

Testimony of Steve Mobaldi
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My name is Steve Mobaldi. My wife Elizabeth (Chris) and I moved to Rifle Co. in June 1995 to a 10 acre ranch. Soon after, the oil and gas industry moved in.

They began drilling on a property about 3000 feet to the west. Within a few weeks of the drilling Chris and I began to experience burning eyes, and nosebleeds.

Later Chris began to experience fatigue, headaches, hand numbness, bloody stools, rashes and welts on her skin, when she showered she would turn red and tiny blisters covered her entire body, the blisters would weep then her skin would peel. This happened several times, canker type sores appeared in her mouth and down her throat then they would disappear the next day. She explained the feeling on her skin was like little wheels of needles turning. The racking pain was unbearable.

She saw her doctor and was given lotions then told she was going through menopause, prescribed pain medication and sent home. The blisters continued for weeks, she returned with complaints of pain many times and given different pain medication, nothing worked.

Soon after she was diagnosed with chemical exposure but the doctor was un-aware of what the chemicals were that caused her symptoms. We were baffled and sought another doctor who also diagnosed the same. Chris's joints began swelling and large white bumps started appearing on her elbows and hands. Months had gone by and the pain continued. I began to experience some rectal bleeding and two of our dogs developed tumors. Our neighbors dog also had a tumor.

We planted trees on the property that year and they all died.

We noticed several dead birds at different times in our yard through the next few years. Existing trees on the property were dying.

In 1997 employees from an oil and gas company were on my property when I arrived home.

We were informed a natural gas well was being placed across the street and the drilling was to go under our property. The rig operated for months about 300 feet from our house. There was an open unlined pit closer than the rig. Then they began flaring and it shook our house day and night for weeks.

Chris lost her voice. We had headaches, burning eyes and odor. The gas well finished in 1998 and already having problems with her health, the neighbors water well had exploded and fracturing fluids spewed causing them to evacuate their home. The next day oil and gas employees came to our door and told us to stop drinking our water, they said water would be provided. This went on for about 4 months then the same employees told us our water was tested and safe for drinking.

Although the water would fizz like soda with smaller bubbles we were told the water was safe. Sand began to accumulate in our water filter, if we set a glass of water out overnight a thin oily film would float on top. We stopped drinking it. In 2000 Chris began saying words that sounded like a foreign accent, a few words in a sentence, months later more. Now Chris has a severe speech disorder which continues.

In March 2001 she developed a pituitary tumor.

In 2001 our water well pump had to be re-installed 10' higher because sand was filling the water well shaft. In 2002 we started raising Llamas and we had our first baby

llama which died about 8 months later of respiratory problems. Our llama became pregnant again and that baby died also of the same problem diagnosed by our veterinarian .

In March 2003 Chris had another pituitary tumor.

In 2003 we had our house sided with a very high quality metal siding. In 2004 the paint began to peel on the siding. The siding company would not warranty chemical damage, and the insurance company would not honor a claim from industrial pollution.

Later in 2005 Chris's gallbladder had to be removed. It was the size of a small pineapple with excessive adhesions and it had a tail growing from it.

In 2006 she was diagnosed with severe chemical sensitivity from exposure by an environmental specialist, and is being treated.

Several times Chris said "something is killing me living in this house" so we packed up and abandoned the house in 2004 after trying to sell it for years.

We now believe the oil and gas industry is to blame for the unexplained illnesses, we now have learned many of our old neighbors and animals are suffering from exposure. If they were required to produce the information on the chemicals used less people would suffer.