



Adams County Oil & Gas Regulation Summary Table

July 2025

Regulation/Impact Area	Adams County Oil & Gas Facility (OGF) Permit	State ECMC & AQCC	County Regulation Comparison
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County regulates air quality via monitoring and can require control measures above state standards including additional air quality sensors, longer monitoring periods, sampling, electric drilling rigs and tankless facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQCC requires preproduction air quality monitoring statewide, APEN permits, emissions potential and reporting. ECMC regulates cumulative impacts to air resources and restricts venting and flaring. 	Meet/exceeds state standard
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County requires preapplication community meetings with all residents, landowners, and tenants within 1-mile Formal public comment during application Post approval, operators must conduct quarterly neighborhood meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECMC requires preapplication consultation with landowner and community meetings within ½ mile -4,000-feet. Public comment period of 30-45 days. 	Exceeds state standard
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County requires similar information to the ECMC but also a qualitative discussion of cumulative traffic impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECMC requires a separate submissions to address cumulative impacts to air, public health, safety, and welfare, water, wildlife, and ecosystems. Evaluation of cumulative impacts from applicable industrial uses within an impact area. Additional requirements and restrictions for operations in disproportionately impacted communities or those within the ozone non-attainment area (Denver-area) during the ozone season. Public repository for all air and emissions data 	Meets state standard
Financial Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County requires operators to require to maintain environmental liability insurance The County can require performance bonds on a site-specific basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECMC requires financial assurance based on Operator's well portfolio and production in a tiered approach. Some operators qualify for blanket bonds up to \$45 million Low producing wells must carry single well bonding ranging from \$30K-\$100K per well. 	Meets state standard
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County adopts ECMC noise standards. Requires operators to conduct ambient noise study, model mitigated and unmitigated noise, noise mitigation plan. Operators must follow stricter noise standard near zoning boundaries. Requires continuous noise monitoring with homes are within 2,000-feet. Can require additional BMPs to address noise such as electric drilling rigs and soundwalls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECMC defined noise allowances based on land use designations. Requires operators to conduct ambient noise study, model mitigated and unmitigated noise, noise mitigation plan. 	Exceeds state standard

APCD: Air Pollution Control Division

AQCC: Air Quality Control Commission

BoCC: Adams County Board of County Commissioners

CDPHE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

CPW: Colorado Parks and Wildlife

ECMC: Energy and Carbon Management Commission

Summary table for reference only; does not demonstrate all applicable County and state regulations and standards.

For more information about oil and gas regulations and activity please contact Greg Dean, Adams County Oil & Gas

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Nuisances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County requires mitigation plans for odor, dust, and light impacts. Can require additional BMPs to address adverse impacts including use of non-emitting mud, halting construction on high wind days, and low intensity permanent lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECMC requires similar mitigation plans for odor, dust, and light impacts Applies BMPs on a site-specific basis 	Meet/exceeds state standard
Setbacks – Residential & School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000-feet to existing homes and platted residential lots, schools, and childcare centers. Setback is measured from the edge of the facility to the parcel line containing the home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000-feet to existing homes, schools, and childcare centers. Setback is measured from the edge of the facility to the physical structure. 	Exceeds state standard
Setbacks - Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000-feet to environmentally sensitive areas, including lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and habitats. 1,000-feet from certain groundwater wells. Can require facility design changes or additional permits if near a floodplain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No defined setback to most environmentally sensitive areas. 1,000-feet from certain groundwater wells. 	Exceeds state standard
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County requires a traffic impact study for all applications. Operators are only allowed to utilize approved haul routes and could be required to upgrade roads. The County assesses an oil and gas traffic impact fee for all OGFs based on the nature and location of the facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State does not directly regulate traffic or haul routes. 	Not Applicable
Water Quality/Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County requires operators to offer water well testing within 1-mile of OGF Required to conduct baseline sampling and intermediate sampling post-completion and during production from 6 months to 6 years. Can require produced water recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECMC requires operators to offer water well testing within ½ mile Required to conduct baseline sampling and intermediate sampling post-completion and during production from 6 months to 6 years. Evaluate freshwater usage Produced water recycling requirements starting at new sites in 2026 	Meet/exceeds state standard

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