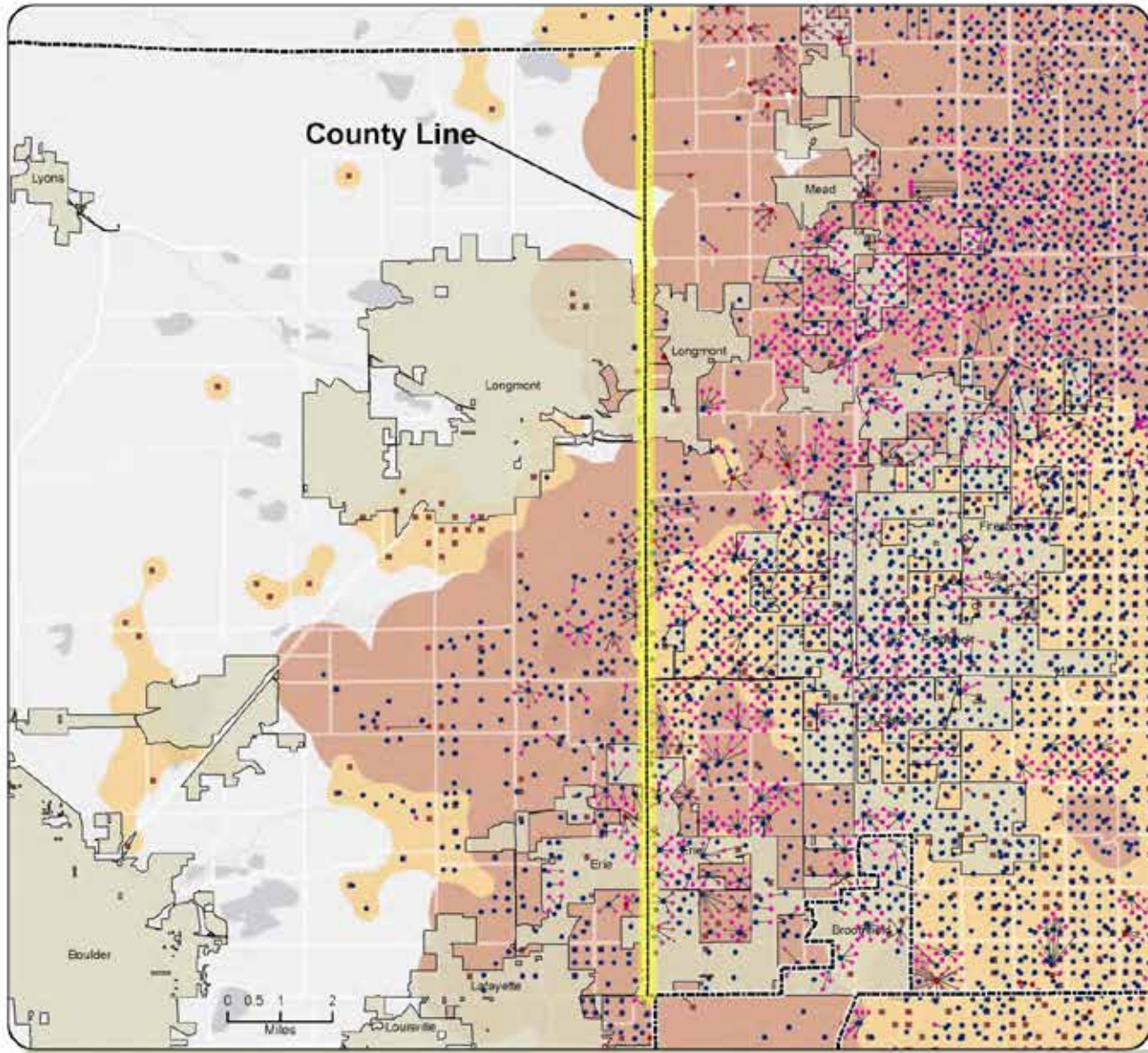


# Boulder County Land Use Department



## Docket BCCP-12-0001: Amendments to Oil and Gas Policies – Authorization to Proceed

May 16, 2012



## Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Wells: GIS Data Map

- Wells
- State Permitted Sites
- Pit Facility
- Directional Well Bottomhole: Actual
- Directional Well Bottomhole: Planned
- Directional Well Line
- Oil or Gas Field
- Wattenberg Gas Field



BCCP-12-0001

# CURRENT BCCP POLICIES

Geology Element (1980): 2.06 The county shall regulate the exploration for, development of, and production of petroleum, natural gas, and geothermal resources as well as all accessory activities related thereto, to the extent permitted by state statutes

Agricultural Element (1997): 2.02 Oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities which affect agricultural operations shall be designed to minimize impacts to agricultural lands and water resource systems.

2.03 Reclamation and restoration plans shall be required upon permitting and be implemented upon plugging and/or removal of all oil and gas well and production facilities, or upon abandonment, and shall include all appropriate measures to return the land to productive agriculture.

2.04 The county shall use its regulatory authority to minimize the impacts of oil and gas operations on agricultural lands and ensure complete restoration of the area through the use of financial bonds, other forms of financial security or other appropriate regulatory measures to the extent authorized by law



## CURRENT BCCP POLICIES (continued)

***Infrastructure Development on Agricultural Lands: 2.01 The county shall discourage the placement of new utility infrastructure upon agricultural lands. The county supports using existing easements or other public rights-of-way to minimize the impacts to agriculturally productive land.***

- **2.01.01** If a thorough analysis of alternatives concludes that routing/siting of facilities is necessary on or across agricultural lands, all construction activities will be located and performed so as to minimize disturbance to agricultural resources.
- **2.01.02** *If the infrastructure location is determined necessary, infrastructure construction activities across agricultural lands should not occur during the growing season.*
- **2.01.03** *Any agricultural lands and water resource systems disturbed by infrastructure construction shall be restored to their former productivity*



# What Are The Issues The County Is Reviewing?

While some of the issues listed below may not be within the County's ability to regulate or control we will be doing a general preemption review of current County regulations and identifying where the County can and should have the ability to regulate. Where the County identifies areas where there is preemption but also potential local impacts the County will pursue working with the COGCC, other state and federal agencies and the legislature to find potential alternative solutions.

- Ø **Transportation impacts to roads**
- Ø **Impacts on environmental resources**
  - **Wildlife and plant habitat**
  - **Wetlands**
  - **Riparian areas**
- Ø **Geologic hazards**
- Ø **Storm water and drainage**
- Ø **Noise and lighting**
- Ø **Water quality impacts**
- Ø **Air Quality – methane emissions, volatile organic compounds**
- Ø **Land reclamation**
- Ø **Agricultural land preservation**
- Ø **Floodplain and Floodways**
- Ø **Visual impacts and preservation of scenic views**
- Ø **Operators responsibility to remove roads/facilities upon termination of the use.**
- Ø **Historic/archeological/ cultural protection**
- Ø **Spacing and setbacks**



# OIL & GAS ADOPTION TIMELINE

BOULDER COUNTY COMP PLAN

## Comprehensive Plan Amendment

- *Will provide guidance consistent with overall goals of Comprehensive Plan for any necessary amendments to Land Use Code & other County programs*

Planning Commission (PC) Authorization of Comprehensive Plan Amendment – May 16

Open House – May 31

PC Public Hearing(s) – June / July



REGULATIONS

## Land Use Code Amendment / Regulations

- *Will provide regulatory and programmatic framework for implementation of Comprehensive Plan policy*

Open House – late August / early September

Planning Commission (PC) / Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) joint meeting – September

PC Public Hearing(s) re: draft regulations – October

BOCC Public Hearing(s) re: draft regulations – following Planning Commission recommendation

