



# Energy Fact Sheet

## Environmental Compliance and Mitigation in the Oil & Gas Industry

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### Environmental Regulation

The oil & gas industry is subject to a variety of regulations at all levels of government, including:

- Federal
- State
- Local

Many companies also have internal policies in regard to environmental compliance that are more stringent than the applicable government regulations.

### Federal Agencies

- BLM – Oversees development on all Federal lands
- U.S. Forest Service – Responsible for surface issues on lands under their jurisdiction
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Regulates discharge of dredge and fill materials to waters of U.S.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency – Regulates alteration of floodplains and development within floodplains
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Regulates compliance with the Endangered Species Act and other wildlife statutes
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Is the ultimate authority for most air, water, and hazardous waste regulations and programs. Responsibility for implementation of many of these regulations in Colorado has been delegated to the State.
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration – Regulates employee exposure & safety and investigates workplace accidents

### State Agencies

- Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission – Has primary responsibility to regulate the industry in Colorado
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment – Has authority from Environmental Protection Agency to implement numerous regulatory programs with regard to air, water, and hazardous waste
- Division of Water Resources – Regulates the use of and rights to surface and groundwater and dam construction and safety

- Department of Agriculture – Licenses applicators of pesticides and herbicides
- Division of Wildlife – Has jurisdiction over state-listed threatened and endangered species. Also regulates impacts to wildlife from improper storage of waste, harassment of wildlife, illegal hunting, etc.

### **Local Agencies**

A variety of local jurisdictions also have regulations that address environmental issues via a number of permits and programs, such as:

- Land-use permits
- Building permits
- Floodplain development permits
- Storage and handling of toxic chemicals
- Grading/surface alteration permits
- Noxious weed management
- Watershed permits

### **Environmental Compliance**

#### **Internal Compliance**

Most oil & gas companies have developed internal compliance programs that monitor their compliance with all of the various programs outlined above through their own staffs and/or outside consultants. Many companies have developed internal programs and policies that are more stringent than the applicable government regulations.

#### **External Compliance**

All of the agencies outlined above monitor compliance with the regulations under their responsibility via announced and unannounced inspections and audits. Many agencies will share information with other appropriate agencies that is obtained during their inspections regarding issues that are not within their jurisdiction.

### **Environmental Mitigation**

Mitigation programs may be required by government regulations or may be voluntary on the part of the company. Many other programs initiated within the oil & gas industry, which are not required by government regulations, have a very direct positive impact on the environment.