

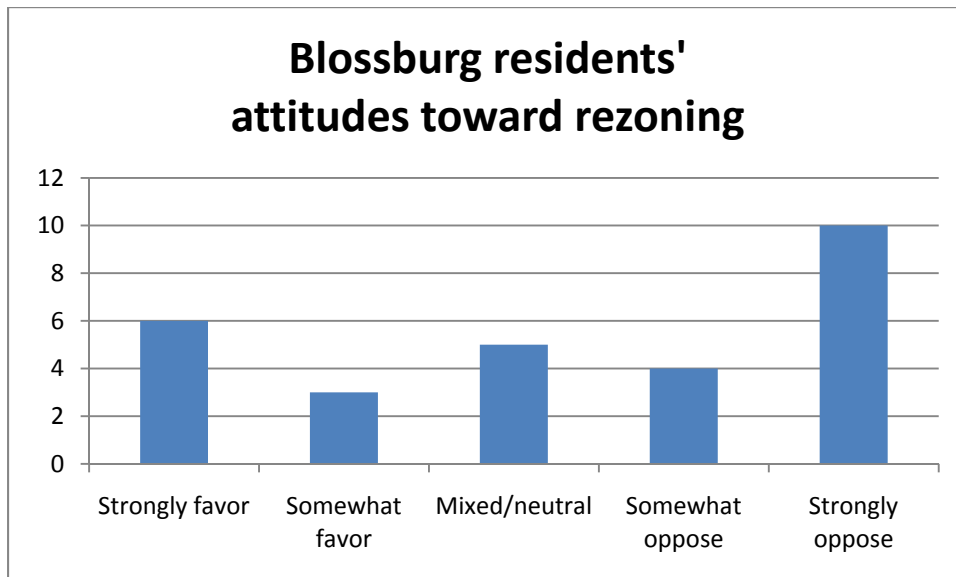
## Survey Results: Opinions of the Proposed Rezoning for a Frac Water Recycling Plant

From Sept. 5 to 14, 2009, I conducted an unscientific online survey of Blossburg-area residents' opinions about the proposed rezoning of the land between the Kwik Fill and Tabor Townhomes from commercial use to industrial use. Williamson Land Co. has requested the rezoning to pursue construction of a recycling plant for water used in hydraulic fracturing processes for natural gas well drilling operations.

**Methods.** I tested the primary reasons that I had heard cited for opposing or supporting the rezoning over the prior few weeks since Blossburg Borough Council had tabled the rezoning proposal at its August meeting in the face of outspoken opposition from community members.

I advertised the survey on the two email lists controlled by blossom.org – [16912@yahogroups.com](mailto:16912@yahogroups.com) and [blossburg@yahogroups.com](mailto:blossburg@yahogroups.com); on my facebook profile [www.facebook.com/jamnturtl](http://www.facebook.com/jamnturtl); on my consulting website [www.RidgerunnerConsulting.com](http://www.RidgerunnerConsulting.com); and eventually on [www.blossburg.org](http://www.blossburg.org). I received 35 responses from community members, including seven responses from the neighboring townships of Bloss, Covington, Hamilton, and Putnam.<sup>1</sup>

**Results.** Of Blossburg residents, six strongly favor the rezoning and three somewhat favor it. Five chose the middle, which indicates mixed feelings or a neutral stance. Four somewhat oppose the proposal and 10 strongly oppose it. Of township resident respondents, one strongly favors, one somewhat favors, three mixed/neutral, and two are somewhat opposed.



I asked respondents to provide which area of Blossburg they reside. Of the three respondents who live in the Tabortown area, all are strongly opposed, citing environmental, traffic, noise and light pollution concerns. No other area consistently favors or opposes the proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> After initially publicizing the survey, I received a comment that a Bloss Township resident would like to respond because what happens in Blossburg affects the townships.

I allowed all respondents to choose reasons for favoring the rezoning proposal, including those who oppose it, to show the nuances of opinions. I also allowed respondents to choose all answers they felt applied.

<b>Reasons for favoring rezoning</b>			
	<b>Blossburg residents</b>	<b>Township residents</b>	<b>Total</b>
It will bring jobs to Blossburg.	14	3	17
It will increase tax revenues for Blossburg.	14	3	17
Any development in Blossburg is better than none.	7	1	8
If commercial use zoning hasn't work, maybe industrial will.	7	2	9
People whose opinions I respect favor it.	2	0	2
Other* (fill in the blank)	1	1	2

\*Other responses:

- "I need more information."
- "This could be a good idea in a better location, aka south towards Arnot."

I allowed all respondents to choose reasons for opposing the rezoning proposal, including those who favor it, to show the nuances of opinions. I also allowed respondents to choose all answers they felt applied.

<b>Reasons for opposing rezoning</b>			
	<b>Blossburg residents</b>	<b>Township residents</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jobs won't go to Blossburg-area residents.	11	2	13
It will increase costs for Blossburg but not bring enough additional tax revenue.	7	1	8
It has too many potential environmental consequences.	16	2	18
It will bring too much traffic, noise, light pollution to that area.	9	1	10
That land should remain commercial.	7	2	9
People whose opinions I respect oppose it.	2	0	2
Other* (fill in the blank)	1	1	2

\*Other responses:

- "I need more information."
- "destroys our town's beauty"
- "This would be quite an eyesore to come off the highway to."

<b>Demographic Information</b>			
	<b>Blossburg residents</b>	<b>Township residents</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Voter registration</b>			
- Republican	14	3	17
- Democrat	9	4	13
- Independent	1	0	1
- Not registered	4	0	4
<b>Gender</b>			
- Male	14	1	15
- Female	14	6	20
<b>Age Range</b>			
- 18-35	8	0	8
- 36-50	7	4	11
- 51-65	6	2	8
- Over 65	7	1	8

Additional comments about the survey or the rezoning proposal:

<b>More comments about the survey or the rezoning.<sup>2</sup></b>	
Favors not Blossburg resident.	Although this is not the best area for this industrial plant, if no other areas are available, it would be cost effective way to recycle the water used for drilling. I am also in favor of any job growth for Blossburg. Is there another area that could be used for this frac water plant that would not be so close to residential areas?
Mixed/neutral Blossburg resident	I am not opposed to the rezoning. My concern is lack of sufficient information about the proposed recycling process and the company operation it. I understand the water will arrive via truck. How will the "recycled" water be disposed of? My concern is it will be disposed of in a creek or an injection well. As this location is at the very edge of town, it would be the best location we have available.
Mixed/neutral Blossburg resident	This has nothing to do with the Frac but it has to do with the Area up there. I work in Blossburg and used to live in Arnot and I was almost hit by traffic up there on what seems like a weekly basis on my way to and from work. Once when my Daughter was first born. I refuse to travel by the Kwik Fill anymore and know several people that feel the same. Isn't there a way that we could even put a little blinking red light on the stop sign itself?? It is way to dangerous by the Kwik Fill!!
Favors Blossburg resident	I believe that this is not going to bring jobs to Blossburg residents but will at least bring some more money through tax revenue. I would vote yes to have this rezoned as needed to make it available.
Opposes Blossburg resident	We need to bring jobs to the people of Blossburg
Mixed/neutral Blossburg resident	We need jobs for the people that live in and around Blossburg.
Mixed/neutral Blossburg resident	So far, the only information circulating seems to be from those who are adamantly opposed to the plant. I want to know how many jobs will be created, what kind of jobs will be created, how much these will pay, the impact on the environment (will the plant turn th eorange tioga river bed green?), will it lower my taxes, will it increase my taxes, ho wlong will it be needed? Will I be able to see it from my house? Will it stink? Will the increased traffic translate into increased business on Main Street? Who stands to gain? Who stands to lose? What are the risks to the environment? How likely are those risks to occur?
Opposes Blossburg resident	The potential for negative environmental impact is too great. This applies both to the near and distant future. Who knows what spills will happen and what the effects will be. Will this be a future generation's problem that they will have to clean up?
Favors Blossburg resident	this would be better than the s--t from ny.could killer town water if gets into well or drinking water just \$28000.00 the town would get is it worth it????

<sup>2</sup> These comments are not edited.

Opposes Blossburg resident	There is too little disclosure about these recycling plants, the chemicals used and the risk involved (in both the immediate future due to a spill, for example, or in the distant future). I strongly oppose any re-zoning efforts for the purpose of building a frac water recycling plant.
Opposes Blossburg resident	I wish we had MUCH more information: chemicals involved, what municipal resources are used, the actual steps of the process, etc.
Opposes Blossburg resident	Does anyone know what other locations are under consideration if this zoning change does not happen
Opposes Blossburg resident	I have researched this and the damage this could bring to our town is not worth it. Coal mining destroyed much of our area at one time, now this could finish all the hard work other environmental groups have been saving. 300 trucks a day, 24hrs/7 days a week. The dangers to life and environment, the awful look to our town entrance for what? 10 jobs that wont go to our local people. Will the council really listen to us? God, I pray they will. I willing to help search for other commercial use of that property since this town doesnt have a chamber of commerce office. Why should Mansfield and Wellsboro get all the breaks and grants? Stand up for your communities future and our children's.