The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Sept. 3, 2019, to adopt a new set of regulations for oil and gas facility development in unincorporated Adams County. The new regulations include the process for applying for an oil and gas facility permit as well as significant regulations regarding safety requirements and environmental standards for the design and operation of facilities.

The county’s new regulatory process includes two paths for approval of new oil and gas development. The administrative approval requires adherence to all criteria and standards, including a 1,000-foot setback from schools and residences. If an application cannot meet all the criteria, including the setback, the applicant can move forward through a public hearing process that could result in a waiver of those requirements given appropriate mitigation measures.

All facilities must have a sign with the 24-hour notification hotline number posted near the public rights-of-way.
1 | SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
✓ Worker training and certification
✓ Incident reporting and investigation
✓ Safety compliance audits

2 | CHEMICAL HANDLING & CONTROL
✓ Chemical handling plan
✓ Prohibited chemical additives
✓ Restricted storage time

3 | WATER QUALITY CONTROL
✓ Source water testing
✓ Groundwater well testing
✓ Setback from surface waters

4 | AIR QUALITY CONTROL
✓ Leak detection and repair
✓ Leak repair timeframe
✓ Air monitoring by third party
✓ Restricted activities on air quality alert days

5 | EMISSIONS CONTROL
✓ Flare use restrictions
✓ 98% efficient combustion devices
✓ Product offload requirements

6 | DRILLING BEST PRACTICES
✓ Automatic safety systems
✓ Surface remote shut-in valves
✓ Green completions

7 | WASTE HANDLING
✓ Closed-loop recycling of drill fluids
✓ Time limit for on-site waste storage
✓ No new injection wells

8 | NUISANCE HAZARDS
✓ Low odor drill fluids
✓ Baseline noise monitoring
✓ Electrical drill rigs
✓ Visual mitigation

9 | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS
✓ Financial assurance bond
✓ Environmental liability insurance
✓ Notify county of spills
✓ Remediation requests

10 | EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
✓ Fire district coordination
✓ Impact area notification
✓ On-site spill response equipment
✓ Spill prevention and control measures
✓ Emergency response plan