

Support Safer Gas Drilling!

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rulemaking Information
<http://oil-gas.state.co.us/RuleMaking/2007RuleMaking.cfm>

Rapid and careless oil and gas development in Colorado is hurting wildlife, water quality and the health of people who live in the gas patch. New draft rules would protect our environment and human health in new ways. Government officials need to hear that we support the draft rules and want them to be even stronger.

Drinking Water Protection

The draft rules would:

- Prohibit oil and gas operations within 500 feet of sources of drinking water for a distance of 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake.
- Require performance standards for activities within ½ mile of such sources:
 - Pitless drilling systems or containment of all drilling waste with impervious liners
 - Pre-drilling, post-drilling and follow-up water quality data collection.
 - Immediate notification of public water supplier if a spill threatens a public water supply.

To make the rules stronger, the Commission should require that all drilling near drinking water supplies be done without waste pits and prohibit the use of toxic chemicals in drilling fluids in those areas.

Setbacks from Homes

The draft rules would keep the same setback from homes that is currently required for gas drilling: a mere 150 feet from homes!

This setback needs to be increased to at least 1,000 feet.

Wildlife Protection

Draft rules would:

- Prohibit oil and gas construction activities within 300 feet of all streams in order to protect aquatic life.
- Would restrict oil and gas development activities in key habitat areas during sensitive times for wildlife.

These are the minimum restrictions that should be required to protect wildlife.

Restore the Land

The draft rules:

- Lack meaningful standards and enforcement for cleaning up and revegetating land after a well is completed but still in production – which could be 25-30 years.

The rules should require verifiable interim reclamation as soon as drilling is complete in order to avoid unnecessary scars on the landscape and habitat degradation.

Submit written comments by May 29: David Neslin, Acting Director, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, CO 80203
Comment can be submitted via email at: dnr.ogcc@state.co.us

***Oil and Gas Rulemaking
PUBLIC HEARING IN GRAND JUNCTION
JUNE 10, 8:30AM at TWO RIVERS CONV. CENTER***

For more information contact WCC at (970) 256-7650 or sura@wcccongress.org