

Minutes From
Studies Group
COGCC HB 1341 Rulemaking
Air and Health Studies Group
January 10, 2008

Questions raised:

- Are there health impacts from oil and gas development?
- Are there cumulative impacts from oil and gas development?
- What information is needed to determine if there are impacts and what they are?
- What chemicals are in the air, water and soil because of energy development and how do they impact public health?
- Are health impacts real or are they imagined?
- What are the risk factors?
- How do you track health impacts?
- How can the state gather data on chemicals involved in oil and gas production? Does the industry voluntarily provide the information? Can the state require the information be provided?
- What are the information gaps in the data, studies and other sources?
- How much of a risk factor is lifestyle: smoking, drinking and drug use?
- What information do we need and how do we use it?
- Why would we need studies and why is the information from studies needed?
- What do we need to know to protect the public health and environment?

Comments

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has the authority to manage air and water quality.
- Some health impacts are long term, such as cancer. Others, such as asthma, occur sooner.
- Some health impacts, such as birth defects and cancer, are tracked by CDPHE. Others can be tracked by hospitalizations.
- Focus air quality studies on ozone, particulates, nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide, toxics and VOC's.
- Tabled consideration of visibility.
- Monitoring tools should be vetted by the EPA, academia and professionals.

- Some industries, such as agriculture, are exempt from air and water quality rules.
- Sources of information and study methodology that might be useful from:
 - Industry occupational information would be helpful.
 - OSHA standards.
 - The Clean Air Act requires monitoring for permits and to measure compliance.
 - Modeling
 - GIS
- There is a need for better data on whether we exceed risk threshold.
- Existing studies will provide an understanding of the impacts and risks in oil and gas development areas. May or may not trigger a health risk study later.
- Study reviews could mean less regulation or more, depending on the outcome.
- Four Corners study could be used as a study design tool
 - The study looked at mercury from power plants in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado and the impacts on a Class I air shed.
 - Study was expanded to look at other issues.
- IPAMS also did a study.
- Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission also did studies on impacts of CBM to surface water and groundwater around the state.