

## Gas Drilling Permit Gets New Life Despite Public Opposition

January 15, 2013



In a disappointing turnabout from their prior decision, on January 10th the City Plan Commission voted 6-5 (with three members absent) to reconsider granting a special use drilling permit to Trinity East. The CPC had previously denied the permit in December. The permit would allow not only drilling at the site, but also compressors and industrial equipment to remove hydrogen sulfide from the produced natural gas. The site would be located within the Trinity River Floodway, only 600 feet away from the new

Elm Fork soccer complex.

DHL, the other members organizations comprising the local responsible drilling coalition, and residents across the city are greatly disturbed and disapproving of yet another example of a back room deal being used to undermine public consensus and input. The only silver lining from the debacle is that a second denial by the CPC still means that twelve Council members would have to vote to overturn the denial. There are not twelve Council members willing to do so, meaning the permit issue for Trinity East would effectively be dead. That being the case, it is vitally important that residents attend the February CPC meeting to show their disapproval of both the permit, and the undermining of the public process that has occurred thus far.