

# SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ZONES FROM OIL AND GAS POLLUTION

## 34,000 NEW MEXICO CHILDREN AT RISK

- Over 34,000 children attend schools within a mile of unplugged oil and gas production sites.
- Over 80 schools in southeastern and northwestern New Mexico are within 1 mile of oil and gas wells.
- Some schools are surrounded by dozens and even hundreds of wells within a single mile.
- In northwestern New Mexico, all schools in the Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield School Districts have active wells within 1-mile.
- In southeastern New Mexico, all schools in the Eunice School District have over 120 wells within a mile, while the Jefferson Elementary School in Hobbs is surrounded by 161 wells within 1 mile and 48 wells within 0.5 mile.



Oil well next to Ocotillo Elementary School. Carlsbad, NM.

## DANGERS OF OIL AND GAS POLLUTION

- Oil and gas production emits toxic air pollutants that can travel well over a mile.
- Proximity to oil and gas production causes adverse health outcomes, including reproductive, perinatal and respiratory problems.
- Living near oil and gas wells increases the risks of cancer, asthma, birth defects, preterm births and high-risk pregnancies, low birthweights in babies, higher hospitalization rates, and upper respiratory problems and rashes.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to oil and gas pollution because their bodies are still developing – exacerbating respiratory disease, and leading to reduced lung function and increased asthma, neurodevelopmental disorders, IQ loss and pediatric cancers.

## PASS HEALTH BUFFER ZONES TO MITIGATE HARMS OF OIL AND GAS POLLUTION

- As a first step to protect New Mexican children, the state must implement a 1-mile health buffer zone around schools.
- The wells within the health buffer zone must be phased out and properly plugged and remediated within the next three years.
- In the meantime, operators of oil and gas facilities within the health buffer zone must be required to implement additional pollution controls, monitoring, and reporting to protect public health and ensure that no pollution is leaking from these sites and endangering children.



This factsheet was produced by the Center for Biological Diversity. For more information, contact Gail Evans at [gevans@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:gevans@biologicaldiversity.org) or Colin Cox at [ccox@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ccox@biologicaldiversity.org) and visit [www.nmlandairwatersacred.org](http://www.nmlandairwatersacred.org)