

# Boulder County Land Use Department



**Public Hearing to consider adequacy of the length of the current temporary moratorium on Boulder County's processing of applications for oil and gas development in the unincorporated County, in terms of finalizing regulations and developing a plan to administer those new regulations**

**January 24, 2013  
4:00 p.m.**



# BACKGROUND / OIL & GAS PROCESS TO DATE

- **MORATORIUM** – Adopted Feb 2, 2012
- **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES**
- **BOULDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**
  - ❖ Planning Commission Review: May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug 15
- **LAND USE CODE**
  - ❖ Planning Commission Review: Sep 24, Oct 1, Oct 17, Oct 30
  - ❖ BOCC Review: Nov 13, Nov 15, Dec 4, Dec 13
  - ❖ Final resolution - Adopted Dec 20, 2012
- **New regulations are stronger & more protective than existing 1993 regulations**
  - Use full extent of local authority to enact most protective set of regulations in Colorado
  - Additional protections including air quality and water quality provisions
  - Dynamic and evolving process; will continue to make any necessary changes





## DECEMBER 4 PUBLIC HEARING

- **Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing regarding moratorium length**
  - Consider extending moratorium beyond Feb. 4, 2013
  - Public testimony was taken
- **Staff recommended tabling decision to Jan 24<sup>th</sup> to:**
  - Finalize regulations
  - Develop an implementation plan,
  - Participate in COGCC rulemaking hearings (Jan 7-9)





## IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation is an essential part of adopting any new regulations; can't have one without the other
- The new oil and gas regulations replace ~20 year old regulations
  - Complex set of regulations that are much different than the regulations the County had been evaluating oil and gas proposals under in the past
- Staff worked with key involved County departments to identify needs and develop a plan to administer and implement the County's new (Article 12) oil and gas regulations





## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**The Implementation Work Plan identifies tasks and the estimated duration of time it will take to complete each of those tasks.**

**The major components of the Implementation Work Plan include:**

- Development of a RFQ and hiring of consultants / outside expertise
- Staff trainings
- Coordination with involved departments and agencies
- Preparation of application materials, handouts, and public information including website
- Development and adoption of planning, transportation, and permit fees
- Inspection schedules
- Updating internal databases and tracking systems
- Coordination with Industry on submission of applications, including development of test applications
- Coordination with the COGCC to harmonize new State rules with County regulations





## MORE TIME NEEDED

- New regulations are going to require preparation and coordination to implement
- Other new County regulations are being implemented simultaneously; not all County resources will be dedicated solely to this effort
- Same staff continues to be engaged in State rulemaking
- County staff estimates that 4 additional months are necessary
  - Proposed timeline is legally defensible
  - Discuss potential phasing of application submittals with Industry





## BOCC ACTION REQUESTED

### *Action Requested from the BOCC:*

Staff requests that the Board of County Commissioners take action to extend the moratorium until **June 10, 2013.**







**Boulder County**  
Land Use Department

