



On February 23, 2014, at the conclusion of a five-day public hearing, Colorado's Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) voted 8-1 to adopt new air rules for the oil and gas industry.

These regulations fully adopt federal regulations (EPA's NSPS OOOO) and add controls and strategies to reduce fugitive Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and hydrocarbon emissions from condensate tanks and other sources. This includes installation of emission control devices and implementation of leak detection and repair programs. The new regulations will become effective in Spring 2014.

Key Elements of the Adopted Rules

Leak Detection and Repair

Upon implementation, Colorado will have the most comprehensive leak detection and repair program for oil and gas facilities in the country. Many operators will use infrared (IR) cameras, which allow people to see emissions that otherwise would be invisible to the naked eye.

Increased Emissions Regulation

The rule requires the regulation of a range of hydrocarbon emissions, including provisions to reduce methane emissions. Colorado is the first state in the nation to directly address methane emissions from oil and gas development.

Emissions Reductions

The State estimates implementation of the rules will:

- Reduce more than 92,000 tons per year of volatile organic compound emissions.
- Reduce of more than 60,000 tons per year of methane emissions.

Storage Tank Regulation

Colorado's rule also includes expanded control and inspection requirements for storage tanks, including a first-in-the-nation standard to ensure emissions from tanks are captured and routed to the required control devices.



COGA ►► Air Quality Regulation Fast Facts

Pneumatics

The rules expand ozone non-attainment area requirements for auto-igniters and low bleed pneumatics to the rest of the state. They also require no-bleed (zero emission) pneumatics where electricity is available (in lieu of using gas).

In addition to these key areas, the rules will also require the gas stream at well production facilities either be connected to a pipeline or routed to a control device from the date of first production. Other measures include more stringent control requirements for glycol dehydrators.

Additionally, they require the use of best management practices to minimize the need for—and emissions from—well maintenance, as well as comprehensive recordkeeping and reporting requirements to help ensure transparent and accurate information.

Additional Resources

For more information regarding the Air Quality Control Commission and Rulemaking, please consult these resources:

- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Air Quality Control Commission:
<http://colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AQCC/CBON/1251592887943>
- CDPHE Oil and Gas Rulemaking Hearing:
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AQCC/CBON/1251647985820>
- Air Quality Control Commission Regulations:
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AQCC/CBON/1251592947710>