

How You Can Help Us Cut Gas Drilling Pollution Now



- Read and Learn More about Downwinders at Risk's Fair Share Campaign at our website:

www.downwindersatrisk.org

- At the bottom of our Fair Share Campaign page, you can **download a sample resolution** your city council, county court, school board, and other local governments can pass in support of TCEQ using the current DFW clean air plan to cut gas industry VOC pollution. Work with us to demonstrate that North Texas is united in its demand that the state use this opportunity to make a significant cut in a kind of air pollution we all want to see reduced.

- **Sign-up** to get our e-newsletter, the DFW News Plume so you can keep up with the progress we're making, and help us win this important battle for better air quality.

- **Invite us to do a presentation** on this issue for your club, civic group, place of worship or neighborhood group.



Downwinders
reducing toxic air pollution in north texas *at risk*

downwindersatrisk.org 972-230-3185

Natural Gas
Must Do Its...

**FAIR
SHARE
FOR
CLEAN AIR**

**A Rational,
Regional Plan
to Reduce
Gas Drilling
Air Pollution**

Gas drilling releases more smog-producing "VOC" pollution in DFW skies than all our cars and trucks combined.

Now we have an opportunity to dramatically decrease this toxic air pollution.

The Gas Industry is Our Largest Source of VOC Pollution

In the last six years, the gas industry has replaced vehicles as the largest source of smog-forming VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) air pollution in DFW. VOCs are a category of chemicals that includes Benzene, Formaldehyde, Methane and many other kinds of toxic pollution. According to the state, there are **over 100 tons a day** of VOC pollution being released by the gas industry in North Texas. This pollution has never been regulated by the state or any previous DFW clean air plan.

A New DFW Air Plan Means A Chance to Cut Gas VOCs



DFW flunked the old 1997 smog standard in 2009. The state must submit a new clean air plan for the region to EPA at the end of 2011. That plan is scheduled to be approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by **THIS JUNE**.

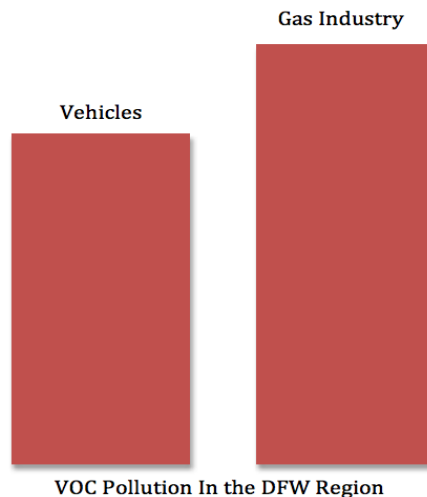
TCEQ has most of what it needs to get EPA approval for their plan, but there's one big problem: **TCEQ admits it still needs to cut approximately 140 tons of VOCs PER DAY.**

The Fair Share Campaign

Based on our successful Campaign for Green Cement, Downwinders is using the region's air quality future to prompt local governments, institutions, and individuals in North Texas to act in self-defense and demand TCEQ fill the VOC gap in the DFW clean air plan with cuts in uncontrolled gas industry emissions. We're calling this effort the Fair Share for Clean Air Campaign.

It's called "Fair Share for Clean Air" because it's time the gas industry did its part to clean up DFW air. Over the last 20 years, every other industry and business that releases smog-forming pollution has had to reduce their emissions. Now, as its share of total air pollution continues to grow and creates an obstacle to air quality progress, gas industry emissions must be cut as well.

You'd think TCEQ would have set about months ago to fill this large VOC gap in the new DFW air plan with Barnett Shale VOCs that have never been subjected to an air plan before. But it hasn't.



Cut Smog-Forming Pollution for the Entire Region

Cutting Gas industry VOCs to fill the gap in the new DFW clean air plan will finally bring reductions to a source of local smog that's been growing steadily over the last six years. Based on computer modeling done by TCEQ itself, a good case can be made that it was gas industry emissions that caused the last DFW clean air plan to fail. Large volume and the location of gas industry pollution could have made the critical difference in not being able to meet the old federal ozone standard.

Reduce Exposure to Toxic Air Pollution

Gas field VOCs includes carcinogens like benzene and formaldehyde.

A 2010 study by the Houston Advanced Research Center revealed levels of cancer-causing formaldehyde in North Texas air are more than double that of the Houston Ship Channel. TCEQ's own tests in the Barnett Shale have shown "some of the highest benzene concentrations we have monitored in the state."

VOC poisons are believed to be behind many of the reported acute health problems associated with gas industry downwinders, including respiratory illness, nosebleeds, headaches, rashes, nausea, and neurological problems.

Using off the shelf technology available right now, these emissions could be reduced by 90% or more by 2013. That's almost nine million pounds of toxic air pollution annually that could be eliminated in the next two years.

No other strategy or pending regulations at any level of government offers a quicker, more substantial cut in gas industry VOC emissions.



Top: Gas condensate tanks as they appear to the naked eye. **Bottom:** Those same tanks as they appear to an infrared camera. Those are plumes of VOCs being released.

Pollution Controls Make Money for Industry

Reducing VOC pollution actually makes the gas industry money. Most of the pollution controls for VOC are designed to capture profitable product that's now literally evaporating into thin air. Think about the vapor recovery system at your local gas station and you get a good idea of how these controls work. It's been estimated that gas companies could earn millions by simply re-directing these emissions back into their facilities.