

Gas Compressor Station Noise

Body Damage in Freestone County

Why should we be concerned about Low Frequency Noise (LFN) in our county? Can it affect me? Is it really here? What can we do?

For the past several years, I have recorded the Low Frequency Noise (LFN) levels of intensity at various locations across Freestone County with a \$3,000 noise meter.

In 2009, the average LFN level across Freestone County was 60 dBC, Decibels on the "C" environmental scale. Now the average LFN level is 70 dBC. That is a quadrupling of the intensity since decibels are measured on the logarithmic scale, not a straight line scale.

This intense noise is typically occurring worse at night when everyone is sleeping. So what! Most people say, I don't hear a thing. That's because the LFN is below the normal human hearing range at frequencies below 500 cycles per second. It's like the dog whistle and deer warning device output noises that we can't hear.

However, these low frequencies generated by gas compressor stations (130 in Freestone County) cause numerous symptoms because each of our human body systems operate at various low frequencies. It can cause brain damage in-utero, low birth weight babies, severe itching, internal hurting, brain damage, as well as dementia in older people and several other symptoms. So it is a womb to tomb body damaging cause. Heart attacks and death have occurred here as noted below.

Numerous countries around the world have recognized the LFN problem and have taken action to eliminate it.

Portugal has studied the problem for 40 years performing testing and autopsies on persons who have died from the LFN problem. They named the disease caused by LFN, Vibro-Acoustic Disease (VAD). Symposiums have been held annually in Europe and Australia where scientific papers are presented on the various aspects of the disease. The United States has ignored the problem until recently. It is still not well known here; therefore, our citizens are suffering and dying.

Only six states in the U.S. have state noise laws after the Environmental Protection Agency delegated authority for noise control in 1982 to state and local governments. The most recent in year 2012 was Colorado; the others are Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, and California. With all the oil and gas development in Texas, we must have a state noise law to protect our citizens. I and others of our group, Citizens for Environmental Clean-Up, have lobbied the legislature for a state noise law for the past seven years. We briefed our State Senator Charles Schwertner during the last legislative session and provided him a proposed Noise Bill to introduce during that session. He refused to act for us even after we obtained support from the committee members where the proposed Noise Bill would be addressed.

I, Charles Morgan, was awakened by 123 dBC Low Frequency Noise at 2:30 a.m. on March 27th 2013 after speaking at the National Frack Attack Conference in Dallas on March 3rd. I took two noise readings, dressed, covered myself with protective material and departed within 10 minutes. My blood pressure was 212/112. It was difficult to find a safe place outside Freestone County.

Again at 3:43 a.m., Saturday I was awakened by severe head ringing and loud Low Frequency Noise (LFN), 75 dBC from a nearby natural gas compressor station. I immediately got out of bed and took my blood pressure. It was 200/101, pulse 81. I dressed, took a noise meter reading and departed home (Lanely Community). I went to Teague, Texas at one of my son's home. I was wearing several protective layers of material on my head to protect my brain. My head was still ringing severely even with medication. My blood pressure in Teague was 143/77, pulse 58 at 5:07 a.m. At least the blood pressure went down. However, many times I have recorded low frequency noise in Teague at 70 dBC, (decibels on the environmental scale).

What can a person do about this situation? There is no county authority since there is no state law. Towns and cities in Texas can control noise by adopting ordinances.

However, our city residents are being affected anyway because the LFN being generated by the 130 natural gas compressor stations in Freestone County travels five to eight miles and into our towns. Out of 254 counties in Texas, Freestone County is number seven in the number of gas wells at 3,068. At present, all one can do is escape the area and use protective material to protect your body. I provided

some of this protective material to a lady in Fairfield who called a few days later exclaiming, "This stuff works!"

I'm not the only person who has been affected in Freestone County. Jimmy Brown of Teague had his heart explode as per autopsy and revealed to me by his wife. Shortly after his demise, I took a noise meter reading, using a rented meter at that time, in front of his home which is one quarter mile from a large gas compressor station. The LFN noise meter reading was 101 dBC. Then, there was Joe Henderson of Streetman, Texas where a gas compressor station is within two stone throws (very close) to his home. He died after a stroke and heart attack. While Joe was in the hospital, I took a noise reading in front of his home of 85 dBC at very low frequency. Both of these gentlemen were in good health and raised cattle for years before the compressors were installed. Mrs. Sharon Ward of Fairfield lived within a quarter mile of a natural gas compressor station on County Road 917. She complained of the LFN and even traveled to Austin with me and Mr. Henderson in an attempt to initiate a state noise law.

Before her demise, she complained to me of not feeling well and extreme weakness? She did not have insurance, so she was reluctant to go to a doctor. Upon having to go to the hospital emergency room, they found she had lost half her blood by internal bleeding. A blood vessel in her abdomen had ruptured. Was it because of vasoconstriction that LFN is known to cause? She died two days later. Many persons have complained of the noise here in Freestone County and other areas of gas development in Texas. If we continue to do nothing, it will only get worse. Our families are unprotected!

We must make our voices heard and enlist the support of hundreds of thousands of Texans.

Charles E. Morgan, P.E. Inactive
Executive Director,
Citizens for Environmental Clean-Up
Lanely Community, Freestone County