



Board of Trustees Action Items

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For Immediate Release
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Erie Board of Trustees Action Items – April 24, 2012

Analysis of NOAA Data Determines Erie's Air Remains Safe – As part of efforts to do everything within its authority to protect resident's health and safety, the Town of Erie engaged in an independent, peer-reviewed Analysis and Health Impact of Propane Levels of the NOAA data to determine what (if any) health effects would result from exposures to the levels of propane as presented. The scientific analysis of the data concludes that: ***"The levels of Propane in the NOAA study are 1,000 – fold or more below those considered to be of a health concern."*** The average level of Propane as presented by NOAA was 20 ppb (parts per billion) and the maximum level was 115 ppb. According to the analysis: ***"Propane at 115 ppb (the peak level found) does not present a health concern to the citizens of the Town of Erie."***

It should be noted that the scope of the analysis was not intended to address the longer term policy of permitting oil & gas activities. Despite the conclusion that Propane levels pose no immediate public health threat, the Town of Erie remains committed to seeking opportunities for the full recovery of Volatile Organic Compounds released during oil & gas operations within Erie.

The findings of the NOAA data analysis include but are not limited to:

- A limited review of studies for instances of propane poisoning revealed mainly two types of scenarios, accidental exposure in enclosed environments and accidental overdose during recreational intentional self-exposure similar to "huffing" or taking drugs.
- Studies were not found where propane levels in the ambient air were confirmed as a cause of health effects.
- **The levels of Propane presented in the NOAA study are a 1000-fold or more below those considered to be of health concern.**

[View Full Analysis](#)

[View Analysis Summary](#)

BACKGROUND: The Town of Erie contracted with Quality Environmental Professional Associates (QEPA) in response to the increased community concern surrounding the reported levels of propane and whether there is sufficient evidence in the data from the NOAA presentation to suggest increased health effects from oil & gas activities in the Erie area. QEPA was tasked with assessing whether the increased levels of propane presented by Dr. Brown would present health concerns to the residents of Erie.

About the Author: Ms. Wright is the president and co-founder of QEPA and has served as its director of Toxicology for for three years. She has over twenty years of experience in Epidemiology and Toxicology. She served as staff Toxicologist for the Indiana State Department of Health for six years and Director of Environmental Epidemiology/Toxicology for three years. Ms. Wright conducted laboratory and field research in Reproductive Toxicology for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for four years. She also worked for the Centers for Disease Control for four years. At the CDC, she was responsible for collecting epidemiological data for the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Birth Defects Program. During her tenure at the Indiana State Department of Health, she was trained by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to conduct public health activities for communities impacted and potentially impacted by chemicals spilled or released into the environment. Resultant activities from her professional experience included conducting exposure investigation, community health education and Health Professional Education.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: Authors Wright and Havics have previously performed significant work for the Oil & Gas Industry. They have also been invited speakers for EPA on technical and health implications of Fracing.

Board Appoints Planning Commissioners – The Board of Trustees appointed Fred Mahe to the Planning Commission. Mahe will fill the vacancy created when Jonathon Hager was elected to the Board of Trustees. Mahe's term will run through April 2014. The Board also re-appointed Mike Mazzocco, J. Eric Bottenhorn and Tony Burgard to the Planning Commission. All three Commissioners re-appointed will serve through April 2016.

Public Works Week Declared for Week of May 21st – During Tuesday night's meeting, Mayor Wilson declared that the week of May 21 through 25 be proclaimed Public Works Week in Erie. This year, APWA has selected "Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression" as its theme for the 2012 National Public Works Week. Events planned for this year's celebration include tours of the Water Treatment Facility and Water Reclamation Facility for the Erie Elementary 5th grade classes and Town of Erie employee appreciation events. For more information, you can visit their website at www.apwa.net.

BACKGROUND: Observed the third week of May each year, Public Works Week is a celebration of the men and women who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. Since 1960, American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works

Week. Across the nation, APWA's 29,000 members use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating the heart of our local communities and building the quality of life.

Mayor Wilson Presents Young Patriot Awards and Recognition of Achievement Awards – Mayor Wilson presented Young Patriot Awards to members of Red Hawk Elementary who led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Students included: Caleb Unruh, Olivia Stecina and Jordan Bardwell.

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings – The next regularly scheduled [Board of Trustees](#) meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are held in the [Town Hall boardroom](#) located at 645 Holbrook Street in Erie.

More Information – Board of Trustees Action Items are brief summaries of some, but not all, agenda items and do not serve as the official meeting minutes. Select this link to view archived Board of Trustees meeting online via the Town's [On Demand Video](#) service. To request approved meeting minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at nparker@erieco.gov.

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