



*Perspective from the  
Colorado Oil and Gas  
Conservation Commission*

New Tech from the Regulator's Perspective  
CH<sub>4</sub> Connections Conference  
September 25, 2018



**COLORADO**  
Oil & Gas Conservation  
Commission

Department of Natural Resources



# COGCC's Jurisdiction

- Upstream Oil and Gas Development in Colorado
- Waste of the resource – Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Act defines “waste” as applied to gas as including:
  - the escape, blowing, or releasing, directly or indirectly into the open air, of gas from wells productive of gas only, or gas in an excessive or unreasonable amount from wells producing oil, or both oil and gas; and the production of gas in quantities or in such manner as unreasonably reduces reservoir pressure or unreasonably diminishes the quantity of oil or gas that ultimately may be produced; excepting gas that is reasonably necessary in the drilling, completing, testing, and in furnishing power for the production of wells – Section 34-60-103(11), CRS
- NOTE – COGCC has no jurisdiction over air quality



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# COGCC's Focus on Leak Detection & Mitigation

- Regulatory Partners
  - CDPHE
  - PUC
- Venting and Flaring
- Flowlines
  - Engineering Integrity Group established 2015
  - New Rules
  - Stakeholder Group



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# COGCC's Flowline Stakeholder Group

- Convened at direction of COGCC Commissioners
  - The Commission directs the Director to empanel a stakeholder group consisting of representatives from industry, local governments, NGOs, and COGCC staff to *examine current and developing instrument-based technologies and processes for preventing and detecting leaks and spills from flowlines*, and continuing to eliminate risks from flowlines, including the location of flowlines. Staff will present to the Commission at least quarterly on the stakeholder group's progress. Within one year staff will present a report discussing the results, conclusions, and recommendations, if any, for changes to COGCC's policies or rules.
- Two phases:
  - Colorado State University Survey
  - Stakeholder Group convenes to review existing rules and CSU Survey



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# COGCC's Perspective – Looking Forward

- Flowline Leak Detection – continued evolution, but please not limited to gas... other lines carrying fluids can leak...
  - Produced Water
  - Oil
- Venting and Flaring – where can we go?
- Pipelines – crucial infrastructure for minimizing impacts like methane emissions (as well as truck traffic, etc)



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