

SENATE MEMORIAL 8 FACT SHEET

- Senate Memorial 8 directs the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department to:
 - Evaluate the risks to people and the surrounding environment from proximity to oil and gas operations,
 - Consult with stakeholders how to best mitigate risks by establishing setbacks for oil and gas facilities, and
 - Recommend legislation during the 2025 session to establish setbacks.
- Air pollutants harmful to human health and the environment are emitted from upstream oil and gas facilities.
- These pollutants include volatile organic compounds and federally designated hazardous air pollutants and criteria air pollutants.
- Risks from these air pollutants include cancer, impacts to the central nervous system, and adverse respiratory effects.
- Living in close proximity to oil and gas facilities increases health risks.
 - Frontline community members, children, and seniors are at increased risk.
 - Mapping shows that 144,377 New Mexico residents and students live or go to school within one-half mile of oil and gas facilities, including 71,788 persons of color and 27,975 students at 119 schools.
- Oil and gas facilities also risk contamination to surface waters and the surrounding environment through on-site spills and leaks, faulty disposal or treatment of wastewater, faulty wastewater storage systems, and storm water runoff.
- The New Mexico Oil and Gas Act has not kept pace with the science, and does not give the state authority to protect public health and the environment through setbacks.
- SM 8 directs EMNRD to evaluate the risks, work with stakeholders, and recommend setback legislation to protect New Mexico communities and our environment.

