to boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world.

For a more detailed analysis of the dramatic and positive changes the U.S. shale revolution will bring to this country are found in a report just released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works entitled "Setting the Record Straight: Hydraulic Fracturing and America's Energy Revolution", which I ask be filed into the record of these proceedings. I

strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.<sup>1</sup>

### THE TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE IN LOUISIANA

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) is a sedimentary rock formation that consist of organic-rich fine-grained materials (sediments) deposited in a marine environment that existed across the Gulf Coast region approximately 90 million years ago. The TMS includes the Eagle Ford Shale being similar in geological age. The August, 1987 Bulletin (Volume 7) of the LSU-Basin Research Institute (BRI), Baton Rouge, indicates a potential reserve of about 7 billion barrels of oil in the TMS.<sup>2</sup> Its thickness varies from 500 feet in southwestern Mississippi to more than 800 feet in the southern part of the Florida Parishes in southeastern Louisiana—which includes St. Tammany Parish-- within an approximate depth range of 11,000 feet to the north to more than 15,000 feet to the south. It is this resource that Helis is seeking to drill through a drilling permit from your office.

The current TMS Oil Play targets unconventional reservoirs that are petroleum source rocks where petroleum hydrocarbons (oil and gas) originated in a high pressure and temperature geological subsurface environment. Not all of the petroleum hydrocarbons originally generated have migrated out of the source rock (TMS) which is now being explored for oil and /or liquid hydrocarbons with advanced (horizontal) drilling and completion (hydraulic fracturing, called fracking).<sup>3</sup>

### THE US SHALE REVOLUTION'S IMPLICATIONS FOR ST. TAMMANY

The highly respected LSU economist Dr. Loren Scott just completed a very significant economic report on the huge economic benefits that the Louisiana economy receives from the energy industry. His report, entitled "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" lists the enormous benefits Louisiana receives from the energy industry, including oil and gas production.<sup>4</sup> I ask that Dr. Scott's be filed into the record of these proceedings. I strongly urge you to read it for purposes of making your decision.

Dr. Scott's conclusions are succinctly summed up by the following quote he makes in his conclusions in the study:

It is the engine that makes the difference." For Louisiana, the presence of the extraction, refining, and pipeline industries have indeed made all the difference. The

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d295782c-f7d1-4699-bf3e-637ce4f3b80f)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/deploy/uploads/Tuscaloosa%20Marine%20Shale.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See Louisiana Department of Natural Resources webpage at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=909>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.growlouisianacoalition.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Loren-Scott-Study.pdf>

energy industry, and its accompanying multiplier effects, has been a powerful engine for economic growth in Louisiana.

In a nutshell, Dr. Scott's study shows the following very significant economic benefits flowing from Louisiana's energy industry to the citizens and governments of this state:

- Louisiana is the nation's number two producer of crude oil and the number two producer of natural gas among the 50 states.
- Louisiana ranks number two among the states in petroleum refining capacity.
- Through both direct and multiplier effects Louisiana's energy industry supported \$73.8 billion in sales in Louisiana firms, generated over \$20.5 billion in household earnings for Louisianans, and supported 287,008 jobs in the state in 2011.
- The \$20.5 billion in earnings represented 11.6 % of total earnings in Louisiana. Personal income in not a single parish in Louisiana reaches this level.
- On average the job multiplier for the petroleum industry in Louisiana was 4.4; that is, for every job created in these sectors 3.4 additional jobs are created in other sectors in the state.
- Louisiana's energy industry directly paid nearly \$1.5 billion in state taxes and fees in FY13, or about 14.6 % of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected.
- Through the \$20.5 billion in household earnings generated by Louisiana's energy industry, state government indirectly was able to collect an additional \$1,438,000,000 in taxes, for a total boost to the state treasury of \$2.9 billion.
- A very conservative estimate is that Louisiana's energy industry directly paid \$410 million in ad valorem taxes to local governments in the state in 2013---a 37.5% increase over 2009. In 43 of the state's 64 parishes, these ad valorem taxes exceeded \$1 million. In 22 parishes the number exceeded \$5 million.

It is important to note that that the Northshore Business Council-- representing 60 businesses and thousands of employees in the Northshore region strongly supports Helis' well and the issuance of the drilling permit, along with the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, which represents 1,000 members and their 30,000 employees, which also strongly supports Helis' plans.

It is also important to note that all of the following regional business groups representing hundreds of thousands of jobs in this area also sternly support Helis' drilling permit and plans:

- Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
- Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Hammond Area Economic and Industrial Development District
- Jefferson Business Council
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
- Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
- River Region Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- St. Tammany Homebuilders Association
- Southeast Regional Coalition of Business Councils
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation<sup>5</sup>

I am confident that, once Helis is granted a drilling permit, similar benefits will come to the people and government of St. Tammany Parish.

#### **HELIS HAS AN OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORD**

Helis' has drilled many wells similar to the one it proposes to drill in the past, and these types of wells are not new to the oil and gas industry or to Louisiana. Helis has an outstanding record of more than 80 years of safe and efficient operations and extensive operations on private, federal and state lands, as well as in the Gulf and in Louisiana waters.

Helis also has years of experience drilling in sensitive environments, such as wildlife and always has the highest regard for its surroundings. Well in advance of being required to do so for its offshore operations, Helis voluntarily implemented the now mandatory Safety and Environmental Management System (called "SEMS") for all of its operations—offshore and onshore. What SEMS means for Helis' St. Tammany well is this:

- i. Full-time, experienced safety inspectors on drilling and completion operations.
- ii. Every employee and contractor on Helis locations is properly trained and given full safety briefings, and

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<sup>5</sup> <http://gnoinc.org/news/publications/press-release/regional-business-community-stands-behind-northshore-business-council-in-support-of-energy-industry/>

- iii. Every Helis employee and contractor can stop work on any operation if he or she deems it unsafe.

Helis has received the following commendations for its excellent track record in drilling safe and environmentally secure wells:

1. Federal offshore regulators have nominated Helis for the National "SAFE" Award for its safety and environmental performance record.
2. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality commended Helis' work for its work remediating and restoring Stone Island due to a pit installed by a prior operator, recognizing that Helis "went above and beyond" in its efforts.
3. The US Coast Guard has commended Helis for its environmental protection efforts.
4. Helis also has received numerous annual safety awards from the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.<sup>6</sup>

#### **OBJECTIONS TO HELIS' PERMIT ARE UNFOUNDED**

The objections to granting Helis' permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily disposed of, as follows:

- Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.
- Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)

employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

- Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in the highly regarded publication, "Pooling and Unitization Treatise," Professors Patrick Martin and Bruce Kramer survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi].

- Louisiana law clearly provides as follows:

The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). (Emphasis added.)

- Moreover, the courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).
- The State of Louisiana has wisely entrusted a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. That office, the Louisiana Office of Conservation, has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as Helis' lessors and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy the mineral rights they own in their own lands.

## HELIS WILL DRILL AND PRODUCE ITS WELL IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE WAY

Objections to Helis' application based on water pollution are also utterly unfounded for the following reasons:

1. Helis will also employ an extra string of casing so that the aquifer will be protected by three concentric strings of casing - one more than the required two strings of casing—along with three layers of cement.
2. For the many other environmentally safe ways that Helis will employ in connection with its proposed well, please see <http://www.helisenergyproject.com/> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP\\_sbr8cqJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LP_sbr8cqJk)
3. Helis' well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 12,000 feet. As the Southern Hills Aquifer extends only to 3,000 feet, Helis' well will be 9,000 feet below the aquifer, providing a significant safeguard to the aquifer.
4. Thousands of wells have been drilled through this aquifer in Louisiana and Mississippi. In fact, fracking projects through this same aquifer are already taking place in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish.
5. There are literally thousands of fracked wells in Louisiana—about two thousand seven hundred (2,700) in the Haynesville Shale area in North Louisiana and some thirty-five (35) in Tangipahoa Parish and other areas near to St. Tammany. See <http://videos.loga.la/home>. According to the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation and local officials in those areas, there are no air, water quality or health problems reported from any fracked well in Louisiana.
6. Several peer-reviewed scientific studies have that concluded that fracking poses no risk to fresh water aquifers. See, for example, the report in the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/science/study-points-to-well-leaks-not-fracking-for-water-contamination.html> In some areas outside of Louisiana there are rare occurrences where hydrocarbon contamination of said aquifers can occur if the shallow casing of an oil or gas well is not properly cemented. In areas where methane contamination of fresh water aquifers can be linked to oil and gas operations, naturally occurring shallow methane accumulations exist in close proximity to the fresh water aquifers. There are, however, no shallow methane accumulations in St Tammany Parish, as evidenced by electric logs run in wells previously drilled in St Tammany and by the fact that no methane gas is found naturally in St Tammany well water.
7. A study by the University of Colorado at Boulder published recently in the respected journal *Analytical Chemistry* of components found in fracking fluid injected into shale to

release oil and gas contains chemicals found in substances most people ingest all the time, including ice cream, laxatives and toothpaste. Though the fluid is mostly water and sand, many critics of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, say chemicals added to the fluid contaminate groundwater. The new study suggests that additives found in one component, surfactants, which breaks surface tension to allow oil to be extracted, are no more toxic than common household items. University researchers collected samples from fracking fluid surfactants in five states — Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Texas. Other chemicals used are commonly found in hair color, IV fluids, laundry detergents, cosmetics and household cleaners.<sup>7</sup>

8. The potential for the casing to leak has been put forward as a concern for potential oil contamination of the Southern Hills Aquifer. Here, as Helis will separate oil from the Southern Hills Aquifer by three concentric layers of pipe and three layers of cement, it is extremely unlikely that the oil and fresh water would come in contact with each other. Corrosion issues, if they were ever to occur, would happen many years after Helis' well is placed on production. By that time, the pressure in the production tubing will be lower than the pressure in the Southern Hills Aquifer; therefore, if communication between the productive tubing and the aquifer occurred, water would flow into the tubing and no oil could flow into the Southern Hills Aquifer.
9. Earthquakes caused by fracking operations have been brought up. There is no evidence that fracking operations have caused earthquakes that a person could feel. While this may have occurred near a few waste water disposal wells, Helis has stated that wastewater from the operation of its well will not be disposed of in St Tammany. And, even if it were, the geology in most of Louisiana and St Tammany Parish is different from the geology in the areas where the few earthquakes have occurred, as those that have taken place have occurred in hard rock country where injected fluids lubricated a fault plane and released some stress (stored energy) along the fault. No stored energy exists along fault planes in shallow Tertiary sediments in Louisiana underlying the wellsite because the unconsolidated sediments slowly deform when any stress is placed on them.
10. Much has been made by opponents of Helis' well about the Southern Hills Aquifer being the sole source of drinking water in St Tammany Parish and therefore no oil and gas activities should be allowed that could possibly harm it. This argument has two major problems: first, the Southern Hill Aquifer extends across all of the Florida Parishes. This water source has and will continue to provide fresh water for hundreds of thousands of

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac502163k> and also see

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/11/13/study-fracking-chemicals-found-in-toothpaste-and-ice-cream/>

people while at the same time over 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled through it over the past 50 years, with no resulting contamination; second, the Southern Hills Aquifer may not a sole source of fresh water because it is actually a sub-surface fresh water zone made up of 10-15 separate fresh water sands. These sands are separated by impermeable shales and are therefore isolated from each other. This fact makes it all but impossible for a subsurface incident from an oil and gas operation to damage the Southern Hills fresh water zone as a whole.

11. Fracking is also not new to this area of Louisiana. Major fracking operations are safely taking place less than 40 miles away through the same aquifer in neighboring Tangipahoa Parish without any incident at all. Fracking operations will begin soon in Washington Parish just to the north of St. Tammany Parish.

I am familiar with Helis Oil & Gas, LLC and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

For all of the reasons set forth in this letter, I strongly urge the Office of Conservation to grant Helis' permit application as Helis' well is in the public interest and will benefit the State of Louisiana and the citizens and government of St. Tammany Parish and will not harm the air or the water of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy R. Lord". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peggy R. Lord

### Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

TO: Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Mr. Jeffrey Wells  
 Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
 Engineering - Regulatory Division  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 State of Louisiana  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field  
 Engineering Docket No. 14-626

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Maurice J. Dupre</i> MAURICE J. DUPRE	PO Box 1897 ABITA SPRINGS LA 70420	15 Nov 2014
2	<i>Vickie O'Hara</i> VICKIE O'HARA	1281 DOWE PK RD COUNTOUR LA 70433	10-15 2014
3	<i>Louis M. Bertucci Jr</i> LOUIS M. BERTUCCI JR	44021 Nicholas Cir. Hammond LA 70403	10-15-14
4	<i>Simone R. Bertucci</i> Simone R Bertucci	44021 Nicholas Circle Hammond, LA 70403	10-15-14
5	<i>Sharon M. Wade</i>	14074 W. Fitzsimons Rd	11/15/14
6	<i>Norman Roche</i> Norman Roche	24005 Robali Dr BUSH LA 70433	11/15/14
7	<i>Camille McCarron</i> CAMILLE MCCARRON	922 Village Walk Covington LA 70433	11/15/14
8	<i>MICHAEL SHARP</i>	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
9	<i>Leanne Sharp</i>	3261 Range Ct. Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
10	<i>Belva Locker</i>	342 Huntington Dr Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
11	<i>MARGIE HUPER</i> <i>Carroll Dimittie</i>	1617 VELA COVE Slidell, LA 70458	11/15/14
12	<i>Aurelio Fonseca Perez</i> Aurelio Fonseca Perez	18302 Pelle Gassin Dr Covington LA 70435	

Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014

WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing) 

3 MARY TERRELL

74373 Military Rd  
Covington, LA 70435

11/15/14

1 Peter Clark

203 W. 21st Ave  
Covington 70433

11/15/14

Alexa McMillen

~~2512~~ 2512 Crossing Ct  
Mandeville, LA 70448

11/15/14

6 Terri Box

214 Maryland Dr  
Luling LA 70070

11/15/14

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OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
PERMIT SECTION

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	<i>Bette Haston</i> Bette Haston	<del>2140 Canal Street</del> Citrus Rd. River Ridge, LA 70123	11/15/14
2	<i>Jeff Haston</i> Jeff Haston	274 Citrus Rd River Ridge 70123	
3	<i>Ray L McKone</i> Ray L McKone	117 Janeda Slidell, LA 70460	11/15/14
4	<i>John Barrett</i> John Barrett	661 Pierre St Mandeville, LA 70448	11/15/14
5	<i>Carmelle D'Arby</i> Carmelle D'Arby	32 Magnolia Gardens Covington 70435	11/15
6	<i>James Mackin</i> James Mackin	98 Gardenia Covington, LA	11/15
7	<i>Kelli Esking</i> Kelli F. Esking	98 Gardenia Dr. Covington, LA 70435	
8	<i>Rebecca Breaud</i> Rebecca Breaud	13391 Stonelake Dr. Folsom, LA 70437	11/15
9	<i>Delbie Morvant</i> Delbie Morvant	305 E-15th Ave Cov La 70433	11/15
10	<i>Urban A. Breaud</i> Urban A. Breaud	13391 Stonelake Dr	11/15/2014
11	<i>Alexandra Manuel</i> Alexandra Manuel	101 Sherry Ln Mandeville	11.15.14
12	<i>J.P. Gilles</i> JP Gilles	117 Black Oak Lane Madisonville, LA 70449	11.15.14

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

OVER →

13. Jim Willoughby 942 Village Walk Covington LA  
~~Ulrich Starke~~ 942 Village Walk Covington LA 70433
14. Hallie ~~McMullen~~ ~~2312 Crossing St~~ ~~mandeville, LA~~ 11/15/14
15. Sophia Chiasson 788 Monterey Dr.  
 Mandeville, LA 11/15/14
16. Mary Kraft Mary Kraft  
 568 Tanager  
 Mandeville, LA 70048 11/15/14

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OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
 PERMIT SECTION

## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

We the undersigned, request that you deny a permit to Helis Oil and Gas to drill the Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No. 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field. We feel that the risks are not commensurate with any benefits to our Parish. While the probability that fracking could damage our sole water source aquifer may be low, the consequences of a contamination would be calamitous. Some chemicals used in conjunction with hydraulic fracturing are toxic in microscopic amounts and cannot be mitigated with current technology. Given the amount of land under lease to Helis Oil & Gas, the intent is to clearly drill 600 to 1,000 wells. We request that the above permit and any subsequent drilling permits be denied.

	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	Lynne A Cowan Lynne A Cowan	1187 Scarlet Oak Ln Mandeville, LA	Nov 16, 2014
2	Carol L. Hoppens Carol L. Hoppens	105 Perret Dr Slidell LA 70461	11/16/14
3	Ken Hoppens Ken Hoppens	105 Perret Dr. Slidell 70461 LA	11/16/14
4	Rebecca O'Brien Rebecca O'Brien	144 Windover Rd. Bush, LA 70431	11/16/14
5	Lisa Knickerbocker Lisa S. Knickerbocker	103 North Dr. Covington La 70433	11/16/14
6	Paulette K. Smith PAULETTE K. SMITH	432 NORTH PARK BLVD. COVINGTON, LA 70433	11/16/14
7	Ben Fox Ben Fox	2606 Frenchmen St New Orleans LA 70116	11/16/14
8	Danne Robinson	58405 CHOCTAW Slidell	11/16
9	L. B. Fox	201 Shavnell Dr Mandeville LA 70468	11/16
10	Claire Szymanski	432 Water Oak Lane Mandeville, LA	11/16
11	Lanni M. Szymanski	21190 Morris Rd Bush LA 70431	
12	Robert R. Szymanski	22430 INDIAN TRAIL Arbita Springs, LA 70430	11/16

**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
PERMIT SECTION

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

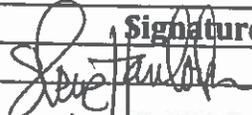
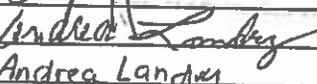
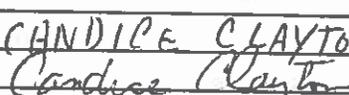
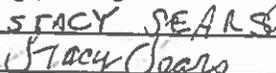
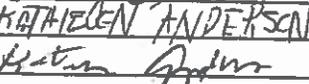
## Petition from Citizens of St. Tammany Parish

**TO: Mr. James H. Welsh**  
**Commissioner of Conservation**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**Mr. Jeffrey Wells**  
**Permits & Reservoir Section Manager**  
**Engineering - Regulatory Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**P.O. Box 94275**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275**

**RE: Eads Poitevent, Et Al, No 1 Well, Lacombe Bayou Field**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

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	Signature & Printed Name	Address	Date
1	 Stephanie Taylor	502 S. TAYLOR ST / cov ha	11-16-14
2	 Andrea Landry	ROR 47 Johnson Rd Cov LA 70435	11-16-14
3	 Shannon Marks	465 Autumn Creek Dr MADISONVILLE LA 70447	11-16-14
4	CANDICE CLAYTON 	79777 Highway 91 Baskin LA 70431	11-16-14
5	STACY SEARS 	327 E 7th Ave Covington LA 70433	11-16-14
6	KATHIELEN ANDERSON 	207 Woodspire Ct Bogalusa LA 70433	11-16-14
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**Deadline for Receipt of comments: On or before November 18, 2014**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

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PERMIT SECTION

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

*Voices of St. Tammany  
57541 Baton Rouge  
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*Mr. Jeffrey Wilkes  
Permits - Reservoir Section Manager  
Emergency - Regulatory Division  
DNR  
State of Louisiana*

*PO Box 94275*

*Baton Rouge LA 70804*



PATRICK H. MARTIN

Attorney at Law  
9972 Bank Street Ext.  
P. O. Box 8184  
Clinton, LA 70722

Phone/Fax 225-683-8907  
email: mart139@bellsouth.net

By email to: jim.welsh@la.gov and dnrinfo@la.gov.

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Mr. James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626; Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I wish to join those who have urged the Office of Conservation to grant the application for the drilling of the proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well in St. Tammany Parish.

Because the public comments will be part of the public record arising from the notice and comment period in connection with the public hearing of November 12, 2014 I should preface my comments with an indication of my background so that my comments can be placed in the proper context.

From 1982-1984 I was Commissioner of Conservation and dealt with similar public concerns about the impacts of drilling of wells and fluids associated with drilling and production of oil and gas. I met with citizens and public groups to assure them of the safety of oil and gas activities. From 1977 to 2011 I was a professor at the LSU Law Center and taught oil and gas, environmental law, and administrative law as well as other subjects. I was for a period Director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute and Reporter for the Mineral Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute. On several occasions I have served as an attorney for the Louisiana Mineral Board. Among my publications are two well-known treatises on Oil and Gas Law: Patrick H. Martin & Bruce M. Kramer, *Williams & Meyers Oil and Gas Law* and B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*. In addition, I am a landowner who possesses the mineral rights to my property, which is located in the same TMS play as the proposed well.

The objections to granting the permit application pertain to surface activities and to subsurface effects that are feared to arise. The legal issues (principally related to zoning) are relatively simple and easily resolved.

Road use and noise from drilling equipment and operations does not differ in kind or magnitude from any other construction activity in a community. Such activity is temporary in nature and has been mitigated by company measures as well as by existing rules and regulations of the Office of Conservation. It is unfair and unjust to deny a person's lawful use of his or her property or

prohibit a valuable business activity simply because of annoyance or inconvenience to some persons in a community. It would be a terrible precedent to allow a vocal minority to deny me a lawful and safe use of my own property.

As to feared consequences from hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, these concerns are unfounded. Fracturing of petroleum wells goes back to 1865 when use was first made of the Roberts Torpedo, which was widely employed in the early days of the industry. Commercial hydraulic fracturing of oil wells dates from 1949, and hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been safely operated with this process being employed. Countless wells that are horizontally drilled and hydraulically fractured have been completed in shale formations in northwest and southeast Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. These wells have dramatically expanded domestic production of oil and natural gas, diminished the reliance on foreign sources of supply and enhanced American security. They have provided numerous jobs in Louisiana and have aided our state's economy and the government's revenues from bonuses, royalties and severance tax. Critics can point to no credible evidence of significant adverse impacts to safety or water supplies in Louisiana or any other state.

Concerning the law of Louisiana on local authority to regulate drilling, in our Pooling and Unitization Treatise, we survey all producing states on this question of preemption and conclude: "Of all of the states, Louisiana is the one with the clearest and most wide-ranging preemption of sub-state unit regulation of oil and gas operations." B. Kramer & P. Martin, *Pooling and Unitization*, §4.05[2][b][vi]. Our Louisiana statute provides: "The issuance of a permit by the commissioner of conservation shall be sufficient authorization to the holder of the permit to enter upon the property covered by the permit and to drill in search of minerals thereon. No other agency or political subdivision of the state shall have the authority and they are hereby expressly forbidden to prohibit or in any way interfere with the drilling of a well or test well in search of minerals by the holder of such a permit." La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 30:28(F). The courts have made it abundantly clear that this statute is to be followed to the exclusion of regulation by local government, *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 397 F.3d 297 (5th Cir. 2005); 467 F.3d 471 (5th Cir. 2006).

The state of Louisiana has been wise to trust a central agency of the state for the protection of the public interest. The Office of Conservation has an exemplary record of safeguarding the public while overseeing the orderly development of oil and gas in Louisiana. It would be extraordinarily harmful to the state to relinquish that role in favor of partisan local interests or give in to unfounded fears that a safe, proven technology might have negative consequences. It would also deny to owners of oil and gas rights, such as myself and hundreds of thousands of other Louisianians, the right to enjoy our rights in our own lands.

I am personally familiar with Helis Oil & Gas and with the owners of the proposed site. I know them to be wise stewards of the land who would do nothing to threaten or harm the environment.

I urge the Office of Conservation to grant the application.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patrick H. Martin*

# LMOGA

## LOUISIANA MID-CONTINENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

730 NORTH BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802 • TELEPHONE (225) 387-3205 FAX (225) 344-5502

November 19, 2014

Mr. James H. Welsh  
 Commissioner of Conservation  
 Office of Conservation  
 Engineering Division  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
 Public Comment on Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC's  
 Drilling Permit Application**

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Commissioner Welsh:

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association ("LMOGA") respectfully submits the following comments to the Office of Conservation ("OOC") in support of the Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC's ("Helis") permit application. These comments are submitted in response to the OOC's September 30, 2014, public notice inviting comments following the public hearing held on November 12, 2014.

LMOGA supports the approval of Helis' permit application for the following reasons:

- 1) The application satisfactorily complies with Louisiana law governing permit application approval
- 2) The hydraulic fracturing method proposed in the application for permit does not pose any additional proven environmental risks
- 3) The project will substantially improve economic development for the parish and the state

LMOGA offers the following comments discussing each of these reasons below.

**1) The Helis Application Complies with Governing Louisiana Law**

Pursuant to the Louisiana Revised Statutes, "the commissioner has jurisdiction and authority over all persons and property necessary to enforce effectively the provisions . . . and all other laws relating to the conservation of oil and gas."<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, LMOGA recognizes and understands that the Commissioner of Conservation possesses the sole authority and jurisdiction to approve or disprove applications for drilling permits. Using this authority, the Commissioner must evaluate applications to determine their compliance under current Louisiana law.

Here, the Helis permit application complies with all laws; thus, the Commissioner has no legally sound reason to deny the permit application. The opposition's concerns go beyond the scope of the Commissioner's criteria used in evaluating whether to grant permit applications, as outlined in all applicable revised statutes and the Louisiana Administrative Code. Therefore, LMOGA fully supports the granting of the permit application.

<sup>1</sup> La. Rev. Stat. 30:4(A).

Next, many critics of the Helis permit application are not located or do not have an interest in the proposed drilling unit. Since those in opposition have failed to make, nor have they been required to make, any claim justifying their legal standing or proprietary interest related to this issue. LMOGA must assume these opposing parties have no proprietary interest in the proposed well. For example, Abita Springs is over seven miles away from the drill site and never established their legal interest in the proposed well. Thus, LMOGA cautions the OOC in considering these comments and creating an expectation for all future drilling permit procedure.

Additionally, some critics and those in opposition of the approval of the Helis permit cite the Louisiana Supreme Court decision in *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Envtl. Control Comm'n.* in support of their position, however, LMOGA submits this case is inapplicable to the Helis application. In *Save Ourselves*, the Court held the Louisiana Constitution requires a balance between environmental protection consistent with the "health, safety, and welfare of the people" and "economic, social, and other factors."<sup>2</sup> The court further reasoned that the legislative intent of this provision "was to implement and perpetuate the constitutional rule of reasonableness."<sup>3</sup> Here, Helis is distinguishable from the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves*. For example, the Helis application fully complies with the OOC's standards, company representatives have publicly commented on the environmental soundness of the proposed well, and the proposed well is designed to meet and exceed applicable regulatory standards unlike the permit applicant in *Save Ourselves* who failed to provide testimony or evidence that their project would avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the OOC should approve the Helis permit application because it complies with all governing statutes, rules, and regulations and because Helis has provided information to the OOC and public as to how it plans to minimize adverse environmental effects in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

## 2) Hydraulic Fracturing

Much of the opposition to the Helis permit application comes from parties concerned with the environmental risks, specifically the risk to drinking water contamination as a result of hydraulic fracturing. However, while this topic has become very contentious for those in opposition, to date, there is no reliable scientific data or research linking hydraulic fracturing to the contamination of drinking sources.

Furthermore, there have been wells successfully and responsibly drilled through freshwater zones in St. Tammany's neighboring parishes, Tangipahoa and Washington. Additionally, several hydraulically fractured wells have been drilled and completed in freshwater zones, similar to Helis' proposed well, in Mississippi. There is no evidence these wells caused any damage to the freshwater zones. Given the close proximity to St. Tammany and the similarity of Helis' project to the wells in Mississippi, LMOGA supports the approval of the Helis permit.

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<sup>2</sup> *Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Envtl. Control Comm'n.*, 452 So. 2d 1152, 1156-57 (La. 1984) (citing La. Const. art. IX § 1).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1157.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1160.

### 3) The Helis Permit Application Benefits the State and Parish Economy

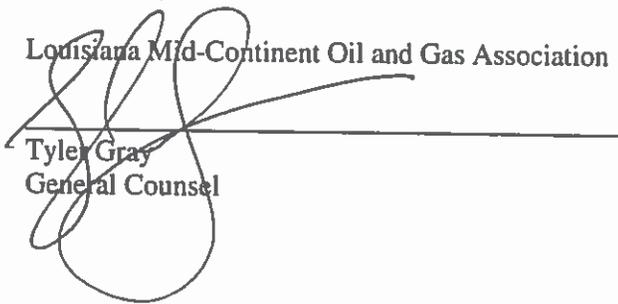
Louisiana's oil and gas industry is a driving force for Louisiana's statewide economy as well as oil and gas producing parishes' local economy. On the state level, leading economists have observed the correlation of Louisiana's economy and the future of the oil and gas industry. The oil and gas industry generates over \$20 billion annually in household income in Louisiana as well as a positive economic impact of approximately \$73 billion annually.<sup>5</sup>

All parishes reap the benefit from collection of severance taxes, local property taxes, and significant direct and indirect economic development, such as job creation and increased sales taxes. These resources allow the parish to use them toward essential infrastructure improvements and social services for its citizens. Additionally, St. Tammany already has many oil and gas operations within its boundaries. Based on these proven economic benefits and resources the oil and gas industry in Louisiana creates for the state and parish governments, this permit should be approved.

In conclusion, LMOGA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Helis application permit. The OOC has gone above and beyond what is required under the rules and regulations to take additional comments at a second, unnecessary and unprecedented, off-site public hearing. Because of the economic benefits the proposed project would bring to the state and parish, the application's compliance with state law, and the lack of proven environmental risks, LMOGA fully supports the approval of Engineering Docket No. 14-626.

Respectfully,

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association



Tyler Gray  
General Counsel

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<sup>5</sup> See, Loren Scott, Ph.D., "The Energy Sector: Still a Giant Economic Engine for the Louisiana Economy" (2014).

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November 17, 2014

Office of Conservation  
 Engineering Division  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Engineering Docket 14-626, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 well

To Whom It May Concern:

The following are my comments regarding the permit request referenced above.

As a long-standing member of the St. Tammany Parish community, I have been concerned about this request for fracking and/or any drilling permits in this parish, for a variety of reasons, primarily because we are a community where a single-source aquifer is the basis for our water. When I attended the hearing regarding this, I heard that there is still a chance, no matter how small, that the aquifer could be contaminated. (The anti-fracking witness, Mr. Quarles, said that the aquifer is stratified into various layers of rock and sand, and there were no guarantees as to safety in the drilling at all, as any piece along the pipe and casing could fail.) While many believe that we are desperate for oil and gas, we truly will die as a community without water. Even the phrase "Water is the new oil" was the basis for a news article this week on "60 Minutes".

Another reason for the concern is that the oil company mentioned that 5.8 million gallons of water are used on each individual well (and we still have no idea about how many wells that they might be interested in drilling). There also was a puzzle (no definitive answers given from Helis) as to from where this water would be obtained. A vague answer of "ponds on the land" was given, yet no one seemed to have an answer as to where these were located, how many there "might" be, how much water "might" be in them, or if indeed they might be fed from any of our beautiful waterways - streams, bayous and rivers - or even if any ponds existed at all! This in and of itself was alarming and cause for pausing for further answers and/or investigation by the DNR.

If indeed the DNR protects our natural resources, let us not forget about the soil, forests, wetlands, abundant wildlife and other plants on these 20,000 acres that would be polluted and contaminated for generations to come. As the St. Tammany League of Women Voters expressed, St. Tammany is NOT "an industrialized parish", and this community does not want to become one either. (see Google Earth tour of well pads clustered in other areas for what

this would look like to this Parish if allowed to go forward

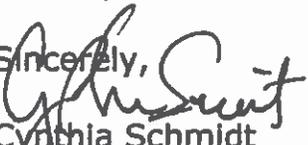
....<https://www.youtube.com/watch?noredirect=1&v=7jN6TSSPZwU&app=desktop>)

Furthermore, while no mention was made regarding earthquakes, how ironic that, the day after the DNR hearing, there was a magnitude 4.8 earthquake in the region of 3 states where hydraulic fracturing is most active! (see USA Today - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/12/kansas-oklahoma-earthquake/18939417/>).

With an acknowledged 50-50 chance for success in this operation; with no answers regarding from where water would come to drill the well; with any chance, no matter how remote, that our precious aquifer could be contaminated; and with a community clearly against these operations, there is no way that the State could authorize any such permits for fracking and/or drilling in this area.

Please consider the needs and values of this community and that water IS the most precious resource we have here, in so many ways. And please come take a ride on the Bayou with us, to see first-hand the true beauty, values and resources of St. Tammany Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Cynthia Schmidt  
59275 Pine Bay Lane  
Lacombe, LA 70445

October/November 2014

Mr. James Walsh

Commissioner of Conservation

Department of Natural Resources

PO Box 94275

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Eads Poitevant Et Al

Number 1 Well

Lacombe Bayou Field

Docket Number 14-626

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**PETITION IN OPPOSITION TO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources reject the application of Helis Oil & Gas, a New Orleans-based company, for permission to drill a vertical test oil well in St. Tammany Parish and to employ the extraction method known as hydraulic (hydro) fracturing if tests indicate oil deposits in the Tuscaloosa Shale Play extending across the mid-section of St. Tammany Parish.

We, the undersigned, likewise ask that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deny a necessary federal wetlands permit sought by applicant Helis Oil & Gas for the designated protected wetlands site along Log Cabin Road east of Louisiana 1088 and northeast of the City of Mandeville.

We, the undersigned, likewise ask the state Department of Environmental Quality to deny the required water quality certificate sought by applicant Helis Oil & Gas.

We likewise ask the state of Louisiana through its various applicable agencies to deny such applications for Helis or any other oil and gas exploration company for any location in St. Tammany Parish where such oil and gas exploration companies may seek to drill in the future.

Our opposition is based on increasing bothersome studies by respected environmental scientists linking the hydraulic fracturing or fracking method to serious water contamination problems and resident health problems in other areas of the country.

Our deep concern is heightened by the fact that the proposed test well site Helis hopes to drill in St. Tammany Parish will pass through the Southern Hills Aquifer, the primary source of water in all its uses in St. Tammany Parish.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
Shelley B Price	LA 70448 2184 DUPRE MANDEVILLE	985-626-7028	shelleyblueeyes@bell.com
Jean Simon	COV 70135 154 Belle Terre	892-8474	JOAN154.SIMON@gmail.com
Diana Bernard	2170 Rue Pickney	778-0917	deanna@nomusicvents.com
Dorothea Dell	353 Homestead Plce		dorotheadell@man.com
Robert Paul Waldron	69200 Shiver Ct. Mandeville 70471	985 892 6315	robwaldron@bell.com
Mike Stagg	200 Fox Run #3 70507	337-962-1688	MIKESTAGG@MIKESTAGG.US
Aubrey LeBlanc	329 Chippewa ST	504-657-2490	aubrey@healthygulf.org
Kay Jordan	750 Charreuil Mandeville	985-966-6547	
LeAnn Bonnis-Magee	22155 Grand St. Abbeville 70511	985-205-2261	lepermag@epa.com
Wilbert Perryman	3758 4th Timberline Dr Slidell	985-285-6481	
Brunetta Weeden	32583 N. 3rd Ave Slidell	985-867-7605	NH
Patrick Miller (CINCINNATI)	304 Covey Ct SLIDELL	985 649-1670	patrick.miller@gmail.com

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

NAME	ADDRESS	Covington	PHONE	EMAIL
Galyn Wright	74365 Hwy 437		985 809 1006	galyn.noelle2@gmail.com
Leonard Brandy	"		"	
Lilyan Delchamps	240 Partridge St		985-787-4787	CHEFB504@GMAIL.COM
Amanda Esp-Delchamps	240 Partridge St. Cov 70433		203-644-2281	amandaesp@gmail.com
Sandra Doney	3807 Brookwood Dr.		(985) 444-0342	sucdoney@yahoo.com
MARY CATAIRE	19185 Hwy 40 Cov,		(857) 985-4482	CATAIRE@bellsouth.com
Paula ALGORN	16112 N. S. NEWCRETE		985-747-8311	
MARGIE VICKNAIR-ARAY	27400 JOHN LANE, 70445		985-373-7097	nolamargie@gmail.com
DARRELL ALEX-WIFE	716 ADAMS <sup>NOVA</sup> <sup>SPRINGS</sup>		504-427-1855	darryl.alexander@sierracable.com
Barbara Jackson	23052 8th St. <sup>SPRINGS</sup> 70420		512-699-0218	barbinabita@gmail.com
Adrienne Juttner	12256 Kusterwald Rd		985-327-	acjuttner@aol.com
+ Adrian Juttner	" A Vista Springs		5458	" "
+ Annie Juttner	" "		" "	" "
+ Kyo Juttner	" "		" "	" "
BOMER COOL	2466 S Esquimaux St		985 624 7644	bomac58@hotmail.com
Brenley Perkins	1015 Stratford Dr 70445		985-848-3501	
Brenda Palmer	P.O. BOX 1132 <sup>LACOMBE</sup>		985-290-0109	bpalmer-5754@yahoo.com
Naile Ledet	218 Calwood <sup>MOBILE</sup>		504-473-7483	naile.ledet@caloo.com
Sarah Batiste	28613 Janet St <sup>LACOMBE</sup>		985-607-4753	Sarah2290@att.net
Jean Dubrey-Ducree	61121 McGehee <sup>LACOMBE</sup>		985-882-5009	quarry69@hotmail.com
Sheila DeKroon	419 N. Tulen <sup>COVINGTON</sup>		427-324-1355	saacsteple@aol.com
GERALD P. BODET	7256 Military Rd Cov		504-256-5233	geraldbode@yahoo.com
Janice B. Bodet	7256 Military Rd		(504) 288-9240	janicebbode@gmail.com
Jerry <del>Graves</del>	3086 Duncker Loop S		985-371-1148	hgw3@yahoo.com
Susan Green	903 Bonfaced Pl.		985-951-9470	susanemail9@bellsouth.net
Jim Philip Long	2349 D N. Gratchen Dr.		985-893-7422	jlong24@bellsouth.net
JOHN D. LEA	826 OLAND LANDING RD		985-871-9407	ITAZLEA@hotmail.com
Suzanne Cohen	985 871 8836		985 871 8836	70094 Nancy <sup>of</sup> Mandeville 70471
Gary Simon	154 Belle Terre		985-807-7525	@ark154@charter.net
Mandy On	PO Box 66323 <sup>70806</sup>		225-928-8245	frankie@kennweb.org
William Kirkpatrick	72497 Kingbird St <sup>70445</sup>			
Sk. T. Stange	911 N. Veterans (Cov.)		70433	
Billie Stanga	415 N. Vernon Cov		70433	billieinstangman@yahoo.com
Stephan Howden	713 Colbert St <sup>MOBILE</sup>		985-237-2357	
Susan Howden	713 Colbert St <sup>MOBILE</sup>		504-723-5284	
Richard Roy	327 Marsa AVE.		985-624-9607	Rhoyd.issa@gmail.com

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
Jerome Elzy Sr.	819 W. 31 <sup>st</sup> Ave <sup>Con. La</sup>	985-869-2289	boelzy@yahoo.com
JOYCE H. JACKSON	1028 W. 25 <sup>th</sup> Ave. <sup>Con. LA</sup>	985-327-5307	JJACKSON6458@YAHOO.COM
Amanda Duce	26246 Terapaulty Trail	985-218-9711	
Cynthia A. Bux	3554A Duval Dr	985-641-9432	
MARTA BADON	59541 Badon Rd	985-649-9746	nowlinc@mini@yahoo.com
BILL BADON	59591 Badon Road, Slidell	985-649-9746	LthRANT@HOTMAIL.COM
Downa Gardner	328 S Iowa Dr, Atchafalaya	985-893-4079	dsgardner@att.net
Stephen Gardner	"	"	"
E Scott	300 Orleans Ave	985-791-5878	MODINE@AOL.COM
Jean Wiggins	71599 Leveson St	Marta	J_Wiggins2003@yahoo.com
MARY McNARY	69360 FAIR OAKS W. COV	893-2815	mhmcnary@yahoo.com
Kevin McNary	69360 FAIR OAKS LN. COVINGTON	(985)630-6338	mcnarykw@icloud.com
Shi	110 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave	985-892-3316	info@villere.net
ALLAN BRESLOW	233 RAINBOW RD, COV	70433	WOTAWTACO@GMAIL.COM
Norelle Scherer	725 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave	985-620-1335	Scherer2@yahoo.com
Angelina Hoo	81016 Allet Rd	985-886-2023	Bush, LA 70471
Gilbert Hoo	"	"	"
M. Hoo	418 Ruthertons	961-0748	gshoo@gmail.com
Jamey Poole	Mandeville, LA		
Maurice Dupre	PO Box 1897 Arita Grand	985-892-8724	mdupre@me.com
Suane Mitchell	1427 Clowen St	985-624-5317	
Kortl Hutchison	28498 Lake Dr. S	985-882-7271	
Lyn Foster	1306 Marianne	985-231-4619	robin.foster@charter.net
ANNA FORSTER	1316 Marianne Mandeville	504-327-8101	gentleanna388@yahoo.com
LOUIS HENSCHEM	22168 C <sup>th</sup> Arita 70420		MONKEYFINGER44@YAHOO
MAURICE J. DUPRE	21041 NOLAN LANE	985-892-8794	mdupre@me.com
Wanda Reed	PO Box 189, Mand	985-264-5320	yourbaby06@bellsouth.net
Wanda Reed	P.O. Box 189 Mand	985-788-2675	wreard@bellsouth.net
Kathleen Harris	220 Austerlitz Mand	(985)626-9800	
Marylin Strong	1914 Silvermail St Cov.	985-237-3277	mstrong@ymail.com
Helen Curran	406 W. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Mand	810-407-3294	hcurran5@att.net
Cleopatra Seay Jr	406 W. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. <sup>Covington</sup>	810-407-3294	cleopatra@att.net
WALTER BARBIER	22552 Marlene Ave	504-214-2445	WBARBIER@AOL.COM
GERARD R. BARBIER	80703 HWY 1083	(985)249-5779	
Suzanne Cohen	70094 Nancy Rd	987-871-6536	



00260637

Mrs Shelley B Price  
2184 Dupre St.  
Mandeville, LA 70448



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MR. JAMES WALSH  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION  
DEPT. NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 94275  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804



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PEITION ENCLOSED

# LISKOW & LEWIS

A Professional Law Corporation

822 Harding Street  
 Post Office Box 52008  
 Lafayette, LA 70505  
 (337) 232-7424 Main  
 (337) 267-2399 Fax

1001 Fannin Street, Suite 1800  
 Houston, TX 77002  
 (713) 651-2900 Main  
 (713) 651-2980 Fax

One Shell Square  
 701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
 New Orleans, LA 70130  
 (504) 581-7979 Main  
 (504) 556-4108 Fax

www.Liskow.com

November 19, 2014

Writer's Name  
 Louis Buatt

*Via FedEx*

Direct: (504) 556-4002  
 lbuatt@Liskow.com

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VIA Email: [dnrinfo@la.gov](mailto:dnrinfo@la.gov)

Office of Conservation  
 Engineering Division  
 P.O. Box 94275  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: **Comments**  
**Helis Drilling Permit Application, Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**  
**Engineering Docket No. 14-626**

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

By letter dated September 10, 2014, Helis Oil & Gas ("Helis") submitted an application for a drilling permit authorizing it to drill a vertical well in order to test the TMS interval in its proposed Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well, in the Lacombe Bayou Field, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Thereafter, by letter dated September 15, 2014, the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, on behalf of the Town of Abita Springs and the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany ("CCST") requested a public notice and comment period regarding Helis' referenced application for drilling permit. Tulane Environmental Law Clinic also requested a public hearing.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the Office of Conservation that St. Tammany Land Co., L.L.C. ("STLCO") supports issuance of the requested drilling permit and provides the following comments and information in support of Helis's permit application.

STLCO is an owner of the location where Helis proposes to drill the well and an owner of the minerals. STLCO and its predecessors have ties to St. Tammany Parish dating back to the 1870's. We have been contributing to the economy of St. Tammany Parish for nearly 150 years through cultivation of timber, operation of a timber mill, the responsible development of property and other activities. From the late 1800's to the 1930's our predecessors were one of the largest employers in St. Tammany Parish, operating a timber mill and cultivating timber. STLCO has and continues to pay substantial taxes, which are used by St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana to fund important public infrastructure projects and services, such as, building and maintaining roads and bridges and to pay for education and health care within the Parish. Throughout the years we have also been responsible for making land available in St. Tammany Parish for public use. One significant example is our conveyance of close to 16,000 acres to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the establishment of the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. This conveyance dates back nearly 45 years and has provided a vast area on which citizens of St. Tammany Parish have been able use for public recreation.

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Additionally, we have provided property to Recreational Districts and the School Board for parks, recreational facilities, and schools.

We have and continue to be good stewards of the land. In fact, in the mineral lease, Helis is restricted to areas where it can locate a well and other structures in support of those activities. These contractual restrictions are imposed to minimize any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and also to allow for future responsible development of the property and surrounding properties. STLCO is also an owner of the area around the proposed well site. The site where Helis proposes to drill the well is remotely located and is on property that has been in timber cultivation for more than 150 years. In addition, the property surrounding the proposed well site has likewise been in timber cultivation. The nearest structure to the proposed drill site is located more than a mile away. There are no residences within a mile of the area. Interstate 12 is located approximately 1,837 feet away from the proposed drill site. Lakeshore High School is located more than a mile away. The town of Abita Springs is in excess of 7 miles away. There are no registered water wells within a 1 mile radius of the proposed drill site. Accordingly, we are confident the proposed location of this well minimizes any potential adverse impacts to the environment and the public and will not adversely impact the responsible future development of this or any of the surrounding properties.

In general, domestic energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil and provides increasing energy and economic security for the nation, region, and the state, which is particularly important during this period of geopolitical instability throughout the world. Energy production ties into societal benefits, such as comfort, transportation, lifestyle, and jobs. Energy production benefits the state from collection of severance taxes, from manufacturing and other economic development based on reliable supplies of affordable domestic energy with a growing population base. There are specific benefits to the parish including severances taxes, local taxes, and significant economic development. The increase in economic development will result in more jobs, increased sales taxes and additional local property taxes. All of which provides substantial additional resources to the parish that can be used to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the parish.

There is no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is a vital public interest. There is also no dispute that the economic recovery of the nation is dependent on and will continue to require additional energy resources. As such, the demand for energy will continue to increase. There is also no dispute that the public is dependent on crude oil resources to fuel its transportation system and that a robust transportation system is vital to the nation's economic recovery as well as to the public's way of life. Projects such as the one Helis is proposing could potentially provide a significant amount of crude oil to support the nation's economic recovery and to provide reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

A recent study by Dr. David Dismukes, professor and executive director for the LSU Center for Energy Studies, titled "Unconventional Resources and Louisiana's Manufacturing Development Renaissance" (January 11, 2013), provides an economic overview of the Louisiana manufacturing sector, examines the importance of available and affordable energy to

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this sector, and show how the emergence of unconventional resources has resulted in a manufacturing investment renaissance in Louisiana. As of the date of the report some \$62.3 billion in new capital investments have been announced in Louisiana and are likely to be developed between the next five to eight years. Since the report several other significant announcements have been made for additional projects, so the dollars for new capital is even higher than that reported.

Dr. Dismukes reports statewide impacts as follows:

- Potential for in-state capital investment in Louisiana to total \$20.2 billion (out of the total of \$62.3 billion) over the next nine years;
- More than \$29.7 billion in economic output over a nine-year period;
- A cumulative increase of some 214,670 job-years; and
- \$9.3 billion increase in wages over a nine-year construction period.

He also reports regional impacts to South Louisiana as follows:

- Over \$22.5 billion in output;
- 160,000 in job-years; and
- \$7.4 billion in wages.

Based on a study conducted by Professor Ladd for the Journal of Rural Social Sciences, other parishes in Louisiana with development of oil and gas from resource formations have benefitted as outlined below (See 28(2), 2013, pages 56-89):

- Improved local economy/buffered recession;
- Increased local/state tax revenues;
- Created new job opportunities;
- Created new businesses/restaurants;
- Increased income/wealth for people with mineral leases;
- Improved local services/schools/libraries;
- Benefited chemical/energy/water services industry;
- Increased population/housing/property values;
- Increased U.S. energy production/security;
- Created new markets/uses for energy resources;
- Reduced energy prices;
- Created new R&D programs for state universities;
- Benefited local charities/nonprofits; and
- Improved community race relations.

Accordingly, based on the forgoing studies and other information available, the development of energy resources from resource formations, such as the project proposed by Helis, is necessary for the nation and state to achieve energy and economic security and provides significant economic benefits to the state, region and parish that are necessary to build needed infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and provide essential services, such as education and healthcare to the citizens of the state, region and parish. These projects, including the project proposed by Helis, are vitally important to the public interest, including but not limited to,

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supporting the economic recovery of the nation and supplying the reliable and affordable fuel the public is dependent on for transportation and its way of life.

Many of the comments referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic in its request for a public hearing relate to hydraulic fracturing. We would note that this application for a drilling permit does not request authorization to conduct hydraulic fracturing. At any rate, the comments and concerns referenced by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic that relate to hydraulic fracturing are unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, shortly after Helis made its request for unitization, the public was provided misinformation concerning the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing. In fact, there has been no credible information, data or scientific studies presented that support the notion that hydraulic fracturing presents any significant risk of impacts to freshwater supplies or the environment.<sup>1</sup> It appears Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's comments related to hydraulic fracturing are based on unsubstantiated claims and conclusions by those who oppose development of conventional energy resources that hydraulic fracturing somehow and in some way could contaminate drinking water resources. The purpose of this misinformation campaign clearly appears to be designed to simply instill fear in the public to achieve goals that restricts the development of conventional energy resources, thereby decreasing the availability and increasing the costs of conventional energy resources in an effort to artificially make alternative energy resources more competitive. Such policies and goals are misguided and would in fact be detrimental to the energy and economic security opportunities for the country, region and state, as such, would be detrimental to the public welfare. We would point out that EPA has been evaluating the potential impacts from hydraulic fracturing for years now and has been unable to draw any conclusions that hydraulic fracturing has impacted drinking water resources.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, as set forth below, the scientific studies, data and information support that hydraulic fracturing has and can continue to be conducted without posing a threat to drinking water resources.

During the public hearing concerning this matter held on November 12, 2014, no evidence was presented that this proposed project presented any unreasonable risks of harm to the environment or public welfare, including adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water resources. The only witness presented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic was Mark Quarles, a registered professional geologist. Mr. Quarles' testimony only discussed the "possibility" of the potential for leaks of drilling and hydraulic fracturing fluids to get into an aquifer. He never presented any testimony or evidence that he assessed or in any way attempted to quantify any risks of probability of such fluids entering any aquifers or any probability of any adverse impacts to any aquifers. In fact his testimony was largely outside of his professed area of expertise, where he testified about the "possibility" of fluids leaking from various components of the well. During his testimony and cross examination, it was made clear that Mr. Quarles is

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<sup>1</sup> See Council of Canadian Academics (2014) *Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada* (Report from the Expert Panel of Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction) pg. 66; *Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process*, 2014; and *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing*, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> EPA's Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources: Progress Report (December 2012), where EPA states the current report "cannot be used to draw conclusions about potential impacts to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing....[and]EPA has not made any judgment about the extent of exposure to these [fracking] chemicals...or their potential impact on drinking water resources".

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not a petroleum or civil engineer and is not registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. In addition, his testimony and cross examination demonstrated he has no education, training or experience that would qualify him to testify as an expert concerning the design of a well and the potential for failure of any well component. In fact, overall he demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of the regulatory requirements for such a well and the design of the well Helis is proposing. We would also point out that Statewide Order 29-B requires that certain information in applications to drill be certified by an engineer with a Professional Engineering registration.<sup>3</sup> Lastly, his testimony concerning the possibility of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing harmful chemicals was completely speculative, where he testified that it was "possible" that such fluids could "possibly" contain petroleum distillates and that benzene could "possibly" be one of those constituents. He never presented any evidence, facts or basis to support any such claims. In fact a recent study by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder published in the journal "Analytical Chemistry" found that fracking fluids in five states were no more toxic than substances commonly found in homes. The study found that the chemicals found in fluid samples were also commonly found in everyday products, from toothpaste to laxatives to detergent to ice cream. Accordingly, his testimony should be disregarded or alternatively given very little weight.

The testimony of the Helis experts during the public hearing clearly demonstrated how the proposed project would be protective of the environment, including groundwater and surface water resources. They specifically testified concerning the design of the well<sup>4</sup> and the geology in the area and how the proposed well would be protective of groundwater resources. They also testified concerning the design of the well and the operational plan, including the use and management of water for hydraulic fracturing, demonstrating how surface water resources would be protected.

Freshwater zones would be protected by multiple strings of casing cemented in place providing multiple and redundant levels of protection. When complete, the well design with multiple and redundant permanent layers of protection, that exceed regulatory standards, will eliminate any probability of damage to the aquifers initially and through the life of the well. According to the *American Water Works Association's White Paper "Water and Hydraulic Fracturing, 2013"* (AWWA White Paper) wells that are properly designed and operated pose no significant threat to ground water resources, since it would take the simultaneous failure of multiple safeguards for such fluids or hydrocarbons to escape and migrate to drinking water resources.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the geology of the area in which the pad site is located is particularly suitable for the proposed project for two reasons; 1) the distance between the lowest fresh water zone and the zone which may be hydraulically fractured; 2) the lack of natural faulting. If hydraulic fracturing were to take place, the zone that would be hydraulically fractured is approximately 9,400 feet or 1.8 miles below the base of the deepest freshwater zone. There are many impermeable shale and clay units between the zone that may be hydraulically fractured and any freshwater zone. There is also no faulting present in the area to act as a potential pathway

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<sup>3</sup> This is a requirement where an engineer is providing these services to a third party.

<sup>4</sup> Unlike Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Helis presented testimony related to the design of the well by a registered Professional Engineer with 45 years of experience, Adam T. Bourgoyne, Jr. P.E..

<sup>5</sup> Also see GWPC et al. 2009 and Discussion Paper for Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process, 2014.

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for migration.<sup>6</sup> And according to the AWWA White Paper, where hydraulic fracturing takes places hundreds to thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it is unlikely that fissures could be created extending into freshwater zones. Based on a study by *King, La Vergne Bryan, & Clark, 2012* fractures induced from hydraulic fracturing will only extend vertically approximately 100 meters and laterally 200-300 meters due to lithologic pressure.<sup>7</sup> If hydraulic fracturing were to take place related to this project, it would not only be thousands of feet below any freshwater zone, it would be almost two miles below the deepest freshwater zone, making the proposed project area very suitable to safely conduct hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas production. Consequently, based on the well design and the geology of this project area, the project does not pose a threat to drinking water resources.

We would also point out that hydraulic fracturing associated with oil and gas developments are exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In the 2005 Energy Policy Act Congress specifically exempted such hydraulic fracturing unless diesel fuel was used as a fracturing fluid.<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, Congress has determined that such hydraulic fracturing conducted under state regulatory programs are protective of drinking water resources and the environment.

It is also important to note this would not be the first well to be drilled through the freshwater zones in this area. Dating back many decades, we have granted many Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases covering our property in St. Tammany Parish including the subject tract. The Office of Conservation should take this fact into account when evaluating this permit application. Based upon a review of the data contained in DNR's SONRIS database, a total of at least 73 oil and gas wells have been drilled in St. Tammany Parish alone, and many of these wells were drilled much closer to locations of local water wells than Helis' proposed well site. In addition, there has been another 124 oil and gas wells drilled through the same freshwater zones in the neighboring parishes of Washington and Tangipahoa. We also understand there have been several wells recently drilled and completed, which were hydraulically fractured, just across the state line in Mississippi. These wells in Mississippi that were hydraulically fractured were drilled through freshwater zones with no evidence of damage to the freshwater zones. Considering the previous and current substantial oil and gas activities that have been conducted over many decades and the lack of impacts to the freshwater aquifers in the area, there is no reasonable basis to believe the proposed well will adversely impact the drinking water resources in the area.

The right to own, possess and use property for our benefit is a fundamental right we all have in this country, and when government regulation goes too far it effects a taking of property requiring compensation. Under the circumstances here, a denial of the referenced permit would constitute a regulatory taking, requiring compensation. As a mineral servitude owner, STLCO has a reasonable expectation to be able to develop the oil and gas resources that are subject to its

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<sup>6</sup> In addition to the information provided by Helis an independent geologist with more than 25 years of experience has reviewed the site geology and confirmed no evidence of faulting.

<sup>7</sup> We understand based on Helis' hydraulic fracture design fractures are estimated to only extend out 200 feet.

<sup>8</sup> SDWA § 1421(d) states that "the term 'underground injection' excludes ... the underground injection of fluids or propping agents (other than diesel fuels) pursuant to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities."

November 19, 2014

mineral servitude. There is long standing precedent in this state that allows mineral servitude owners the right and ability to develop these oil and gas resources. This long standing precedent allowing the development of oil and gas resources exist even where local governments have attempted to prevent such development by imposing their own requirements.<sup>9</sup> As such, STLCO has always had a reasonable expectation that it would be able to develop these oil and gas resources where the regulatory requirements are met, even where opponents to the issuance of the permit allege that issuance of the permit would be in violation of local zoning ordinances and/or requirements. Accordingly, denial of the referenced permit would not only result in usurping landowner rights, it would constitute a regulatory taking requiring compensation. In addition, to the extent the application of these zoning ordinances and/or requirements are deemed valid and would now prevent the development of the oil and gas resources subject to STLCO's mineral servitude, such as application of the ordinances and/or requirements under the circumstances would likewise constitute a regulatory taking by St. Tammany Parish, requiring compensation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. In sum, we support issuance of the permit for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,

Louis E. Buatt

LEB/shb

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<sup>9</sup> See *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 967 F.3d 297 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Cir. 2013); *Hunt v. Batchelor*, 644 So.2d 191 (La. 1994); *Greater New Orleans Expressway Com. Traver Oil Co.*, 494 So.2d 1204 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1986); La. R.S. 30:28(A),(D), & (F); and La. Atty. Gen Op. Nos 82-1021, 88-418, and 89-416.

November 19, 2014

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We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. In sum, we support issuance of the permit for the reasons set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,



Louis E. Buatt

LEB/shb

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<sup>9</sup> See *Energy Management Corp. v. City of Shreveport*, 967 F.3d 297 (U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Cir. 2013); *Hunt v. Batchelor*, 644 So.2d 191 (La. 1994); *Greater New Orleans Expressway Com. Traver Oil Co.*, 494 So.2d 1204 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1986); La. R.S. 30:28(A),(D), & (F); and La. Atty. Gen Op. Nos 82-1021, 88-418, and 89-416.

November 19, 2014

Office of Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Engineering Division  
Post Office Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Eads Poitevent et al #1  
Engineering Docket No. 14-626

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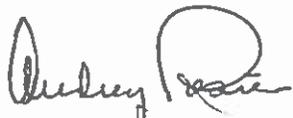
Dear Sirs:

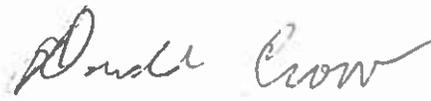
The Crow Estate respectfully requests your approval of the drilling permit for the proposed Helis operated Eads Poitevent et al #1 well located in St. Tammany Parish. We are a 5<sup>th</sup> generation family with deep tap roots in St. Tammany Parish and specifically with the lands that we call home today. We control approximately 1,000 acres within a few miles of the Eads Poitevent well location and are very much in favor of a quality operator like Helis developing the oil and gas resource in our area. We see no threat to our water wells which range in depth of 850' to 2,000' deep. We trust that Helis will drill and complete the required wells in a mechanically and environmentally responsible manner as dictated by DNR. We see no basis for concern over the hydraulic fracture completion methods proposed by Helis since the practice is well documented as a proven practice within the State of Louisiana as well as other oil and gas producing states across the United States.

Developing the subsurface mineral estate of landowners like ourselves is obviously very important monetarily but it also benefits the local municipalities and state. Portions of Louisiana and other states have embraced active development of oil and gas minerals with this technology without incident. The Crow Estate has standing in St. Tammany and has serious concerns that special interest groups with ulterior motives may potentially interfere with the development of our mineral estate and impair tax entitlement by the State of Louisiana. Please approve the Helis Eads Poitevent et al #1 permit. If you would like feedback from a 5<sup>th</sup> generation St. Tammany family, living on the land and proud of the Parish's quality of life, I encourage to call me at 985-249-1993.

Sincerely,

  
Greg Crow

  
Audrey Rosier

  
Donald Crow

Greg Crow  
30303 Sticker Bay Road,  
Lacombe, LA 70445

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Office of Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,  
Engineering Division  
Post Office Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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## Daniel Henry

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**From:** John Adams (DNR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2014 8:16 AM  
**To:** Daniel Henry  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Helis Permit

[For inclusion in Helis Comments](#)

[John Adams](#)

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**From:** Burns, Rep. Timothy (Chamber Laptop) [mailto:tburns@legis.la.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:27 PM  
**To:** John Adams (DNR)  
**Cc:** Burns, Rep. Timothy (District Office)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Helis Permit

Dear Mr. Adams:

I believe that any permit granted to Helis Oil should be conditioned upon a zoning change from the present zoning of A-1 residential to an industrial zoning.

Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that a home rule charter can authorize a local government to "exercise any power and performance of any function necessary, requisite, or proper for the management of its affairs, not denied by general law or inconsistent with this constitution."

Article VI, Section 17, authorizes parishes and municipalities to adopt regulations for land use, zoning, and historic preservation.

Using the express powers granted to it in the Louisiana Constitution, St. Tammany Parish has enacted a comprehensive land use plan and zoned certain areas of the parish residential while others industrial. The present zoning is the most restrictive as the plans for growth in this corridor envisioned residential housing. If a duplex in this area would require a zoning change or waiver, then so should fracking operations.

Although R.S. 30:4 grants the commissioner of conservation very broad authority over oil and gas drilling and production activities, and R.S. 30:28 provides specifically for his authority with respect to permitting drilling, both the revised statutes and the constitution is silent as to whether this authority overrides land use zoning.

In addition, there is very little legal guidance on the issue.

Attorney general opinion no. 05-272 looked at the question of injection wells, which are also subject to the authority of the commissioner of conservation under R.S. 30:4. That opinion examined that authority vis a vis a home rule charter parish (Iberia Parish) and concluded that "even with a comprehensive zoning ordinance, a parish may not entirely prohibit the location in the parish of certain types of waste or storage facilities. It may be that the same logic would apply to fracking activities.

In *Vanguard Environmental, LLC v Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government*, the First Circuit considered a conflict between a local zoning regulation and a state law regarding the siting of a disposal well and held that waste injection wells, including siting, is the exclusive jurisdiction of the office of conservation.

However, these conclusions seem to be limited to injection wells and not drilling activities. Since there is limited guidance on this issue the Office of Conservation should either wait until the litigation is concluded or make the permit contingent upon the proper zoning.

Rep. Tim Burns  
2090 Woodrow Street  
Suite A  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
985-624-4492 (o)  
985-624-4496 (f)  
985-373-3939 (c)

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## FAX COVER SHEET

TO	James Welsh
COMPANY	LA Department of Natural Resources
FAX NUMBER	12252423428
FROM	Barbara Jackson
DATE	2014-11-19 22:20:09 GMT
RE	Comments of Engineering #14-626 Eads #1

### COVER MESSAGE

Attached please find my comments in opposition to granting a permit for this well.  
Barbara Jackson

**Submitted via Fax to 225-242-3428 on November 19, 2014**

**To: James Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation  
Jeffrey Wells, Permits & Reservoir Section Manager  
Patrick Courreges, Communications Director**

**Office of Conservation  
Engineering Division  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804**

**Re: Engineering Docket No. 14-626  
Eads Poitevent et al No. 1 Well**

**From: Barbara Jackson  
22052 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Abita Springs, LA 70420  
*barbinabita@gmail.com***

**All of us in St. Tammany Parish are at a monumental crossroads. The road taken now will impact us for generations to come. If we go down one road, we can never come back. On that road, we would take the first step that could turn over 60,000 leased acres or 11% of our Parish to intense industrialization. That percentage could be just for starters.**

**It would be unrealistic and not in keeping with being stewards for our Parish to consider the permitting this one well in independently of what would surely follow.**

**If this well is permitted, others will follow. Hydraulic fracturing is an expensive undertaking. No oil company would put in just one well. To make the economics work, a great many wells must follow. If you permit this well, you will start St. Tammany Parish on the path to becoming a heavily industrialized Parish instead of an oasis.**

**I believe that it is imperative to put the permitting of this well put into the largest, most comprehensive, and most far-reaching perspective. Our Parish has not had any drilling of wells in 25 years or so. Those were conventional wells with far less environmental impact and need for the use of water resources and chemicals.**

**If we are to be good stewards for those who will follow us, we need to take the most comprehensive approach to anticipating how the actions we take now might impact St. Tammany Parish in the future.**

**WRITTEN STATEMENTS (not from Hearing)**

**What are some impacts that need to be addressed?**

- **How does the increased risk of flooding resulting from clear cutting thousands of acres endanger our community?**
- **How will the impacts of toxic chemicals be prevented if they are not disclosed beforehand?**
- **What economic burdens will be passed on to St. Tammany Parish from the damage to roads, from the additional health care costs, from the increase in traffic and traffic accidents, from the decrease in property values?**
- **What will be the impact on our livestock and agriculture from air pollution?**
- **If the source of the massive amounts of water permanently removed from availability is not identified, how can the risks be determined?**
- **What are the implications of having a fault line, classified as active, that runs from Baton Rouge to Lake Pontchartrain?**
- **What if the profitability of this type of drilling is unreliable and we are left numerous abandoned wells?**
- **Does the State have the resources available to monitor additional well sites?**
- **What would be the impact a direct hit from a category 5 hurricane?**

**I am sure that if this permit were put into the largest and most far-reaching perspective, there would be even more considerations. I submit that if all of the issues are considered, this permit must be denied. The negative consequences for the citizens of St. Tammany Parish are not worth the risks both known and as yet unknown.**

**Helis Oil recently had a full-page newspaper ad in which Helis stated that “they know this project can be handled safely.” I am sure that Helis would want to operate safely and would try to do so, but there are too many subcontractors and possibilities for human error and technical failures that are not under their control. Even if it could be maintained that the odds of accidents are low, when those accidents do occur, the odds are very high that they will be calamitous and difficult or not possible to mitigate or will even go undetected. As more and more wells are allowed, the cumulative odds become greater and greater. The risks to our environment and human health are inherent and the damages cannot be prevented. Those who believe fracking is safe have put economic interests first.**

**I see the folks fighting fracking as sitting at a bedside of a beautiful community -- with the political cards stacked against them -- feeling powerless to stop impending ravages and to protect their community for future generations.**

**I ask the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to deny the above referenced permit and any subsequent drilling permits. I ask you to have the courage to buck the pressures from the political and business communities and see to it that this one Parish in the State of Louisiana is not horizontally fractured. Let St. Tammany Parish take the placebo and be the test case for remaining exempt from fracking as the years ahead bring safer ways to meet energy needs.**

**Submitted with respect and great hopes for the future of my beloved Parish.**