



Oil and Gas Planning through Comprehensive Area Plans

As an innovative producer of oil and gas, Crestone is always exploring and investing in best practices to reduce impacts from energy production. That's why Crestone uses the COGCC's preferred CAP process, a collaborative and holistic planning tool when developing and conducting oil and gas operations in Colorado.

What is a Comprehensive Area Plan or CAP?

A Comprehensive Area Plan or CAP is a land use planning tool developed by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), under COGCC Rule 314. The purpose of a CAP is to develop oil and gas using a defined, consultative process. The COGCC thoroughly outlined the process and requirements for a CAP application in response to legislative changes prescribed by SB-181. Because the CAP process supports the COGCC's new mission to regulate the development and production of oil and gas in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare, the Commission is encouraging oil and gas operators to develop and submit CAP applications for review, rather than taking the traditional approach of permitting one oil and gas one location at a time.

What are the benefits of a CAP?

The benefits of the CAP approach, compared with traditional oil and gas planning of one permit at a time, include:

- Allows the COGCC to evaluate cumulative environmental, social, and financial impacts of energy production
- More protection for disproportionately impacted communities near proposed development areas
- A more collaborative and engaged process that allows for increased community engagement and takes future community development into account
- Potentially fewer oil and gas development locations, removing redundancies and disturbing less land

Crestone's CAP Efforts

In July 2021, Crestone submitted the Box Elder CAP for rural, undeveloped land within the eastern boundaries of the City of Aurora. Crestone's submission is the first, technically complete CAP application submitted to the COGCC.

CAP Timeline

COGCC Rule 314 provides a clear process for consideration of CAP applications, including multiple opportunities for public comment and for consultation with other relevant state agencies and affected local governments:

Pre-Filing Preparation, 60 – 90 days:

This includes any voluntary pre-application meetings; drafting the CAP application, testimony and support exhibits; conducting cumulative impact and preliminary site analyses; and a COGCC Rule 223 defined meeting.

CAP Posted to COGCC Website:

After the COGCC deems the application complete, it's added to the COGCC website, making it a public document. Within five days, the operator provides notice of completeness to all relevant stakeholders, defined in the process.

CAP Application Notice of Hearing:

The COGCC sets a date for a hearing and posts a notice at least 60 days in advance of the hearing.

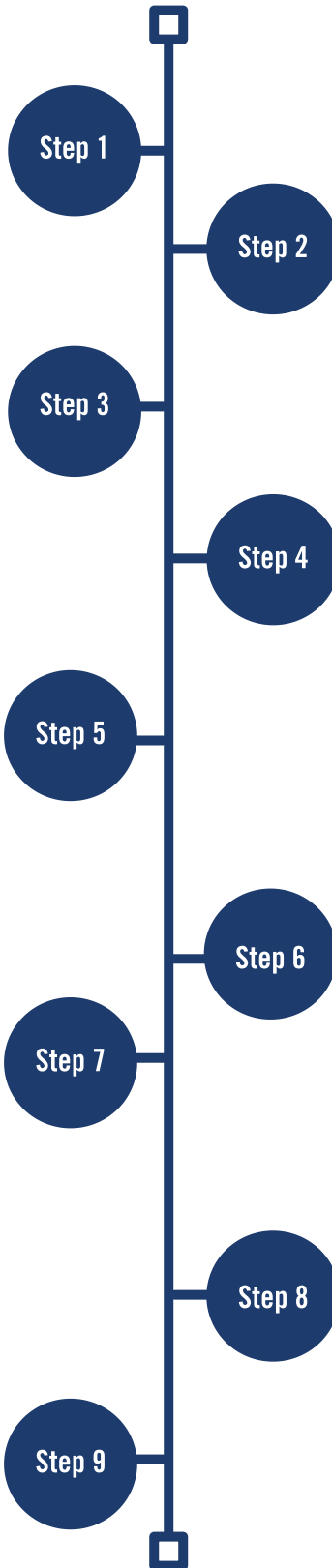
Director's Recommendation, 180 days:

Within 180 days of the public comment period closing, the COGCC director makes a recommendation to approve or deny the application to the COGCC commissioners.

The recommendation is posted on the COGCC website and electronic notice is provided to local governments, anyone who has made a public comment, and other stakeholders.

COGCC Commissioner Decision:

The COGCC's public hearing is held, usually within 45 days following the close of the public comment period. Public comment is accepted during this meeting.



Application Completeness Review, 30 – 60 days:

After operators submit an application, the COGCC reviews the application for completeness, meaning all of the required information and data is provided.

Public Comment and Meeting, 60 days:

This begins a 60-day public comment period during which the public may comment on the application via the COGCC website, at a public meeting the operator will be required to hold or at a COGCC public hearing.

Formal Consultation:

Also during the 60 day public comment period, the COGCC and operator will consult with local governments and other relevant state departments (CDPHE, CPW) to ensure their input is reflected in the decision-making process.

COGCC Hearing:

The commissioners vote to approve or deny the CAP application or issue an order staying consideration until more information can be provided.

Crestone is committed to developing energy safely and responsibly, while protecting public health and the environment and fostering two-way dialogue with communities. The COGCC's Comprehensive Area Plan (CAP) process is one of the many tools Crestone uses to meet these goals.