



**Rio Arriba County  
Planning & Zoning Department**

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QUESTIONNAIRE

**OIL AND GAS**

Results

- Approximately 44 people attended the meeting
- Thirty (30) questionnaires were handed out.
- Twenty three (23) questionnaires were completed.
- Approximately half of the respondent, on average, were generally opposed to or concerned about oil and gas development in the area.
- Approximately a quarter of respondents, on average, were generally in favor of oil and gas development in the area.
- Approximately a quarter of respondents, on average, had generally mixed opinions on the matter, though generally leaned toward wanting to limit environmental impacts.
- Specific results for each question are shown below.

1. Is a half-mile (2,640 feet) setback between an oil well and a house, stream, river, arroyo, farm, or pasture

Sufficient 4 insufficient 11 too much 1 depends on the terrain 7

If insufficient (or too much), what distance would you recommend? ¾, 1, 1.5, 2 miles, out-of-sight

2. Is a quarter-mile (1,320 feet) setback between an oil well and a pond

sufficient? 5 insufficient? 14 too much? 0 depends on the terrain 5

If insufficient (or too much), what distance would you recommend? 1.5, ¾, 1, 1.5, 5 to 10 miles, out of sight

3. Is a 1.25-mile (6,600 feet) setback between an oil well and a community or private water well, Sufficient 5 insufficient 11 too much 1 depends on the subsurface geology 6  
If insufficient (or too much), what distance would you recommend? 1.5, 2, 3, 5, 5 to 10 miles

4. Do you believe that oil and gas drilling will hurt Cebolla's landscape, residents, or natural resources (such as water, wildlife, grazing-lands and crop-lands)?

Yes 14 No 4 Mixed 5

5. Based on your understanding of Hydraulic Fracturing (commonly known as "Fracking"), do you believe it is a method of oil and gas extraction that you would want to have happen in Cebolla?

Yes 3 No 14 Not sure 5

6. Since large amounts of water are required to drill for oil and gas, would you be willing and able to sell water from Cebolla's Mutual Domestic, an acequia, or from your own private water well to an oil drilling company?

Yes 2 No 20

7. Would you prefer that the roads used by oil companies to access their well-sites be paved?

Yes 9 No 12 Not sure 1

8. Do you believe it is acceptable for oil companies to inject chemicals into the ground or into their oil wells?

Yes 2 No 16 It depends on the circumstances 5

9. If an accidental spill or other contamination-event happens, do you believe that the oil company should be allowed to continue drilling, or do you think they should have their permission to drill immediately and permanently revoked?

May continue to drill 6 May not continue to drill 17

10. Which of the following would you prefer to see as the power source at oil well sites?  
 new overhead or underground electric lines 6  
 that the oil company use its own oil to generate power on-site 5  
 renewable energy sources such as solar-power panels at the well-site 17
11. Do you think that local residents would be able and willing to obtain jobs working for a drilling company?  
 Yes 11 No 8 Not sure 2
12. If employees for a drilling company came to work in Cebolla for a year or more from outside the immediate commuting region, do you think this would benefit or hurt Cebolla?  
 Benefit 6 Hurt 11 Mixed 5 Not sure
13. Do you think that increased vehicle traffic due to oil drilling would cause problems for Cebolla?  
 Yes 14 No 6 Mixed 2 Not sure
14. Currently, the amount of insurance (for damages) that oil companies are required to obtain is one million dollars. Do you think this is sufficient?  
 Yes 6 No 16 If "no" how much do you think it should it be? 5, 10, 20, 50 million, 1 billion
15. For fencing around an oil-well site, would you prefer that it be transparent or non-transparent?  
 Transparent (such as a chain-link fence) 10  
 Non-transparent (such as stockade fence) 8
16. Do you think oil well sites should be permitted in open field areas or should they be limited to wooded areas where they can be screened visually by trees?  
 Open areas are okay 8 In wooded areas only 10

17. Do you think oil companies should be allowed to build new roads to access their well sites or should they be limited only to improving existing passable roads?

New roads are okay 6      New roads are not okay 15

18. Would you prefer that oil well sites be located relatively close to existing roads (assuming the well site can be visually screened as much as possible), or that well sites be located far back from existing roads (even if a longer road might result in a larger negative impact on the natural environment)?

Near the road 13      Far back from the road 4

19. Related to the previous question, number 18 above, what do you think is an appropriate distance range (in feet) between an oil well site and a road?

0 to 200 3    200 to 500 6    500 to 1000 2    1000 to 2000 1    2000 to 5000 4

20. Do you believe that oil and gas drilling would be economically beneficial to the Cebolla area?

Yes 6      No 11      Mixed 6

If "yes" please list or explain the ways you think it will be beneficial:

Hiring locals for oil drilling jobs

Outside employees spend money locally and/or create new business opportunities

Increase revenue to the County to improve schools, etc.

Short-term gain for surface owners