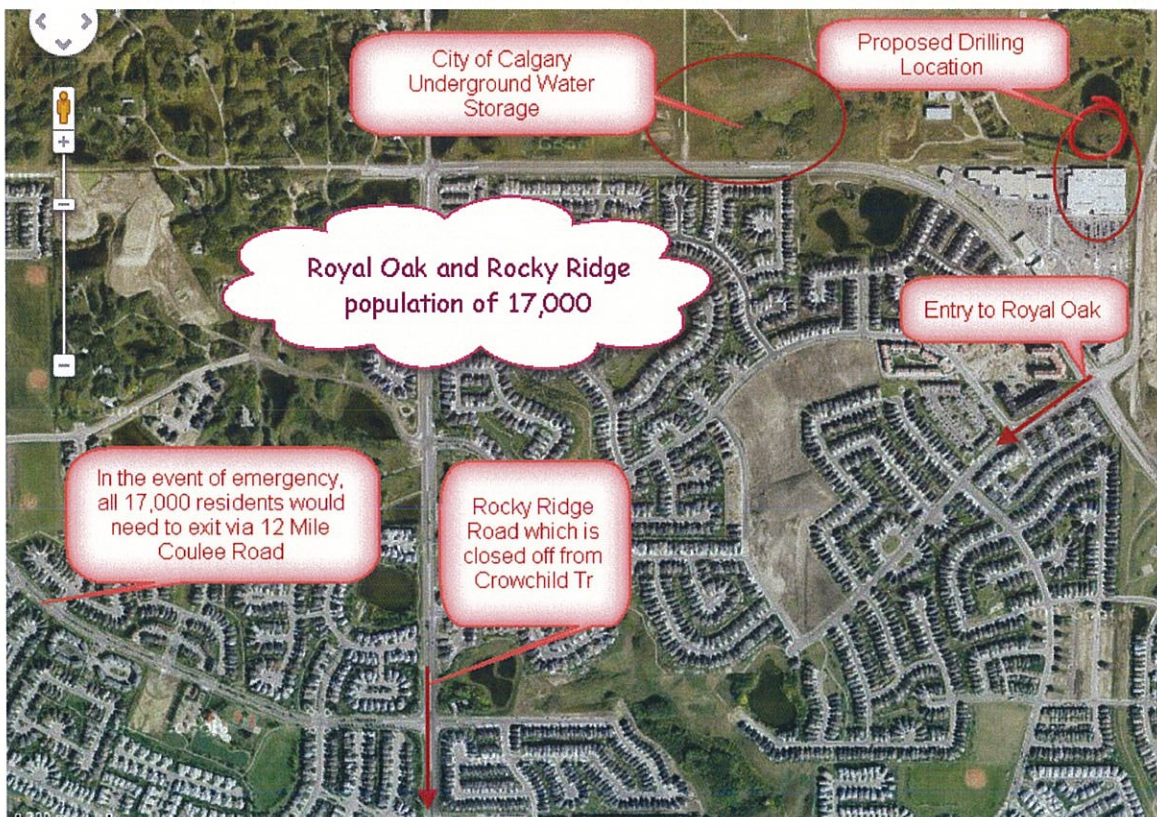


I am a resident in Royal Oak and a concerned member of the Community Association.

In the Community Newsletter there was a brief half-sentence provided indicating a proposal for a Sweet Oil Well to be drilled behind the Royal Oak Wal-mart.

To provide a visual, I have taken a copy of the Google Map of the area that is being considered for drilling below. I have circled the Walmart for a point of reference which is directly south of the proposed drill site. As you can see it is quite close to residential areas, as well as the following:

- Remand Centre
- Young Offenders Centre
- Forensic Psychiatry Centre
- City of Calgary Underground Water Storage (for residential use)



The proposal was put in place by a company called Kaiser Exploration, which according to the company profile available online at [www.manta.com](http://www.manta.com), there are only 3 employees. Their safety program is being consulted out by Black Gold Emergency Response Planners.

At the AGM for the RRROCA (Rocky Ridge Royal Oak Community Association), representatives from both Kaiser Exploration as well as Black Gold ERP were in attendance to discuss the proposed wellsite and to address concerns of residents that were present.

During this meeting there were a number of issues raised but as a concerned residents perspective, I didn't feel that the questions were answered in a thorough enough manner that would give me the security that I need in order to support this. Here are the reasons:

- **Directly** West of the proposed drilling site is a large underground water storage facility for the City of Calgary which stores clean drinking water for a number of communities in the northwest. While the barrier for this site may be thick enough for normal purposes, it may not be completely free of small cracks. Fracking will need to be done to open up fissures containing oil. Any fracking of the well that is going to be drilled may contaminate our residential clean drinking water source with chemicals that are used in the fracking process. Some of the chemicals used in the fracking process include benzene, lead, ethylene glycol, methanol, and boric acid (source: Wikipedia.org: Hydraulic Fracturing [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydraulic\\_fracturing#](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydraulic_fracturing#)).
  - One thing to note also is that in the AGM the representative from Kaiser Exploration appeared to be unaware that there was an underground water storage facility so close by to the proposed site.
  - As they seemed unaware of this water storage as well as the decision to not perform seismic on the site proposed for drilling, it does pose a concern that the company has not done its due diligence.
- The depth of the drill has been pushed to 2300m from the original 2500m depth previously planned due to the fact that there is a sour zone at the bottom of the well that is planned.
  - Sour gas is a major problem and if there is a blowout or escape of sour gas, there will need to be an evacuation done of the residents in our communities.
- Besides the residents of the two communities there are a number of inmates at the CYOC (Young Offenders), Calgary Remand Centre (offenders awaiting trial) and the Forensic Psychiatry Centre (offenders held that are not criminally responsible for their crimes) just east of the site. This will be not only difficult to evacuate the inmates, but in some cases dangerous as some may take advantage of this opportunity for an escape attempt.
- We have only 2 main ways out of Royal Oak and Rocky Ridge
  - Country Hills Blvd via Royal Birch Blvd or Rocky Ridge Road which would bring us right past the well
  - Through Rocky Ridge onto Twelve Mile Coulee Road
    - As we have 17,000 residents living in the two communities, it will be difficult to navigate that many people in their vehicles through the roads of Rocky Ridge to get to Twelve Mile Coulee Road.
- Fracking will be done to force the oil out of the ground and into the well. The chemicals that will be injected into the ground are toxic and at some point will come back up onto the surface. This may take time and will be gradual, but the ground at the site will be contaminated.
- The area just south of the proposed site is where many of us purchase our groceries, visit the doctor, go for coffee.
- Traffic will be impacted by the number of large sized vehicles transporting the drilling equipment to the site planned. They will need to be on Country Hills Blvd among residential traffic. Some of these trucks will be hauling dangerous

chemicals that will be used in the fracking process. In the event an accident occurred and a spill ensued, dangerous chemicals would be released close to our homes.

- Home values will decrease as potential homebuyers do research into the surrounding areas and the presence of an oil well will be detrimental to home sales in our communities.
- Kaiser has indicated that no seismic has been done on site and should be fine because none of the wells in the Bearspaw/Rockyview area have indicated sour gas pockets exist.
  - Unless full testing of the area has been done and has been proven to contain NO sour gas, this created a level of concern for many present at the AGM meeting.

The City of Calgary has raised some concerns with the company. Because the proposed site for drilling exists on Provincial land, the City does not have sufficient power to oppose it, however they have indicated a number of conditions that they would like met before being satisfied of the project. This includes public consultation (AGM, Public Information Sessions, etc), and safety measures are in place.

**What can be done about this:**

The ERCB has a formal process for proposed drilling for oil and gas operations in Alberta. If there are no objections or concerns raised by residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location, the ERCB will likely approve the license.

Our voices are important and if there is enough opposition to this project, the process may be lengthened enough that the company decides to go elsewhere. Anyone can file an objection with the ERCB over a project. If there is an objection filed and the ERCB registers it, then a letter is sent to the company and a hearing may result. It is important that if a hearing is held that residents attend to ensure the ERCB knows there is legitimate opposition to this project.

**To file an objection with the ERCB:**

<http://www.ercb.ca/docs/public/enerfaqs/pdf/ENERFAQ15-ObjectionForm.pdf>

If you have concerns over this proposed well, please contact your MLA, Lindsay **Blackett** at (403) 216-5444 or e-mail at [calgary.northwest@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:calgary.northwest@assembly.ab.ca).

To contact Kaiser Exploration directly, contact (403) 263-4245.

If you would like to contact me, please e-mail me at [dawn-stewart@shaw.ca](mailto:dawn-stewart@shaw.ca), or call me at (403)703-5483.