



PRESS RELEASE

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Latest report on oil, gas health risks another ‘scare tactic’

June 20, 2016 - The Clean Air Task Force recently released a [report](#) asserting claims that states with the largest amount of oil and gas infrastructure pose greater health risks, including increased risks of cancer. The report claims 40 counties in Oklahoma are at “high cancer risk from oil and gas industry fumes.”

The report includes a [Threat Map](#) highlighting the schools, hospitals and population centers that lie within a one-half mile radius of what activists are calling dangerous drilling and production activity.

However, a look at the report’s data and maps show these claims are no more than scare tactics employed by anti-industry activist groups in an attempt to mislead the public about the safety of oil and natural gas development. The Oklahoma map includes video “testimony” from two known anti-energy activists in the state.

Howard (Bud) Ground, regulatory and environmental affairs consultant for Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association, said the report shows the Clean Air Task Force uses the EPA’s National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) as the basis for the report. The EPA assessment is based off actual emission data that companies submit to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, which then submits to the EPA with the remaining data filled in by agency estimates.

“The NATA document states that it does not provide quantitative results and thus presents no exposure or risk estimates,” Ground said. “Workers with much closer proximity to emissions from oil and gas activities do not necessarily meet the EPA’s one-in-a-million concern threshold level, so it is a stretch for the report to claim that people living within one-half mile of an oil and gas facility could be exposed to emissions above the threshold.”

Energy In Depth, an oil and gas research and education group, further points out that researchers admit “data quality issues” and “uncertainties” and concede their report is “not a measure of actual risk.”

EID [reports](#) that numerous other studies have taken direct measurements from air monitors and have found low emissions from oil and gas operations. Numerous studies have also consistently shown that the increase of natural gas usage is the reason U.S. air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions are declining.

Ground said the map and website provide no context for supposed risks claimed in the report.

“They provide estimated results for supposed health risks based on projections from data that admits up front the limitations of the research,” he said. “It’s clear this report is just another attempt to scare the public about oil and natural gas development.”