

Supervisors Will Not Vote On Bergton Well Today

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By Jeremy Hunt

HARRISONBURG - The Rockingham County Board of Supervisors will not vote on a request for a natural gas well in Bergton at its meeting today, according to the supervisor who would initiate action on the proposal.

Information distributed among opponents of the proposal over the last few days indicated the board would approve a special-use permit application by Carrizo (Marcellus) LLC to drill for natural gas.

But Board Chairman Pablo Cuevas, whose district encompasses the proposed well site, said Tuesday that the measure would not come off the table at tonight's regular board meeting.

"There will be no action at [tonight's] meeting," he said. "Action will come when the staff has all the

information in the proposal in order for the board to consider."

The board tabled Carrizo's request at its Feb. 24 meeting following a public hearing in which a dozen people,

including conservationists and residents, raised concerns about potential environmental impacts of the proposal.

Carrizo (Marcellus) LLC, a subsidiary of Houston-based Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc., applied for the permit to explore and possibly produce natural gas in the Marcellus Shale field, a sedimentary formation that underlies much of West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. A small portion of the field underlies northwestern Virginia.

Cuevas said he met Tuesday with representatives of Carrizo, environmentalists and experts regarding the application. He said he would update supervisors at today's meeting about where the proposal stands, but it hasn't been determined when it would come off the table for a vote.

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