



COLORADO

**Energy & Carbon Management
Commission**

Department of Natural Resources

Oil and Gas Permit Application Review Process

The Energy & Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) votes on **Oil and Gas Development Plan (OGDP)** applications at public hearings. Commissioners are responsible for reviewing each OGDP based on the application's compliance with state rules, the operator's plans to avoid or minimize negative impacts, and other factors, including public comments.

What happens prior to a public hearing?

The 20 members of ECMC's Location Assessment team are proud of our work regulating oil and gas in Colorado in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources.

Our job is to review each OGDP for compliance with Colorado's rules and regulations, which are the most protective in the country. ECMC receives about 60 OGDP applications annually. **Only applications that are compliant with those rules and regulations proceed to the Commission for a hearing.**

Components of the rules include:

- Limiting the use of chemicals of concern and requiring operators to disclose their presence.
- Evaluating cumulative impacts (i.e., the combined effects of multiple oil and gas operations, both past and present, on public health and the environment).
- Obeying the minimum distances oil and gas locations must be from residences, schools and other cultural features.
- Coordinating with the local and proximate governments.
- Coordinating with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to address wildlife concerns and protections.
- Coordinating with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to address public health and air quality concerns.



View all rules.

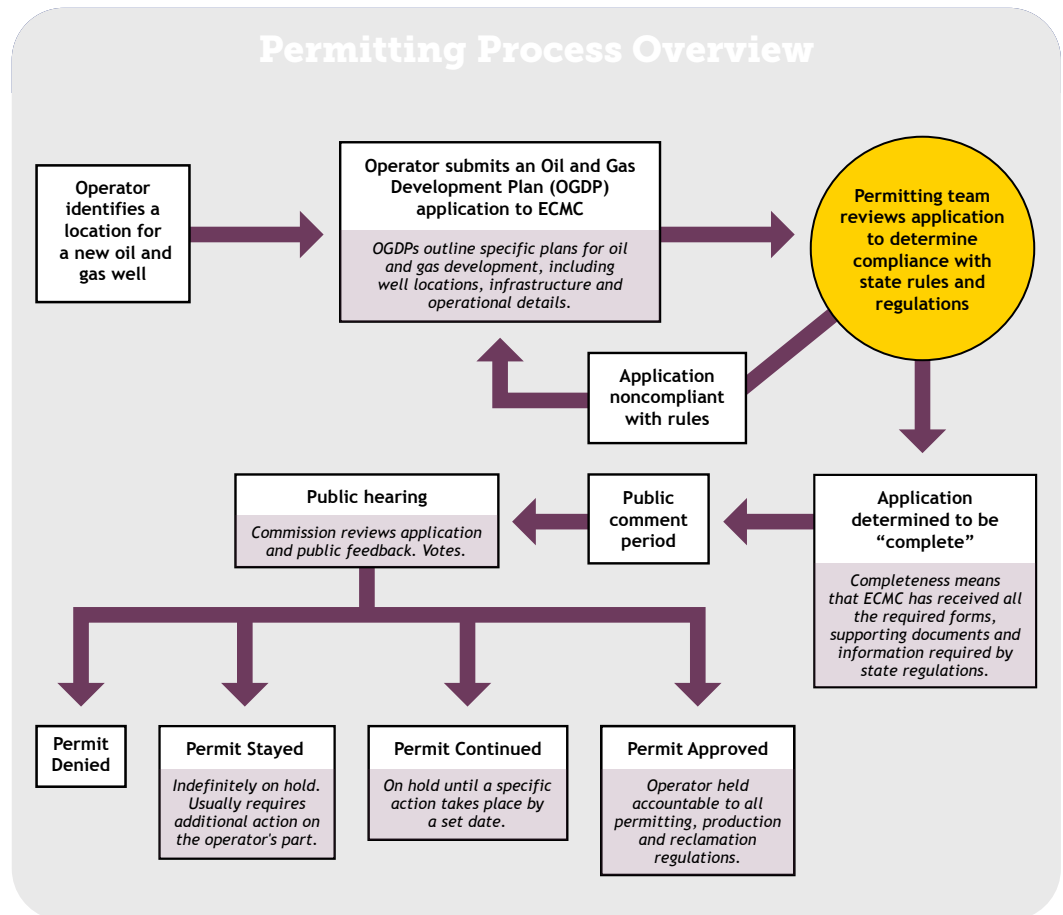
[ecmc.colorado.gov/
regulation/rules](https://ecmc.colorado.gov/regulation/rules)

Our rigorous review of each application typically takes four to six months. We use public and proprietary data to verify the information submitted by operators. Only after we have carefully reviewed the entire OGD application is it deemed **complete**, triggering the start of a 30- or 45-day public comment period.

During the public comment period, we invite you and any interested party to review the application and provide feedback. Our team then reads your feedback, addresses potential issues you've raised with the operator, and shares your comments with the Commission. Finally, our Commissioners host a public hearing to review the application.

If an oil and gas application meets certain criteria, the operator must host pre-application community meetings to provide information to potentially impacted residents early in the process.

Learn more about the ways in which operators are required to engage with communities at ecmc.colorado.gov/community-resources/upcoming-community-events-meetings.



[ecmc.colorado.gov/
community-resources](https://ecmc.colorado.gov/community-resources)

Want to get more involved in the permitting process?

Contact our team of Community Liaisons or visit our website for how-to guides, hearing dates, community event invitations and more.