

From: Filings
To: Scott Zanzig; Elaine Maneck
Subject: Fw: IDL Case No. CC-2025-OGR-01-005
Date: Monday, December 22, 2025 9:32:34 PM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Stuart Reitz <stuart.reitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2025 9:16:30 PM
To: Filings <filings@oah.idaho.gov>
Cc: Stuart Reitz <stuart.reitz@gmail.com>
Subject: IDL Case No. CC-2025-OGR-01-005

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

As a resident of Payette County, I am writing to oppose the integration application filed by Snake River Oil and Gas (Docket No. CC-2025-OGR-01-005). Although I do not live in the spacing unit, the decision will set a precedent for future integration applications in the county.

No parcel of land in the spacing unit that Snake River Oil and Gas has established is appropriate for a natural gas well. The proposed well site is in an agricultural field that is currently under county jurisdiction, but that field borders the City of Fruitland. The proposed well site is adjacent on the east to a densely populated, single family residential neighborhood. Immediately to the southeast is another densely populated neighborhood, the Desert Rose Estates manufactured home community. Mesa Park, the most heavily used recreation site in the county lies a quarter mile to the southeast of the proposed well site. South and west of the well site are light industrial businesses, such as Woodgrain and Dickinson Frozen Foods, which are some of the county's largest industrial employers. Less than ½ mile to the west are a number of medical facilities, restaurants, businesses, and additional densely populated residential areas. The proposed well parcel is on NW 16th St, which is one of Fruitland's major thoroughfares, and it is less than ¼ mile from NW 16th St and Whitley Ave (US 95), which is the most heavily travelled intersection in Payette County.

These details clearly show there are a large number of people who will be directly affected because they live and work in this spacing unit. Many more people will also be impacted because they do business, dine, recreate, and simply pass through the spacing unit.

The proposed well site is not in an isolated area. It is in the midst of a rapidly growing community. Fruitland's population has almost doubled in the past 25 years, including about 20% growth in just the last 5 years. Land to the north of the well site is expected to be annexed into Fruitland and developed into new single family housing neighborhoods, similar to the River Crest neighborhood on the east of the proposed well site.

Flaring is a customary practice as new wells go into production. [In Idaho](#), producers are allowed to flare (burn off) gas from wells continuously for 14 days. After 14 days, producers have to pay royalties to mineral rights owners, but they can continue to flare off the gas. This could be done less than 200 feet from someone's home.

The presence of gas and oil wells has been shown to reduce home values in areas similar to Fruitland ([Stephens and Weinstein, 2019](#)). Given recent production statistics from the Idaho Oil and Gas Commission for gas wells in Payette County, homeowners in the spacing unit with typical 1/6 to 1/4 acre parcels would likely receive less than \$100 in royalties per year. That would not compensate them for even a minor (1-5%) reduction in home values, especially given the Idaho Geological Survey's 2025 assessment of gas reservoirs in Payette County. The Survey concluded that "Reservoir gas volumes in Payette County are relatively small and sub-economic under current market conditions" and "Reservoir quality is poor, which limits productivity" (https://ogcc.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025.05.14_IGS-presentation-overview-ID-petroleum-hydrocarbon.pdf). These data and findings suggest the new proposed well would have a limited life span and be abandoned within a few years.

There do not appear to be any significant economic benefits to this integration plan and subsequent gas well. In fact, any economic gains would be dwarfed by economic losses, for example, in reduced housing values, and the risks to public health and well-being, and environmental safety.

The Payette River is less than a half mile downhill from the proposed well site. From the point where any pollutants from the well operations reach the Payette River, it is only one mile to Fruitland's water treatment plant. Any contamination reaching the treatment facility would be devastating. Gas wells are not immune to failure while being drilled or during their production lifespan. It is not just the wells that pose risks. Gathering pipelines that move gas from wells to processing and transmission distribution sites are essentially unregulated and pose the greatest risk in the gas transmission system for accidents. The gathering lines for this well would run east along NW 16th St, which, again, passes by high density residential areas and close to the Payette River. Once the well is phased out of production, the risks to the community remain. Recent studies have shown that 1/3 of abandoned gas wells fail (i.e., leak). The state of Idaho has minimal standards for bonding and oversight of abandoned gas wells. So, our community would still be forced to live with risks while it gained no overall economic benefit.

I urge you to recommend that this integration application be denied. The spacing unit and integration plan will not significantly benefit the mineral rights owners, and they will harm the entire community if they go into effect and a gas well is subsequently drilled. I understand this present decision concerns the integration plan. I hope I have outlined some of the reasons that this particular integration plan is not appropriate and does not serve the interests of many of the owners within the unit. I hope I have also outlined some of the reasons why the proposed location of a well within this spacing unit is so ill conceived and why there is substantial public opposition to this particular project. Again, I urge the state of Idaho to consider the overall negative impacts of this proposed project on the economic, environmental and general public well-being of the community and deny this application.

Thank you for the hearing on December 17 and for the opportunity to provide this written comment.

Sincerely,
Stuart Reitz
Fruitland, ID