



# State Blanca West Public Talking Points

**Note: Every comment should conclude with a version of this message:**  
*The ECMC has the clear authority to deny this application, and you are under no obligation to approve it. Rule 307 explicitly permits denial when an application poses risks to public health and safety—risks that are evident in this proposal.*

## 1. Location to Homes, Drinking Water & Schools

A. The State Blanca West mega well pad is one of the largest proposed residential well pads in Colorado, located about 2 miles from the nearest homes. This location, in combination with all of the other well pads within the Lowry Ranch CAP, poses an enormous threat to thousands of residents in surrounding communities. Over 10,000 households live within 3 miles, including an estimated 7,800 children and 4,000 seniors.

Aurora Reservoir, the city's primary drinking water source, is only 0.6 miles from the proposed site. Drilling is planned next to this critical water supply.

The plan calls for nearly 18 wells on nearly 17 acres of land, and critically, will involve two site occupations, meaning two phases of disruption for residents. This location is unacceptable.

B. Crestone (Civitas) has secured multiple waivers to bypass the full protection of county rules in order to place the State Blanca West well pad this close to homes and the Aurora Reservoir.

C. Each fracking well requires 20-25 million gallons of water, an amount well over the limit of what our city, state and county can afford during an ongoing drought. This water is permanently destroyed and removed from our future water supply.

## 2. Air Pollution

Crestone is no longer guaranteeing the use of cleaner electrical power for equipment during the 440 days of pre-production. This condition was supposed to be part of the approval for State Blanca West. Instead, toxic emissions from gas-powered equipment will worsen pollution, adding to the cumulative impacts of eight well pads and 151 wells being built without electrification in the Lowry Ranch.

In 2022, the EPA reclassified the Denver Metro/North Front Range from a "serious" to a "severe" nonattainment area for air quality. This project will make the problem worse. The American Lung Association has given the Aurora area an "F" in air quality due to Ozone.

## 3. Cumulative Impacts of Multiple Wells Within 5 Miles

In addition to State Blanca West, 7 more wellpads containing 119 wells are planned within 5 miles of our community. Each will release significant pollutants that will compound together, severely deteriorating the air we breathe and will place our families at severe health risks.

**Crestone's own documents confirm that drilling and fracking operations will occur during two ozone seasons.** Combined, State Blanca West operations will generate 40,000 vehicle trips, 26,000 of them semi-trucks, 2,500 feet from homes, and as close as 500 feet from our reservoir!

**Colorado law (SB-19-181) mandates the ECMC to prioritize the protection of public safety, health, welfare, the environment and wildlife in the regulation of the oil and gas industry. State Blanca West violates multiple aspects of this law. The time is now for ECMC to abide by the law.**

#### **4. Research Study from CU Anschutz School of Public Health**

In May 2025, CU Anschutz researchers published a study showing that Colorado children living within 3 miles of oil and gas activity face a significantly higher risk of developing acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Current setbacks between well sites and homes are not sufficient to protect children's health. The study shows that not just distance, but also the intensity of activity and density of well sites around a child's birth residence, increase the risk of ALL. Remember there are 7 more wellpads with 151 additional wells within a 5-mile radius. (Research was funded by the American Cancer Association.) Why is the ECMC willing to put Colorado's children at such risk?

<https://aacrjournals.org/cebp/article/doi/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-24-1583/753886/Exposures-from-oil-and-gas-development-and>

#### **5. Oil Spills, Blowout - Chevron Well Pad Eruption in Galeton & Durango, Colorado**

On April 5, 2025, an explosion at a Chevron wellpad in Galeton caused an uncontrolled release of more than 3 million gallons of oil, gas, toxic water, and chemicals for over five days. Homes within a half-mile were evacuated, residents were exposed to hazardous substances, and entire properties were sealed off. Benzene, a known carcinogen, was detected more than 3 miles from the site.

Chevron was using Colorado's so-called "Best Management Practices." **Accidents like this do and will happen.** If a similar explosion occurred at State Blanca West, thousands of residents would have to be evacuated. This would be a catastrophe of major proportions. Why is the ECMC willing to gamble with the lives of Colorado families?

Additionally, a gasoline line in late 2024 leaked **97,000 gallons** of fuel near Durango, CO. Remediation efforts even included the oil & gas company to purchase five affected homes in the area, and the Animas River was put at risk.

#### **6. Civitas/Crestone filed Falsified Data – Undocumented Emissions**

The ECMC recently reported that several oil and gas operators—including Civitas/Crestone—have falsified data on an outrageous scale: **3,275 falsified remediation reports at 404 sites in just four years**. Many of these sites belonged to Civitas. We're talking about **hundreds of spills—and those are only the ones we know about**. **Why is the ECMC trusting Civitas in our community?**

<https://www.denverpost.com/2025/07/23/oil-gas-companies-issued-notice-false-data-ecmc/>

Earthworks investigators went so far as to name Civitas “Polluter of the Month.” From January through June 2025 alone, they documented **nine separate pollution events across eight different Civitas facilities** in Colorado’s Front Range. This company’s track record is disturbing: **\$7,781,841 in fines since 2007—and counting**.

<https://biggaspolluters.org/polluter-of-the-month-civitas-resources/>

## **7. Fire Hazard – Emergency Response Times**

The State Blanca West well pad would sit on open plains prone to high winds, with only one rural access road in and out. This creates serious fire risks. Crestone claims Metro South Fire Station is 12 minutes away. This is misleading. To reach the site, fire crews would need to travel down Quincy Road, navigate the haul route, and pass through the Lowry Ranch rural road. On any of the 240 days when 60 trucks — many semis — clog this road, emergency vehicles would face major delays.

**Even Crestone’s own Safety Response Plan admits to hazards, including potential releases of hydrocarbon gases or liquids, heavy truck traffic, high pressures, and flash fires. A 12-minute response time is unrealistic and dangerous.**

## **8. Wildlife Will Be at Risk**

Northern Leopard Frogs, a “Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Colorado,” have been found both at the Aurora Reservoir and Coal Creek, located immediately southeast from the State Blanca West site. The frogs need to cross the area where State Blanca West will be located to get to the reservoir for winter hibernation and back to the ephemeral creeks to breed and also use the area for foraging. This location will severely impact their survival.

## **9. Decreasing Home Values**

A study published in the *Journal of Real Estate Literature* found that most people would refuse to buy a home near a fracking site, and those willing to buy reduce their offers by up to 25%. Oil and gas development does not just threaten our health and safety — it lowers our property values and damages our community’s long-term stability.

<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/amy-mall/new-report-growing-evidence-frackings-negative-impacts-property-values-and-local>