

## **There's Nothing Worse Than Dry Turkey**

... unless maybe it's a beloved lake that's all dried up. Residents of Dalworthington Gardens watched in horror as Pappy Elkins Lake shrank during a historic drought — records show that XTO Energy overused the lake for fracking water, a charge the company denies. If the energy company did take more water than allowed by state permit, they did it with the help of the town's mayor, city council, and other officials. Back when he was making a pitch to allow the drilling, Mayor Michael Tedder told residents the lake was off-limits to drillers. Then he wrote a letter giving drillers permission to take water from the lake, even before the council had approved that action — and without the approval of the state agency that controls such water removals.

DWG-ites were also shocked to learn that XTO has repeatedly violated the city's drilling ordinance — they'd not heard a word about that from the city. The person hired to inspect the site didn't even know there was any drilling going on after four years. Lakeside residents said they could see clouds of emissions blowing right toward a nearby elementary school. And if all that weren't enough, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality discovered the pad site was built on top of an earthen dam — a violation of state law.

The little town is still divided over the issue, and many have completely lost trust in their city's government.