



WESTERN RESOURCE
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Colorado Approves New Regulations for Hydraulic Fracturing *Disclosure Rules Are Important Step Towards Protecting Public Safety*

BOULDER, Colo. (Dec. 13, 2011) — The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) today approved new disclosure rules regarding hydraulic fracturing used by oil and gas drillers in Colorado. While the new rules fell short of completely eliminating the “[trade secret loophole](#),” **Western Resource Advocates Lands Program Director Mike Chiropolos** called the decision an important step in protecting Colorado families.

“The disclosure compromise is a model for future collaborative efforts where industry concerns are balanced against the need to protect Colorado’s water as drilling expands across the state,” said Chiropolos. **“This is an important step in creating the necessary protections for Colorado families, but there is more work to be done.”**

Western Resource Advocates has identified three priorities for the COGCC to consider in future rulemaking:

1. Implementing [the STRONGER committee](#)¹ recommendations to improve the safety of well construction and fracking operations.
2. A [mandatory](#) program for baseline testing, monitoring and tracers to protect our water quality.
3. Increased residential setbacks from the current minimum levels (150 feet for rural areas; 350 feet for urban areas).

Baseline testing and monitoring is urgently needed in light of oil and gas industry challenges to a recent landmark [Environmental Protection Agency report](#) indicating water contamination from fracking in Pavillion, Wyoming.

“Baseline testing can help eliminate the he said/she said arguments over contamination so that we can focus on keeping people safe,” said Chiropolos. **“One sick person is one too many. The Commission should continue to be proactive in 2012 in order to protect Colorado families and our water.”**

There are currently 45,000 active oil and gas wells in Colorado, and more than 5,000 new permits were approved in 2010 alone. For more information on the fracking disclosure ruling, go to <http://cogcc.state.co.us/>

Western Resource Advocates is a regional nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water. For more information, visit www.WesternResourceAdvocates.org.

¹ STRONGER: State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations. STRONGER is “a multi-profit, multi-stakeholder organization named State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulation, Inc.” State oil and gas regulatory agencies and industry are the primary stakeholders (strongerinc.org).
<http://www.strongerinc.org/documents/Colorado%20HF%20Review%202011.pdf>