



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
1120 Lincoln St. Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: (303) 894-2100
FAX: (303) 894-2109
www.colorado.gov/cogcc

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 31, 2011

CONTACTS

David Neslin, COGCC, 303-894-2100 x-5122, david.neslin@state.co.us

Todd Hartman, DNR, 303-866-3311 x-8665, todd.hartman@state.co.us

COGCC, Gunnison County approve MOU to develop regulatory partnership

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and Gunnison County have approved a memorandum of understanding that memorializes the intent of both parties to work together on regulatory matters related to oil and gas development. This MOU, the first of its kind between the Commission and a county government, was approved Oct. 31, 2011.

The MOU follows several meetings between Commission staff and county officials and represents a cooperative approach designed to clarify and coordinate the regulation of oil and gas operations in a way that assists the state and provides assurance to the county and its residents that industry activity is protective of public health and the environment.

“We believe this MOU represents an important step in how we work with our county partners as we facilitate important oil and gas development while ensuring such operations are conducted responsibly and in accordance with our regulations,” said David Neslin, director of the COGCC. “It will also help ensure that we understand county concerns regarding such development.”

COGCC regulations already include safeguards to ensure local government engagement in the oversight process. The rules include a role for a Local Government Designee” (LGD) who can receive information from the COGCC relating to all oil and gas activities within that area. The LGD may apply for a hearing on impacts that have not been adequately addressed by an application or COGCC rules. In addition, rules provide for a Local Public Forum on certain applications for increased well density, including a hearing where the COGCC considers public health, safety and welfare issues.

The MOU memorializes the intent of both parties to schedule regular coordination meetings, determine how to make the most beneficial use of the COGCC’s Local Government Designee process and take concrete steps toward assigning the county certain inspection and monitoring functions under COGCC supervision. The MOU is the

first step toward developing an Intergovernmental Agreement that would spell out with more specificity the roles and authorities of both parties. The MOU can be [viewed](#) here.

#