



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Tarrant County

Presentation to Fort Worth City Council Meeting
October 18, 2011

My name is Judy Wood, and I am President of the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County. The Environmental Committee of the Tarrant County League has studied urban gas drilling extensively, particularly the issues of health and safety to our residents. In our study we have come to the following conclusions regarding Waste Water Disposal:

The water usage for drilling is staggering: 10,000 gas wells in Tarrant County at a conservative 3.5 million gallons per well equals 350 trillion gallons of water that our communities cannot afford to lose.

Given the environmental risks associated with waste water/salt water injection wells, and given the limited supply of water in this region, the cities within the Barnett Shale should do all they can to encourage the recycling of frac flowback water. Encouragement can take the form of imposing high fees for other forms of water disposal.

Such fees for disposal other than recycling would discourage the piping of flowback and/or produced water and thereby lessen the potential for environmentally damaging leaks, especially as the pipes age. Fees would also discourage the trucking of the drilling fluids to and from the site which contributes to safety issues regarding roadway competition and potential accidents, as well as road surface damage.

We realize that recycling is more expensive than water injection wells for drillers, even factoring in increased water and hauling costs. However, failure to recycle may be far more expensive for the community that has to deal with the environmental hazards and risks of the injection process.