

For More Information:

Many key issues identified in SB 19-181 were addressed in a thorough examination of the COGCC's Rules, including defining the new relationships between state and local government, addressing cumulative impacts by developing a new program with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, establishing setbacks for location siting purposes, establishing a streamlined permitting process that incentivizes landscape level planning, a reorganization of the rules using updated language to ensure accessibility, enacting a prohibition on routine flaring or venting, and increased protections for wildlife.

The Commission gave direction to Staff for this rulemaking to reflect the spirit and mandates of SB 19-18. Significant changes and outcomes from this rulemaking include:

Public Participation:

- Create broader access to the COGCC.
- Expand standing to allow citizens the ability to participate in hearings, permits applications, and requests from operators for a variance or waiver from a rule.

Increased Protections for Public Health, Safety, Welfare, Wildlife and Environmental Resources:

- Incentivize comprehensive landscape-level planning through the permitting process.
- Create a solidified one permit process rather than the current multi-step process.
- Transfer the permitting authority from administrative approvals by the Commission's Staff to the Commissioners through a public hearing, which increases transparency and public participation.
- Establish new regulatory relationships with local governments, which includes COGCC involvement early on in local permitting and siting processes and includes recognition that operators must comply with the most protective regulations.
- Ensure environmental justice for disproportionately impacted communities and allow them to be involved in the permit process. These are Colorado's first ever rules to be adopted that incorporate environmental justice as a consideration in facility siting.
- Create a first-of-kind Cumulative Impacts data gathering system with an annual reporting requirement to the public for transparency.
- Establish protective setbacks for oil and gas development from residential building units, schools, and high priority habitat, including riparian areas.
- End routine flaring and venting.
- Increase protections for wildlife management.
- Increased protections for water resources.

COGCC Links:

COGCC Website: cogcc.state.co.us

Mission Change Press Release:

https://cogcc.state.co.us/documents/media/Press_Release_Mission_Change_Vote_20201123.pdf

Mission Change Fact Sheet:

https://cogcc.state.co.us/documents/media/Mission_Change_200_600_800_900_1200_Series_Fact_Sheet_20201123.pdf

Mission Change Rules: <https://cogcc.state.co.us/reg.html#/rules>

Mission Change Rulemaking Overview

Presentation: https://cogcc.state.co.us/documents/library/Presentations/Public_Presentations/2021-01%20COGCC%20Mission%20Change%20Rules%20Overview%20Presentation_Website%20PDF.pdf

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