



# 2021 Adams County Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

*February 18 and 23, 2021*

**Greg Dean: Oil & Gas Liaison, CEDD**





# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Agenda



Housekeeping items and expectations



Objective and Goals



Background

- Current regulations & permit process for Adams County
- New COGCC rule overview



Text Amendment process and timeline



Staff's proposed focus areas

*\*All items presented here are Adams County Staff's initial thoughts and proposals. This may change pending BoCC direction\**



# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Objective and Goals

### Objective

- Obtain input, comments, and concerns from various individuals and stakeholder groups

### Goal

- Amendments to the County's Oil and Gas Regulations for alignment with revised state rules recently adopted by COGCC and AQCC

### Overall Goals

- Amend regulations for oil and gas development in unincorporated Adams County that are necessary and reasonable to protect public health, safety, welfare, the environment, and wildlife resources while ensuring facilities are sited in appropriate areas and utilize best management practices to avoid and minimize adverse impacts.

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# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Background

### Current Adams County Regulations - Overview

Adopted in September 2019, after the passage of SB19-181

- Alternative Site Analysis required for all applications
- 1,000-foot setbacks from residential building units, schools, and environmentally sensitive areas - as measured from the edge of a disturbance to a parcel line
- Site-specific protections for air quality monitoring, visual impact mitigation and others
- Safety compliance audits
- Baseline noise monitoring
- Prohibited chemical additives
- Groundwater well testing and surface water setbacks
- Closed-loop recycling of drill fluids
- Automatic safety systems
- Emergency Response Plan requirement
- Reduced Emissions Completions
- No new wastewater injection wells

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- ✓ County permit process (OGF) requires conceptual review with internal and external stakeholders prior to application submittal
- ✓ One-half mile resident notification for public comment
- ✓ Administrative or BoCC approval processes
- ✓ Defined waiver processes for setbacks, zone districts, and performance standards



# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Background

### New COGCC Rules - Overview

Went into effect on January 15, 2021 for new and pending applications at the COGCC and include:

- Alternative Location Analysis required in some instances
- 2,000-foot setback from residences and schools measured from the edge of the pad to a physical structure
  - Defined exceptions for setbacks
- 1,000-foot water well setbacks
- Continuous noise monitoring at locations closer than 2,000-feet
- Reduced maximum allowable noise levels in residential areas
- Prohibited chemical additives
- Cumulative Impact Evaluation required for all applications
- Reduced allowable Venting and Flaring of natural gas
- Consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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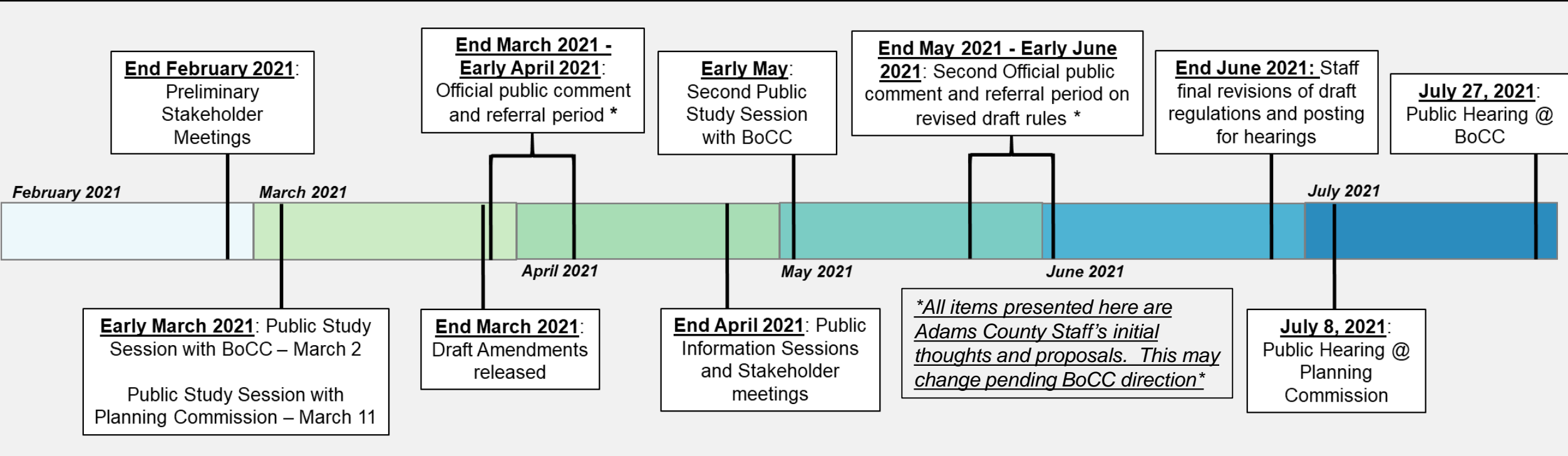
- ✓ Established a co-regulatory framework between COGCC and local governments, allowing for more coordination
- ✓ Combined numerous permitting processes into one, Oil and Gas Development Plan (OGDP)



# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Text Amendment Process and Timeline

### AdCo Staff's Proposed Timeline



*\* The County will accept all public comments until the final hearing deadlines*



# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Staff's Proposed Focus Areas

### Phase I – February – July 2021

- **Permitting Process & Application Submittals**
  - Referral Agencies
    - Role of COGCC/CPW/AQCC
  - Alternative Site Analysis
  - Impact Plans
- **Setbacks**
  - Residential Buildings, School Facilities, Parks/Open Spaces, Surface Water, water wells
  - Evaluate current setback distances
- **Other Performance Standards**
  - Noise
  - Traffic Impact Studies
  - Other conforming changes

### Phase II – End 2021 - 2022

- **Air Quality Monitoring regulation revisions**
  - Monitoring Plan specifics and duration
  - Data and report sharing
- **Other topics not covered in Phase I**
  - County permit expirations
  - Non-emergency notices
  - Financial assurances
- **Reciprocal Setbacks (setbacks from new development to existing and permitted oil and gas facilities)**
  - Reciprocal setback distance by well status
  - Measurement of reciprocal setbacks

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## Staff's Proposed Focus Areas

### Conceptual Review Process – Pre-Application

- COGCC, CPW, and Proximate Local Governments (2,000-foot) as automatic referral agencies for all pre-applications
- Alternative Site Analysis (ASA):
  - Include all referral agencies, internal stakeholders, and Operator
  - ASA will remain largely unchanged from current ACDS&R
- ✓ *These changes will align with the new co-equal regulatory framework for siting between the COGCC and local governments adopted in SB19-181 and introduce initial state review prior to submission of applications to AdCo and COGCC.*

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### Impact Plans – OGF Application Submittal

- Require individualized plans for all impacts associated with proposed location
  - **Examples:** Cumulative Impacts Plan, Noise Mitigation Plan, Community Outreach Plan, other plans
    - ✓ When will plans be required
    - ✓ Plan specifics
    - ✓ Decision and evaluation criteria

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# 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

## Staff's Proposed Focus Areas

### Setbacks

- Evaluating current setback distances
  - ✓ Residential building units
  - ✓ School facilities
  - ✓ Environmentally Sensitive areas / Parks & Open Spaces
  - ✓ Water wells / surface water / wildlife habitats
- Assessing off-site impacts
  - ✓ Mitigation
  - ✓ Best Management Practices
  - ✓ Exception / Waiver processes

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## 2021 Oil & Gas Regulation Amendments Stakeholder Meeting

County Staff - Primary Point of Contact

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Oil and Gas Information page: <https://www.adcogov.org/oil-and-gas-information>



**Questions, comments, feedback or other input?**