



WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES

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Close the Loophole in Colorado Fracking Disclosure ***New Regulations Should Err on Side of Safety, Not Secrecy***

BOULDER, Colo.— Western Resource Advocates announced today that it will push for stronger regulations than those outlined under a new draft rule regarding the disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The new rule contains a significant loophole that allows oil and gas companies to withhold information by claiming a broad and loosely-defined ‘trade secret’ exemption.

“We need to make sure that companies can’t just say, ‘Hey, that’s a trade secret—end of discussion,’” said Mike Chiropolos, Lands Program Director for Western Resource Advocates. **“‘Trade secret’ can’t just be an answer on a form. Knowing what might get in our water is too important to the health and safety of Colorado residents.”**

The proposed rule generally provides for oil and gas companies to publicly disclose information about chemical ingredients used in fracking, but the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) would still allow companies to conceal specific chemicals or mixtures if the company deems such formulas to be ‘trade secrets.’ A formal public hearing on the rule is scheduled for December 5 in Denver, and Western Resource Advocates will argue for rules that are more clearly-defined.

“As drilling operations are expanding to more-densely populated areas along the Front Range, Colorado’s protections should go as far as possible towards full disclosure,” said Chiropolos. **“Existing disclosure provisions are among the weakest in the nation. Colorado can do better.”**

SCHEDULE OF PROCEDURAL REVIEW OF FRACKING DISCLOSURE RULE:

- Nov. 17: Application deadline for Party Status to Colorado Oil & Gas Commission.
- Nov. 23: Deadline for public submission of written documents, pre-hearing statements and alternative proposals.
- Nov. 29: Pre-hearing conference.
- Dec. 5: Public rulemaking hearing, including witness presentation, cross-examination and objections.

There are currently 45,000 active oil and gas wells in Colorado, and more than 5,000 new permits were approved in 2010 alone.

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