

**DRAFT MESA COUNTY ENERGY MASTER PLAN
PHASE 1- NATURAL GAS – PLATEAU VALLEY AND EAST
07/25/2007**

Plan Purpose: A policy document to be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners related to energy development. Phase 1 focuses on natural gas and is designed to have the following general applications:

1. *Guidance to:*

A. *the industry* (operators) to voluntarily follow when involved in exploration and development that may or may not be regulated directly by Mesa County – e.g., particularly applicable to APDs (applications to permit drilling) from Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the Bureau of Land Management. Permitting agencies to implement the policies as stipulations (intended as a “heads-up” to operators);

B. *private landowners* as information on potential impacts and opportunities related to natural gas resource exploration and development. Applies to owners of private or split estate mineral rights; and

C. *county staff* during the review of Applications to Drill

2. *Policy direction for development activities/facilities regulated by Mesa County,*

Includes: Conditional Use Permits and Special Use Permits for pipelines, compressor stations, metering stations, ancillary/support services, waste sites, etc.

Policies will be implemented through County regulations, e.g., the Land Development Code, Road and Bridge Specifications/permits, weed ordinance, etc.

Plan Area – The first phase focuses on the Plateau Creek drainage basin plus the area extending to the eastern Mesa County border as this is where most natural gas activity is now and is expected to take place in the near future.

Energy Policy Opportunity Map

Mesa County’s website includes an on-line draft interactive map designed to allow the user to identify locations of: existing and proposed natural gas facilities, drilling pads, and wells; sensitive landscapes, transportation routes, emergency services, and residential structures. Draft mitigation measures or best management practices for potential impacts related to scenic corridors, noise, odor, geotechnical constraints, proximity to residential areas, transportation, roads, bridges, water resources, biological resources, and wildfire are linked to the mapped sensitivities.

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