

# City of Arlington Natural Gas Program-Issues Discussion Topics

for the  
Planning and Zoning Commission Work Session

March 31, 2010

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Below are comments from **MMA, Chesapeake, Vantage Energy, and Titan Operating**, *in italics and red*, regarding the proposed changes to the City of Arlington Gas Well Ordinance.

1. **FRAC PONDS:**

Current Procedure:

- A. Lined pit used to store fresh water for fracture operations
- B. Temporary fencing required around perimeter of the pond

Staff Recommendations:

- A. Set time limits for site restoration
- B. Require design to treat pond as a "feature" (landscaping and physical design and location on the site).
- C. Require annual maintenance of ponds.
- D. Encourage alternatives: frac tanks or existing pond sources.

**Comments:**

1. *Putting a time limit on frac ponds would limit the capability of using regional frac ponds for more than one site.*
2. *Utilization of existing frac ponds would be a helpful tool in limiting the number of future ponds.*
3. *The design of a frac pond should be treated as a feature and not as an industrial use if adjacent to a protected use or highly visible area.*
4. *If a pond is located in a more industrial area, where there are no protected uses, the treatment and design of the pond should fit the area in which it is located.*
5. *Landscape should not be installed in areas in which it will be removed at a later date due to the restoration of the site (i.e. after drilling has ceased and the frac pond is no longer needed).*
6. *Annual maintenance of ponds and new landscaping would help in keeping the sites appealing to look at. Chesapeake already has a maintenance program for ponds.*
7. *Alternative water sources should be considered as each site is unique in its capacity to providing the amount of water needed for fracing wells.*
8. *One water option should not take precedence over the other. Each site is unique.*
9. *Discussions between City Staff and Gas Drilling operators should be encouraged in order to determine the best alternative for providing water for fracing.*
10. *There are many items which factor into what the final water supply could or should be (i.e. water capacity, existing water line sizes, restrictions on surface use agreements for pad site which may not allow frac tanks or frac ponds etc.).*
11. *Standard parameters for fencing around frac ponds needs to be developed. Consider using a 6' black vinyl coated chain link fencing for all frac ponds.*

**Recommendations:**

1. Create a "Tier/Type" system for frac pond designs. (See below)

<b>Tier (Type)</b>	<b>Location of Pond</b>	<b>Typical Pond Characteristic</b>	<b>Fencing/Landscape</b>
1	Adjacent to right-of-way, adjacent to protected uses	Pond designed as a water feature	6' black vinyl coated chain link fence, informal planting around pond, and street trees
2	Adjacent to right-of-way, not adjacent to protected uses	Pond designed as a water feature	6' black vinyl coated chain link fence and street trees
3	Not adjacent to right-of-way, not adjacent to protected uses	Pond designed to maximize water capacity. Pond <b>not</b> designed as a water feature	6' black vinyl coated chain link fence, no landscape required

**2. LANDSCAPING/FENCING:**

Current Procedure:

- A. As identified in the approved SUP
- B. Required 30 days after completion of final well
- C. Site enclosed by masonry wall and vegetation; however, Council may approve an alternative

Staff Recommendation:

- A. Require Streetscaping to screen site from Rights-of-way

**Comments:**

1. When adjacent to protected uses or roadways consider requiring landscape adjacent to protected uses and roadways be installed within 90 days of the first well being drilled.
2. Consider using a 6' black vinyl coated chain link fence for pad sites and frac ponds.
3. If the SUP and drilling permit were considered at the same time, the limits and placement of proposed landscaping could be determined in a more timely manner.
4. The distance to the city right-of-way should be considered when requiring the installation of landscaping along roadways. See below "Tier/Type" table

**Recommendations:**

1. Pad Sites:
  - a. Street trees will be required along the right-of-way for pad sites except in areas which are not visible from public rights-of-way or are located in industrial or heavily commercial areas. Limits of the street trees shall be the same distance as the limits of the pad adjacent to the nearest right-of-way. If trees are not allowed due to surface use lease requirements, allow for:
    - i. Payment into a tree fund for the number of street trees required.
    - ii. Allow trees to be planted within city right-of-way.
  - b. Fencing- See below "Tier/Type" table.

**2. Frac Ponds:**

<b>Tier (Type)</b>	<b>Location of Pond</b>	<b>Typical Pond Characteristic</b>	<b>Fencing/Landscape</b>
1	Adjacent to right-of-way, adjacent to protected uses	Pond designed as a water feature	6' black vinyl coated chain link fence, informal planting around pond, and street trees
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