

Oil & Gas Definitions

Oil and Gas Definitions are proposed to be included in the Definitions chapter of the Arapahoe County Land Development Code

Best Management Practice (BMP)

Practices that are designed to prevent or reduce impacts caused by oil and gas operations to air, water, soil, or biological resources, and to minimize adverse impacts to public health, safety and welfare, including the environment and wildlife resources.

Closed-Loop Drilling System:

A system of equipment used to separate drilling cutting solids from the mud stream. The solids are placed in containment located on the drilling site. A closed loop drilling system does not include the use of any conventional reserve drilling pit.

Completion Activities

The activities for the process of making a well ready for production or injection. These activities principally include preparing the bottom of the hole to the required specifications, running in the casing, cementing, perforating, as well as hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, and flowback.

CPW

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division of the Colorado Natural Resources Department.

Decibel

Logarithmic unit used to measure sound level. The symbol for the unit is dB.

Designated Outside Activity Area

Any existing public outside venue or recreation area, such as a park, playground, improved sports field, improved amphitheater or other facility for outdoor public assembly or recreation. Open space areas and open [space buffers created through a PUD approval process are excluded from this definition.](#)

Development Plan

Any plan for new or ongoing development or production of oil or gas resources or production at one or more Oil and Gas pads, consistent with the requirements of COGCC's Rule 303 or Rule 314.

Dry and Abandoned

A well that has never produced and was plugged and abandoned after being determined to be unproductive or insufficiently productive to be economic.

Flaring

The combustion of natural gas during upstream Oil and Gas Operations, excluding gas that is intentionally used for onsite processes.

Floodplain

As used in Section 4-3 and 5-3.6 of the County Land Development Code, Floodplain Management, the land area that will be inundated or flooded based on the stormwater runoff produced by the 100-year flood as defined by FEMA, FHADs, or drainage ways with tributary areas that are 130 acres or greater.

Flowline and Flowline Exclusion

A segment of pipe transferring oil, gas, or condensate between a wellhead and processing equipment to the load point or point of delivery to a U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration or Colorado Public Utilities Commission regulated gathering line or a segment of pipe transferring produced water between a wellhead and the point of disposal, discharge, or loading. This definition of flowline does not include a gathering line as defined by COGCC Rules

Flowline Exclusion. A line that would otherwise meet any of the foregoing descriptions will not be considered a flowline if all of the following are satisfied: -the operator prospectively marks and tags the line as a support line; -the line is not integral to production; -the line is used infrequently to service or maintain production equipment; -the line does not hold a constant pressure; and -the line is isolated from a pressure source when not in use.

Groundwater

Subsurface waters in a zone of saturation which are or can be brought to the surface of the ground or to surface waters through wells, springs, seeps or other discharge areas.

High Priority Habitat

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Local Governmental Designee (LGD)

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Occupied Structure

Any building, structure or appurtenance to a building or structure that is intended and suitable for human occupancy, at least part-time, whether or not a person is actually present, including but not limited to: homes, schools, daycares, healthcare facilities, office buildings, businesses and commercial structures. Structures used for storage, such as barns, sheds, and detached garages, are excluded from this definition.

Oil and Gas Facility or Facilities

A definable area where an Operator has disturbed or intends to disturb the land surface in order to locate an oil and gas well pad, wellhead, production pad, flowlines, tank battery, a pit or pond, below-grade tank, dehydration unit, vapor recovery unit (VRU), and associated roads. Pipelines and gathering systems, other than flowlines, as well as salt water disposal wells and injection wells are excluded. Sites or locations with more than one of the above mentioned types of equipment will be considered to be one facility. Locations with more than one of the above mentioned types of equipment will be considered to be one facility.

Oil and Gas Operations

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Oil and Gas Pad Boundary

Same definition as Pad Boundary.

Oil and Gas Well

A well drilled for the purpose of producing oil or gas, or a well into which fluids are injected, a stratigraphic well, a gas storage well, or a well used for the purpose of monitoring or observing a geologic reservoir.

Operator

Any person, persons, association, partnership, company, corporation, or other legal entity who exercises the right to control the conduct of oil and gas operations.

Ordinary High-Water Line

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Pad Boundary

The outer limit of the disturbed ground created for the operation of an Oil and Gas Facility.

Pipeline

A crude oil transfer line or gathering line as defined in the COGCC rules.

Pit

Any natural or man-made depression in the ground used for oil or gas exploration or production purposes. Pit does not include enclosed steel, fiberglass, concrete or other similar vessels.

Plugging and Abandonment

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Pollution

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Produced Water

Naturally-occurring water that exists in the formation and is produced at the mouth of the well along with hydrocarbons. This water is generally saline due to formation deposition in marine environments. Produced water is generally disposed in injection wells.

Property Owner

The owner of record of a specific property as shown by the Arapahoe County Assessor's Office records.

PWD Director

The Arapahoe County Director of Department of Public Works and Development.

Regular Meeting

For purposes of section 5-3.6, Oil and Gas Facilities, a meeting attended by the Operator's representative(s) and PWD staff to discuss updates to the Operator's Development Plan and any incidents during the prior months.

Release

Any unauthorized discharge of any exploration and production waste or other pollutant to the environment over time.

Riparian Area

Riparian areas are the portions of the landscape that border streams and other bodies of surface water. Riparian areas include the floodplain and can include wetland and/or upland vegetation, and are distinguished by having different vegetation types (trees, shrubs, forbs, and/or grasses) than the adjacent uplands (e.g., cottonwood gallery vs. shortgrass prairie) due to closer access to the water table (in many cases). The riparian area begins at the edge of the stream channel (measured at the ordinary high water mark) and continues perpendicularly away from the waterbody to the furthest edge of the riparian vegetation. The riparian zone can be wide, short, or absent along a given stream, depending on a variety of environmental or human-induced conditions.

School

Any operating Public School as defined in § 22-7-703(4), C.R.S., including any Charter School as defined in § 22-30.5-103(2), C.R.S., or § 22-30.5-502(6), C.R.S., or Private School as defined in § 22-30.5-103(6.5), C.R.S.

School Facility

Any discrete facility or area, whether indoor or outdoor used for School purposes.

Seismic Testing

Operations that involve the transmittal of seismic waves into and through the earth to model the geophysical properties of the Earth's crust. These operations can help determine whether or not oil and natural gas are located in a specific area. The term includes all activities associated with acquisition of seismic data including, but not limited to, surveying, shothole drilling, thumper trucks, recording, shothole plugging and reclamation.

Shut-In Well/Facility

A well or oil and gas facility which is capable of production or injection by opening valves, activating existing equipment or supplying a power source, or a facility that has been deactivated.

Solid Waste Disposal Facility

A facility designed and licensed under applicable State and local law and regulation for the purpose of storage, treatment, processing, or final disposal of solid wastes.

Spill

Any unauthorized sudden discharge of any exploration and production waste or other pollutant to the environment.

Surface Water

A perennial or intermittent stream or any perennial surface water body.

Tank

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Upset Condition

As used herein shall have the same definition as stated in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended).

Water Source

A surface water body or groundwater that includes streams, ponds or springs and water wells that are registered with the Colorado Division of Water Resources, including household, domestic, livestock, irrigation, municipal/public, and commercial wells, permitted or adjudicated springs, or monitoring wells installed for the purpose of complying with groundwater baseline sampling and monitoring requirements.

Well Pad

As used herein Well Pad shall have the same meaning as Well Site defined in the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 100 Series Definitions (2 CCR 404-1 and as may be duly amended). Also see Pad Boundary.