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# NEWS

## Ponder Pondering 90-Day Drilling Moratorium

July 14, 2011 10:04 PM

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**PONDER (CBSDFW.COM)** – A North Texas town is looking at a 90-day moratorium on future gas drilling permits. The push comes after some residents started making 'noise' in the Denton County town of Ponder.

"We have no rights! We have no say so," claims Pattie Pennington, who lives a block and half from the new drill site. "It does worry me a lot."

Pennington says she didn't even know about her new neighbor, Devon Energy, until sound barriers went up and equipment started moving in. Now she and others in the area say they deal with nauseating fumes and noise all night.

Veronica Kronvall lives a mere 400 feet from the site. "Last Saturday 3 a.m I wake up. Boom. I go back to sleep. Boom. About an hour of this I said 'forget it I'm up'," she recalled.

Kronvall and her neighbors had virtually no say, because the current city ordinance doesn't require public hearings before drilling permits can be approved. It also allows gas wells to be built as close as 300 feet to homes.

Homeowners want to put a stop to new drilling so the council can work on a new ordinance.

"Devon has a reputation of being a good neighbor we have a reputation of doing things right," says Gilbert Horton with Devon Energy.

The [company](#) has 44 existing wells already in Ponder. In a town of about 1,200 people that's one drill for every 27 people. For some that's one too many and it's time to put a stop to it.

"I want it to be quiet I want my neighborhood back," Pennington said.

A spokesperson with Devon Energy, based in Oklahoma City, tells CBS 11 News that the two wells will be drilled by the end of August.

As for the moratorium no final decision was made Thursday night. City leaders say that's what they'll do but they have to have a public hearing about it first.

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**Nomacsupporter**

Here we go again; the big bad drilling rig is making noises and smells! I want my perfect life back. Why is this always such 'big news'. I'm sorry all you folks have to be put thru such horrible discomfort. We should all have wonderful lives with no problems and plenty of money and fuel and jobs. That rig will be gone in a few weeks; then you'll be alright, life will go on and you can find some other gripe to keep you busy. Get over it you morons. Grow up.

July 14, 2011 at 10:22 pm | [Reply](#) | [Report comment](#)

**Sharon**

I am truly sorry for the people in Ponder being disturbed about the noise. But, if they had a family member employed there and that is where they depended on their next meal to come from, who would really be complaining? Sometimes companies have to go to produce for things we need. So, would one not rather put up with a little discomfort for a short period ? Or have people losing jobs because we can't handle a brief time of silence in a neighborhood..... Or do we just say NO and let's buy from other countries ? Help keep jobs in the state and our country. Sometimes we have to take the bad to see the good.

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**laruejd**

The drilling rig will be gone in a few weeks and the well will silently pump oi, gas and money into Ponder. Legally, the oil company has done everything right, The residents are saying they were uninformed, ignorance is not much of a legal leg to stand on. Don't shut down business. Don't change the city law until after the leases run out (usually 1-3 years).

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Wow, what a clever headline! You must be in Mensa! How long did it take you to come up with it? Less than five seconds?

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**Wes**

I say keep the rigs. In fact, I would like to see more go up. It's either let the free market work, or have high energy prices. [Companies](#) should not get punished for doing nothing wrong. If the city of Ponder wishes to make it quieter for their residents, they need to increase the minimum distance from residential areas. Whatever they decide, it should not be a moratorium.

July 15, 2011 at 9:25 am | [Reply](#) | [Report comment](#)

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