HEI’s Proposed Energy Research Program

(https://www.healtheffects.org/unconventional-oil-natural-gas)
HEI Special Committee: Strategic Research Agenda

- Released in late 2015 after extensive stakeholder consultation and expert review
- Identifies key research questions as a foundation for moving forward
- Building on this, the HEI Energy Research Program will fill knowledge gaps about potential population exposures and health effects across the US
The controversy lingers

...with some expressing health concerns

...while others ask - what health effects?
As the public debate continues, so does oil and natural gas development.

April 24, 2017

**API SmartBrief**

**TOP STORY**

**ABS Group**

**US shale resurgence stronger than OPEC can handle**

OPEC's plan to balance the global oil market with production cuts has been derailed by a stronger-than-expected US shale revival, driven by rapid progress, technological advances and higher price expectations. Increased shale activity has caused US crude production to surge by 550,000 barrels per day since OPEC announced in November that it would cut supplies, with production seen rising by 860,000 barrels per day by the end of this year, according to the Energy Information Administration.

*Bloomberg Gadfly* (4/23)
At the same time, we are learning more about potential exposure and effects with a small but growing body of peer-reviewed literature.

For study citations: https://www.healtheffects.org/unconventional-oil-natural-gas/bibliography
Also much work beyond the peer-reviewed scientific literature
But knowledge gaps remain and calls for research continue...

- **CDPHE’s Conclusion:** “Exposure and health effect studies do not indicate the need for immediate public health action, but do indicate the need for more detailed exposure monitoring and systematic analyses of health effects of residents living near oil and gas operations.”

- **CDPHE’s Recommendations:**
  - Continued monitoring of exposures for people living near oil and gas operations
  - Continued evaluation of health risk using more comprehensive exposure data
  - Continued monitoring of health effects in areas with substantial oil and gas operations with high quality epidemiological studies, including improved characterizations of exposure
HEI anticipates receipt of balanced funding to begin Year 1 of the Research Program in June 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 1 Task Description</th>
<th>HEI Report Release Date (estimated)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health Study Critique</td>
<td>Aug 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exposure and Risk Screening Workshop #1</td>
<td>Oct 2017</td>
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<td>Interim analysis recommended at Workshop #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exposure and Risk Screening Workshop #2</td>
<td>Feb 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request for Qualifications (RfQ)</td>
<td>Mar 2018</td>
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Year 1 tasks are part of a broader vision for a multi-year Energy Research Program

**Goal:** Answer questions about potential human exposure and health effects from development of oil and natural gas from unconventional resources

**Approach:** Same one that HEI has used for 35 years to answer questions about air quality and health

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### Year 1:
- Literature Review & Research Planning
- Health Study Critique
- Exposure and Risk Screening Workshops

### Years 2 to 4:
- RFQ
- Population-Level Exposure Studies in Multiple US Regions
- Review

### Year 4 and Beyond:
- Extensive Communication
- Maybe further Exposure or Health Studies
Next Steps

- Finalizing sponsor commitments
- Forming a separate governance structure for the new research program
- Continuing to plan for Year 1 tasks, beginning with an impartial critique of the health literature
- Working toward the goal of full implementation of the research program in 2018
Thank You

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