We will post updates on this website about the Lowry Ranch drilling project and CAP, as well as our Phase 1 and Phase 2 oil and gas rules amendments. Phase 1 is underway. Public comments must be submitted by June 29, 2023.

You can email Diane Kocis, Energy Specialist at dkocis@arapahoegov.com with questions and comments.

Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission’s home page (they regulate all downhole aspects of oil and gas exploration and production as well as water quality related to oil & gas operations).

https://cogcc.state.co.us/#/home

Colorado Department of Health and Environment (they regulate air quality and emissions related to oil and gas as well as other industries)

https://cdphe.colorado.gov/aqcc-regulations

Drilling and Fracking animation video—useful to better understand drilling and fracking processes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VY34PQUiwOQ
Rule Summary:
Access road construction standards must match current fire code standards.

Draft Rule Language:

Access Road Standards
Prior to commencing construction of the Oil and Gas Facility, the Operator shall connect the site via an access road designed to support an imposed load of 80,000 pounds that will accommodate emergency response vehicles such as, but not limited to, law enforcement, emergency command vehicles (cars/SUVs), ambulances, hazardous materials response vehicles, water tenders, and fire apparatus during construction and operation of new tank batteries, new drilling activity and reworks or recompletions of existing wells, unless a local fire department or fire district agrees in writing to a different or lesser standard for the access road.

Access roads shall be constructed to be at minimum twenty (20') feet wide with at least six (6”) inch road base.

The Operator shall maintain such access roads in good condition and suitable for emergency vehicle use until such time as the Oil and Gas Facility has been plugged and abandoned.

If an Oil and Gas Facility site incident could prevent emergency access on public or private roads, the Operator shall construct an alternative access road meeting these standards.

Best efforts will be made to improve inadequate access to existing tank battery sites identified by the fire district or County as determined through service calls and demonstrated problems of access to the site. The County and/or appropriate emergency response agency may conduct spot inspections of access roads to ensure that emergency access in accordance with this section is maintained.
Rule Summary:
Oil & Gas facilities shall be in compliance with all local, state, and federal standards.

Draft Rule Language:
The Oil and Gas Facility shall be operated in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Operation of a Facility in violation of any applicable federal, state, or other local law or regulation that results in adverse or negative surface impact(s) on or to public facilities and services, water quality and source, noise, vibration, odor, light, dust, air emissions and air quality, land disturbance, reclamation procedures, cultural resources, emergency preparedness and coordination with first responders, security, or traffic and transportation shall constitute a violation of the Land Development Code which may be enforced by law as other violations of the Land Development Code.
**Rule Intent:**
This rule was proposed by the health department. Handwashing supplies would be located near the portable toilets during construction, drilling and completion at well pads.

**Draft Rule Language:**
Operator shall provide handwashing supplies for workers at well pads.
Wells within the Aurora city limits are NOT included in this report.

*These figures are collected from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and are 3 months behind real-time field data.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drilling &amp; Completing (not yet producing)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producing</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injecting Disposal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Storage Wells</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic (gas supply for a home)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shut In</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Abandoned</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total active wells</strong></td>
<td><strong>230</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry &amp; Abandoned, Plugged &amp; Abandoned</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COGCC Permitted Location, Not Drilled Yet</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COGCC Pending Permits</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see the Well Status Map to learn where these wells are located.*
Allow Natural Gas-Powered Cryptocurrency Mining as an Accessory Use to Oil and Gas Facilities

**Background:**
This amendment would be achieved through a change to our land use table, as an allowed use in agricultural, industrial and business zones, in our Arapahoe County Land Use Development Code.

Currently, a number of oil and gas wells are shut-in because a pipeline owned by Anadarko was removed and there are no other pipelines to carry the natural gas away. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment mandates that natural gas from a production pad must go into a pipeline, rather than being flared or vented. This amendment to our Land Use Code would allow these wells to operate by putting the natural gas to beneficial use.

**Draft Rule Language:**

**Cryptocurrency Mining definition:**
The operation of specialized computer equipment for the primary purpose of adding, securing, or verifying transactions to a peer-to-peer network, also known as a blockchain, or mining one or more blockchain-based cryptocurrencies (a form of electronic currency). This activity typically involves large networks of decentralized computer servers that work together around the world to perform calculations and solve algorithms as part of the development and maintenance of a blockchain which is a type of distributed virtual ledger maintained on a peer-to-peer network. Typical physical characteristics of cryptocurrency mining include specialized computer hardware; the use of equipment to cool the hardware and operating space, and high density load electricity use.
Rule Summary:
Applications for a well pad with a lesser setback than stipulated in County rules must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Draft Rule Language:
If an Oil and Gas Facility application that includes a lesser setback is submitted, it must be and approved by the Board of County Commissioners through the Use by Special Review process provided in Section 5-3.4 of the Land Development Code. For approval of any lesser setback under this subparagraph, the Operator must establish that the lesser setback as proposed will provide substantially equivalent protection to a 2,000 foot setback and that granting the lesser setback will not adversely impact public health, safety, or welfare or the environment.
Rule Summary:
In addition to a formal incident report, a post-incident meeting shall be required with County staff.

The date, time and location of the post-incident meeting shall be determined by the Public Works and Development Director.

Draft Rule Language:
All emergencies shall be reported to 911 immediately upon discovery, and as soon as reasonably possible to Office of Emergency Management and the County Local Government Designee (LGD). In the case of an emergency situation where a delay caused by reporting would endanger public health, safety, welfare, or the environment or wildlife, the initial notice may be given orally. Formal incident reports are required for, but not limited to, the following incidents: spills, releases, uncontrolled release of pressure, loss of well control, vandalism, terrorist activity, fires, explosions, detonations, lightning strikes, any accidental or natural event that damages equipment, accidents resulting in fatalities, significant injuries or chemical exposures, or any condition or occurrence that threatens or harms safety on any of the Operator’s facilities, including pipelines. Formal written incident reports for all reportable incidents shall be submitted to the Office of Emergency Management, the fire district having jurisdiction at the facility, and the County LGD within three (3) calendar days of the incident. When in doubt as to whether the incident is reportable, the Operator will contact the County LGD. In addition to the formal incident report, a post-incident meeting shall be required with County staff. The date, time and location of the post-incident meeting shall be determined by the Public Works and Development Director.
Rule Summary:
Each new well pad application would require an application narrative, photos simulations of the view of the well pad from nearby properties and documentation of floodplain, wetlands and riparian area boundaries.
Rule Summary: One-mile setbacks from existing and planned reservoirs, unless downgradient conditions can clearly be demonstrated.

Draft Rule Language:

All Oil and Gas Facilities shall be located: At least one mile from existing or planned water reservoirs, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the Oil and Gas Facility is downgradient from the reservoir, in which case a 2,000 foot setback may apply.

With approval from the reservoir owner or operator, the setback may be reduced to the 500-foot setback applicable to other perennial surface water bodies.
Rule Summary:
Notice of new applications will be sent to all property owners within one mile of the proposed facility boundary plus residents of homes if the occupants are different from the property record owner, plus all homeowners’ associations within one mile of the proposed facility.

Draft Rule Language:
Neighborhood Meeting Prior to submitting an application to Arapahoe County, the applicant shall conduct a neighborhood meeting to describe and take neighbors’ input on the proposed Oil and Gas Facility.

The applicant shall send notification of the meeting to the Planning Division and to all property owners of record, all occupied residences if occupants are different from record owner, and all registered homeowners’ associations for residential subdivisions where any portion of the platted subdivision’s boundary is within one mile of the proposed facility pad boundary. Meetings may be conducted in person or utilizing an electronic virtual or remote meeting platform. Notice of the meeting must be sent no less than 15 days prior to the scheduled meeting date. At said meeting, the applicant must provide information concerning the development plans for the specific facility, including the timing and phasing of construction, drilling and completion, the planned access route, and mitigations planned to address noise, light, odor, traffic, and visual impacts.

The applicant shall include with its application for the proposed facility a summary of the neighborhood meeting and the list of attendees from the sign-in sheet(s).