



## More Than Twenty Rulemakings in Nine Years

The State of Colorado is a national leader in its commitment to fostering safe and responsible development of Colorado's oil and gas resources. Over the past nine years Colorado has implemented precedent-setting regulations from baseline groundwater testing and monitoring to air regulations targeting methane leak detection and repair.



This regulatory timeline provides summary information on significant legislative and regulatory efforts affecting Colorado's oil and natural gas industry from 2011 through 2020.

- 2011** [Hydraulic Fracturing Disclosure Rulemaking](#)  
*Requires comprehensive public disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing treatments.*
- 2013** [Baseline Water Quality Sampling Rulemaking](#)  
*Rigorous mandatory groundwater sampling and monitoring rules.*

[Setback Rulemaking](#)  
*Created a uniform 500-foot statewide setback, applicable in both rural and urban areas and a 1,000-foot setback from high occupancy buildings such as schools, nursing homes and hospitals.*

[Wildlife Map Update Rulemaking](#)  
*Keeping maps updated provides state regulators with information to ensure that sensitive species are appropriately accounted for during exploration.*

[Spills and Releases Rulemaking](#)  
*Tightened spill reporting requirements to broaden the definition of what needs to be reported and requires that spills are reported within 24 hours to landowners and local governments.*
- 2014** [Air Emissions from Oil and Gas](#)  
*Colorado's Air Quality Control Commission passed precedent-setting rules targeting air emissions from the oil and natural gas industry.*
- 2015** [Complainant Rulemaking](#)  
*COGCC implements a streamlined process for the public to submit complaints. The new [online portal](#) makes the agency's methods for receiving, processing, addressing, closing and communicating complaints more effective and transparent. It includes guidance for making a complaint, what a complainant can expect and the rights of the complainant.*

[Flood Lessons Learned Rulemaking](#)  
*The state updated its regulations to require remote shut-in capabilities and secondary containment areas around tanks. Additional reporting of equipment and wells in existing floodplains also was required.*

[Enforcement and Penalty Rulemaking](#)  
*Fines were increased from \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each violation and eliminated the \$10,000 overall cap for violations.*
- 2016** [State Implementation Plan \(SIP\)](#)  
*Strengthened rules to reduce ozone levels for the Denver Metropolitan and North Front Range nonattainment area.*



### [Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force Rulemaking](#)

*The Task Force was comprised of 21 members representing local government, civic organizations, environmental interests, agriculture, and affected industries. They put forward 9 recommendations that empowered local governments in the permitting process and allowed for site specific mitigation as a condition of permit approval.*

### 2017 [AQCC CTG Rulemaking & Revisions to Reg 7](#)

*To further reduce ground-level ozone, improve air quality, and comply with federal requirements, new rules were passed to reduce emissions from oil and natural gas sources.*

### 2018 [Requirements call 811 Underground Facilities \(SB 167\)](#)

*This legislation brought Colorado into compliance with new damage prevention enforcement rules issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in 2015.*

### [Flowline Rulemaking](#)

*Dozens of new rules pertaining to flowlines and other types of piping systems were approved, along with other regulations increasing transparency in safety and gas leak reporting.*

### [School Setback Rulemaking](#)

*The definition of a school facility was greatly expanded and broadens the 1,000-foot boundary to include not just the school building, but also surrounding facilities, such as playgrounds, athletic fields, fences, and other outdoor areas.*

### 2019 [500 Series Rulemaking](#)

*As directed by SB19-181, this rulemaking enabled the use of administrative law judges and hearing officers to ensure the COGCC is properly processing applications.*

### [Flowline Rulemaking](#)

*Following the 2018 rule changes, additional public disclosure, inspection, and deactivation requirements were added.*

### [AQCC Regulation Number 7 & Regulation Number 3](#)

*Reg 7 addresses control of Ozone and control of Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxide emissions. Reg 3 addresses stationary source permitting and air pollutant emission notice requirements.*

### 2020 [Wellbore Integrity Rulemaking](#)

*This rule strengthened the groundwater protection requirements for oil and natural gas development.*

### [AQCC Regulation Number 22](#)

*This rule developed Colorado greenhouse gas reporting and emission reduction requirements.*

At the time of this update (July 15, 2020) additional COGCC, AQCC and WQCC rulemakings are planned for the calendar year, including new air, water, and comprehensive rule changes at the COGCC that will emphasize health, safety, and the environment.

## Additional Resources & Information

Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) | [www.cogcc.state.co.us](http://www.cogcc.state.co.us)

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment | [www.colorado.gov/cdphe](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe)



For More Oil & Natural Gas Industry Informational Fact Sheets:

[www.coga.org/factsheets](http://www.coga.org/factsheets)



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