

Comments to the COGCC – Elise Jones, December 17, 2018

- Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.
- I'm here before you once again to talk about public and local government participation in your permitting process. I apologize in advance that I don't have more positive things to say.
- As you know, Boulder County has been an active participant in your proceedings involving 8 North and Crestone, including our appeal of the 8 North DSU and additional well orders. Every step we take further into your procedures leads us into new dead-ends and closed doors.
- Boulder County staff are here and will give you further details on the specific details of this after I speak, but on behalf of my constituents, I want you to know that Boulder County is finding it almost impossible to meaningfully participate at the Form 2A and Form 2 stage in the 8 North situation. This is after you have repeatedly directed us to raise our concerns at that stage. Your processes prevent that.
- I am also concerned to learn that the statements of county residents, and all members of the public who take the time and trouble to come speak to you during your public comment, are not considered important enough to be part of the official record of your proceedings. As a county commissioner, I listen to and consider the input of residents when reaching my decisions and that input affects my decisions and becomes part of the official record. If you are listening to the public and taking them seriously, their comments should be in your decision-making record. If those comments are not part of the official record, then this is another false impression of openness to public input. One of our attorneys will speak to this issue further in just a minute, but I urge you to take a hard look at how and whether your public comment process is working.
- At Boulder County, we appreciate that you politely listen to our concerns each month -- but that is not enough. Your rules and your policies need significant reform and improvement to allow full and meaningful public participation in achieving the protection of the health, safety, welfare and environment of the state.
- Thank you.