


11-26-2012

AGENDA: Monitoring and Protecting Groundwater During Oil and Gas Development

University of Colorado Boulder. Natural Resources Law Center. Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP
Project

Colorado Water and Energy Research Center

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Citation Information

University of Colorado Boulder. Natural Resources Law Center. Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP Project and Colorado Water and Energy Research Center, "AGENDA: Monitoring and Protecting Groundwater During Oil and Gas Development" (2012). *Monitoring and Protecting Groundwater During Oil and Gas Development (November 26)*.

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**Natural Resources Law Center
Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP Project
Colorado Water and Energy Research Center**

Monitoring and Protecting Groundwater during Oil and Gas Development

November 26, 2012

1:00 – 5:00 pm

Wolf Law Building

University of Colorado Law School

Boulder, Colorado

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) recently initiated a rule making process to develop new, statewide regulations for baseline sampling and monitoring of groundwater near new oil and gas wells. COGCC's first rule making hearing was held November 14; the rule is expected to be finalized December 10. This workshop will discuss oil and gas development procedures that can impact groundwater, the current rules that protect groundwater, those being proposed by COGCC, and other options.

1:00 Welcome and Introduction – Charles Wilkinson University of Colorado Law School;
Kathryn Mutz, Natural Resources Law Center

What's the worry?

- How can oil and gas development adversely impact groundwater? What can (but should not) go wrong? (Mark Williams, University of Colorado)
- What went wrong at Divide Creek? (Matt Sura, NRLC and White and Jankowski)

What's the law?

- How is groundwater protected in Colorado? Who sets the standards? What do they mean? How is groundwater protection implemented? (Andrew Ross, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)
- What are current COGCC rules for groundwater protection? (Kathryn Mutz, NRLC BMP Project)
- What is COGCC proposing and what is the EDF/Shell alternative? (Dan Grossman, Environmental Defense Fund)
- Colorado Law: Protecting Water Quantity and Quality (Alan Curtis, White and Jankowski)

2:45 Break

3:00 Colorado Aquifers in Relation to Oil and Gas Development (Chris Sanchez, Bishop-Brogden Associates)

- Types and location of aquifers
- Aquifer depths and what it means for contamination and monitoring
- High capacity municipal wells and remote, low-producing residential wells

3:30 Sampling/Monitoring in a Statewide Groundwater Rule (Gene Florentino, Walsh Ecology & Environment)

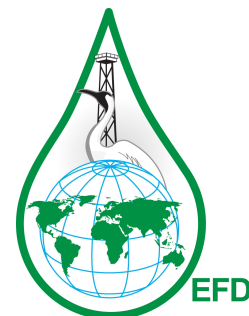
- Purpose of sampling and monitoring – what can it tell us?
- What parameters and protocols are needed?
- At what cost (time and money)?

4:00 Statewide Sampling/Monitoring Rulemaking (All Presenters and Discussion)

- Update on the rulemaking
- How do other states regulate to protect groundwater?
- What is the purpose of the rule?
- Is the draft rule sufficient or unnecessarily stringent to accomplish its purpose?
- What should be the purpose of this or subsequent COGCC groundwater rules?
 - Aquifer characterization?
 - STRONGER recommendations?
 - Other?
- Is a statewide rule necessary or desirable? What is the alternative?

4:45 What more do we need to know? What research is on-going? Needed? (Matt Samelson, NRLC and the Donnell-Kay Foundation)

This workshop is cosponsored by the Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP Project and the Colorado Water and Energy Research Center with financial support from the Environmentally Friendly Drilling Project and the CU-Boulder Outreach Committee



Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP Project