

Rick Roles lives on a family farm in Garfield County, about 10 miles south of Rifle, where he raised goats, horses, and garden crops. Then oil and gas moved into his area. They put in 4 compressor plants in the area, with hundreds of wells within a few miles of his property. They put in 19 wells close to his property, with 3 well pads right on it. They installed one wastewater evaporation pit at the end of his driveway and two others within a half mile of his house.

He began experiencing nosebleeds and severe headaches and dizziness, and a rash that they all call "frack rash", along with coughing fits (coughing up dust and blood). The rash is gone now, but he jokes that his lower legs have turned to "alligator hide" – the skin has changed texture. He developed severe sinusitis, which worsens when he heads out towards the pits and well sites, making it difficult to breathe. By 2001 he lost his sense of smell.

For years now, he has extreme fatigue, which is present when he wakes up in the morning and all day long. Also for years, he has experienced pain all over his body, which worsens and is accompanied by swelling if he wears any constricting shoes or pants or closed sleeves. When drilling was most active and emissions were highest, he was having a hard time even bringing a fork up to his mouth – opposing muscle groups were operating at the same time and making it very hard to coordinate movement. He notes that his neighbors have many of the same symptoms, including the body pain, and that his dog used to have it really bad, as he would howl in pain and whimper. His dog's symptoms have improved since he stopped letting him drink the creek water, where there have been spills and supposedly cleaned wastewater is dumped, but the dog does have a grapefruit sized tumor between his legs.

Meanwhile, not only he and his dog and his neighbors have been suffering health impairments. His horses began having miscarriages at 5 to 7 months. His goats began developing cancer (especially uterine and mammary cancer) and losing kids in high numbers. The does would deliver dessicated fetuses or bones without tissue, then die shortly after giving birth. Of the few kids that are born whole, most die within 12 hours. Some are born with fully formed horns, another developed horns at age 5. Few are left and he can't in good conscience sell their milk. When he drinks their milk all of his symptoms increase and he gets very swollen lymph glands. The same is true of his garden crops: when he eats them he becomes more ill. Since his property value has plummeted, due to oil and gas impacts, he can't afford to move away; he is trapped on his poisoned property.

He has seen physicians occasionally over the years, to attempt to get help regarding his many health impairments, as have his neighbors, but physician visits became cost prohibitive, as he lost so much of his livelihood, and physicians were unable to provide him with any significant relief from his symptoms. Mr. Roles submitted a blood sample around 2005, to check for toxic BTX chemicals (frack fluid signature chemicals) and the BTX chemicals were indeed present at extremely high levels in his blood. He and his neighbors note that the medical best advice they have received is to move away. When Mr. Roles has occasion to be away from his property for a few days, some of his symptoms are alleviated. He notes that he would "move in a heartbeat", if that were possible.

Mr. Roles is a very articulate and intelligent man. He has researched, spoken up, filed complaints, reached out to his elected officials, given testimony in Denver to legislators, and consulted with an attorney, all to no avail. **His uncompensated devastation is of Jobe-like proportions. It appears that every one of his inalienable rights have been alienated: he is estranged from his health, his livelihood, his property value, and his ability to leave his poisoned land. He wants you to remember him and his neighbors in every bill regarding oil and gas that you consider this session.**

You can reach him at : 970 379-3794