



## CDPHE Air Emissions Study Review

*“Evaluating Potential Human Health Risks from Modeled Inhalation Exposures to Volatile Organic Compounds Emitted from Oil and Gas Operations” (Holder et al., 2019)*

### Why is this study important?

- Utilized O&G air emissions data collected in 2014 to model health risks associated with several well pad size and exposure scenarios
- Found an *elevated risk* of short-term health effects during *drilling and completions* activities
  - Higher risk for residents within 1,000-ft from center of well pad
  - Moderate risk for residents within 2,000-ft from center of well pad
- Found *minimal risk* of both short-term and long-term health effects during *production* activities
- COGCC response:
  - Increased distance from building unit to 2,000-ft from 1,500-ft under the Director’s Objective Criteria when assessing Form 2A/2 applications
  - Conduct air monitoring of oil and gas sites to better characterize emissions, sources and dispersion patterns
  - Air monitoring results will inform Mission Change, Cumulative Impacts and Alternative Site Analysis rulemakings
- Adams County response:
  - Potential resolution implementing increased scrutiny for proposed locations that have less than 2,000-ft setbacks
  - Require full suite of air quality BMPs listed in OGF regulations when site warrants it
  - Could impact future amendments to County OGF regulations

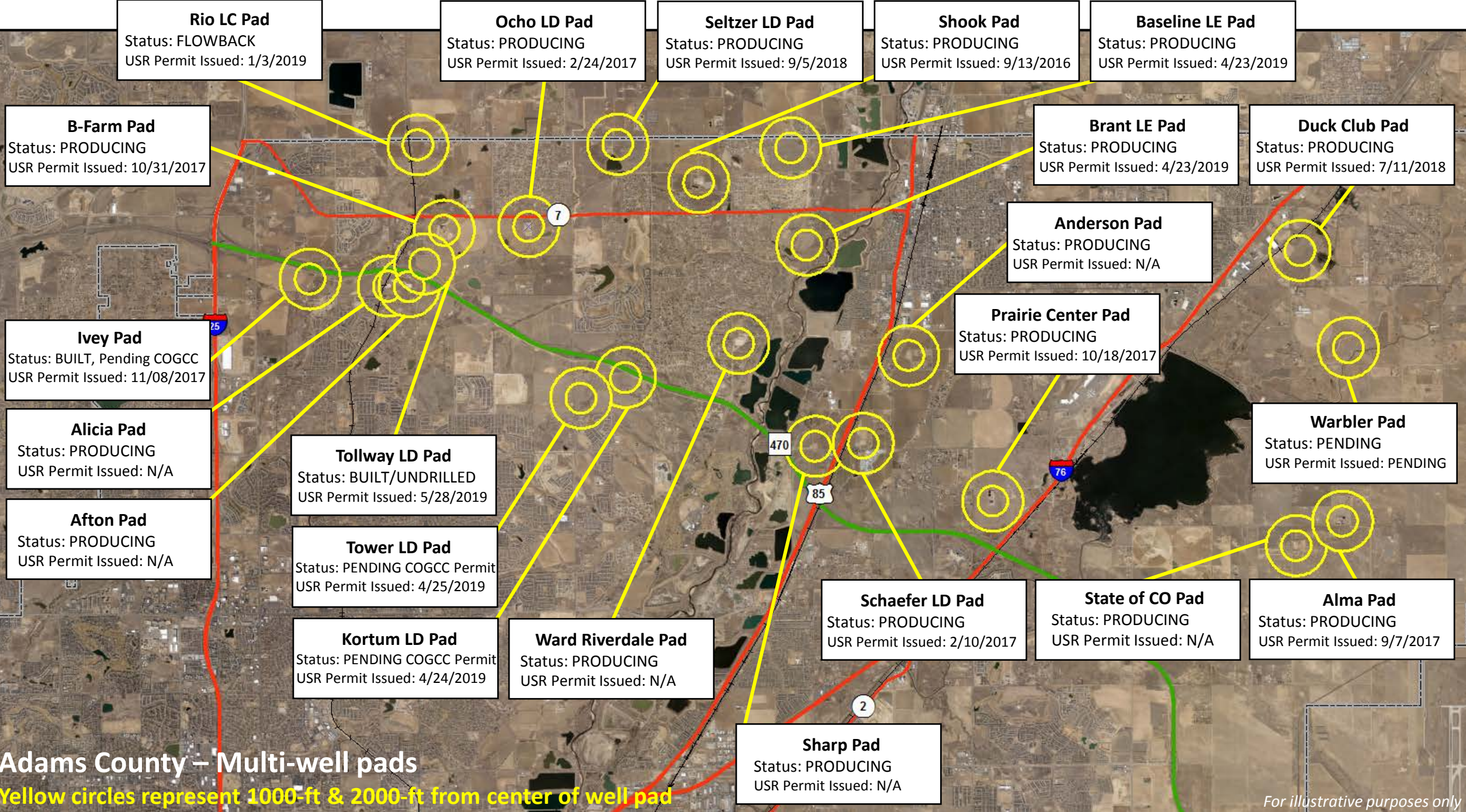


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### Study-specific Assumptions:

- This a modeling study utilizing actual emissions data from well sites taken between 2013-2015
  - Air monitoring conducted prior to more stringent EPA air quality regulations for oil and gas (NSPS Subpart OOOOa, eff. 8/2/2016)
- Study design did not consider aggregated exposure from background sources of emissions
- Study design did not consider cumulative impacts from multi-chemical exposures or proximal O&G locations
- O&G emission rates are highly irregular → introduces uncertainty in the results, specifically for acute health studies
- Study used a limited number of air monitoring points from absolute-maximum model iterations under conservative metrological conditions
  - may not be typical, real-world exposure/emission rates
  - “site-specific monitoring and metrological data would better characterize the relationship between highest and typical exposure”
- Study only examined specific VOCs and human carcinogens and did not calculate cancer risks for other chemicals known to be released during oil and gas operations



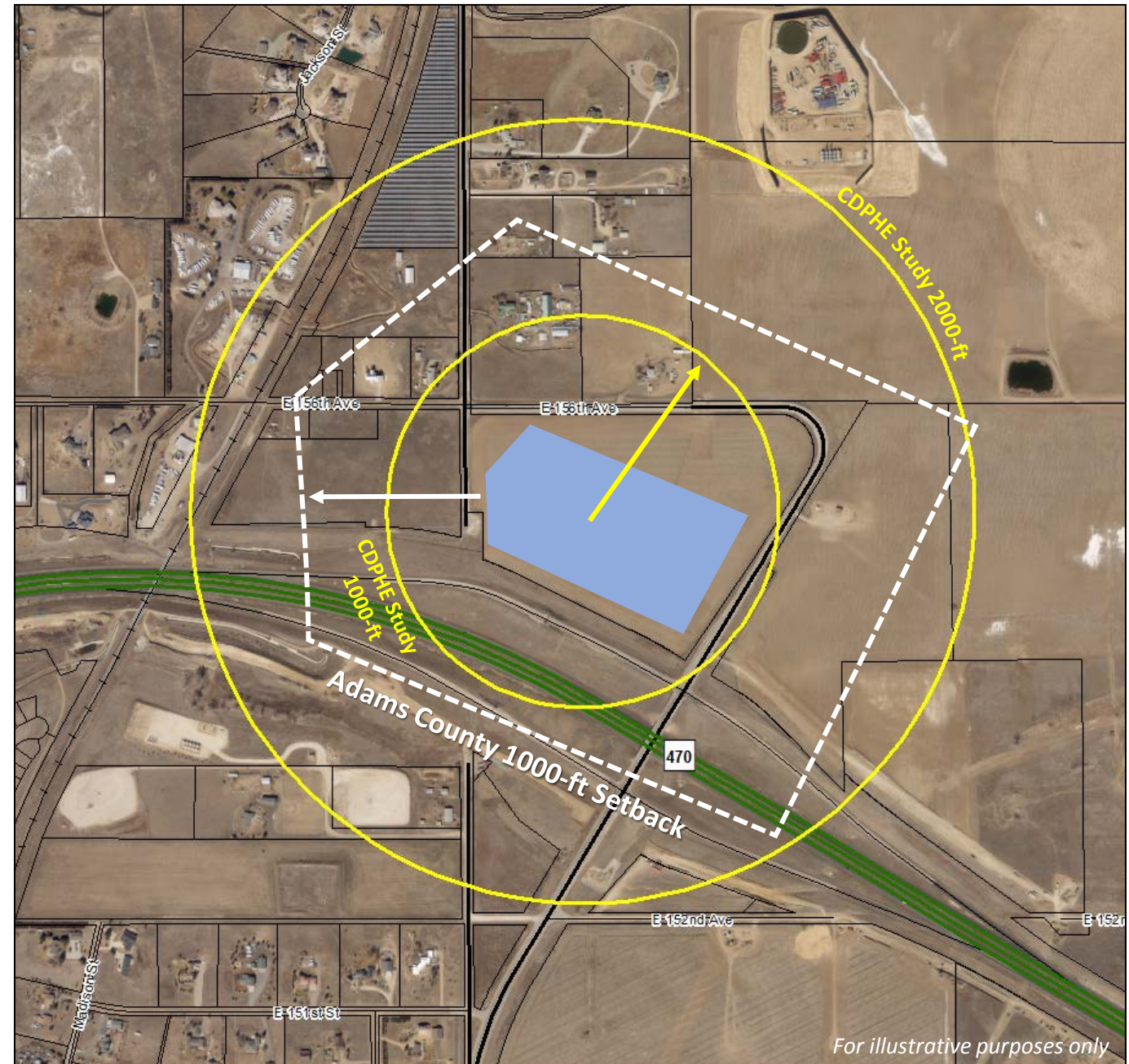
# Adams County – Multi-well pads

Yellow circles represent 1000-ft & 2000-ft from center of well pad

For illustrative purposes only

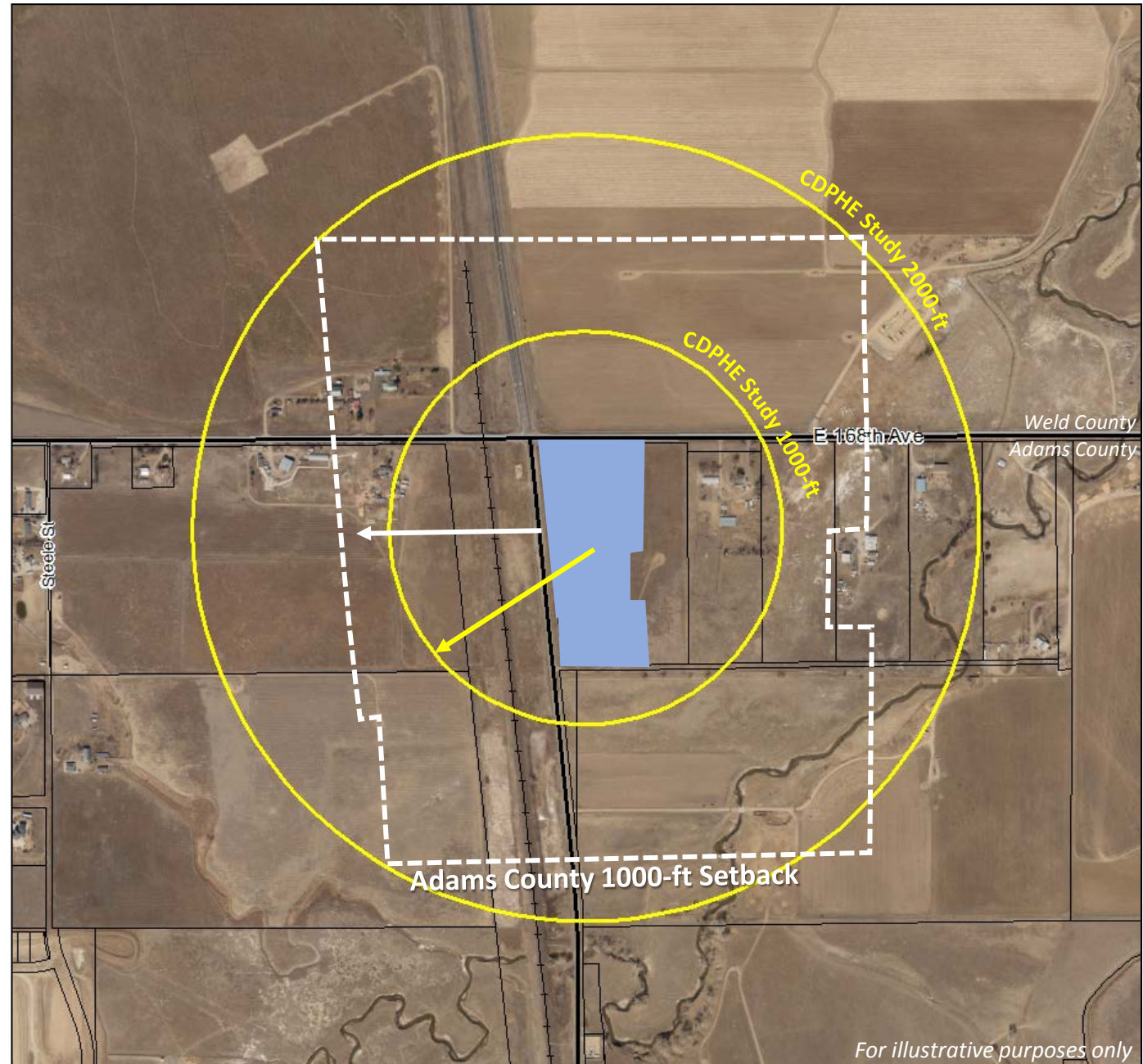
## Tollway LD Pad: Permitted 5/28/2019

- 15.3 –acre well pad
- 30 horizontal wells
  - ✓ 0 Drilled – Building Location
  - ✓ 30 Remaining
- 8 structures within CDPHE Study 1,000-ft radius
- 6 residences within OGF regulation 1,000-ft setback
- Nearest High Occupancy Building Unit: 4,620-ft
  - ✓ Elementary school
- BMPs in place via MOU and CoAs of USR Permit
  - ✓ Baseline water well sampling within ½ mile
  - ✓ Emergency Preparedness Plan in place
  - ✓ Oil transportation via pipeline
  - ✓ Traffic impact fee paid
  - ✓ Continuous air monitoring program
    - 2-week baseline test prior to on-site activities
- OGF regulation setback extends beyond study's 1,000-ft radius



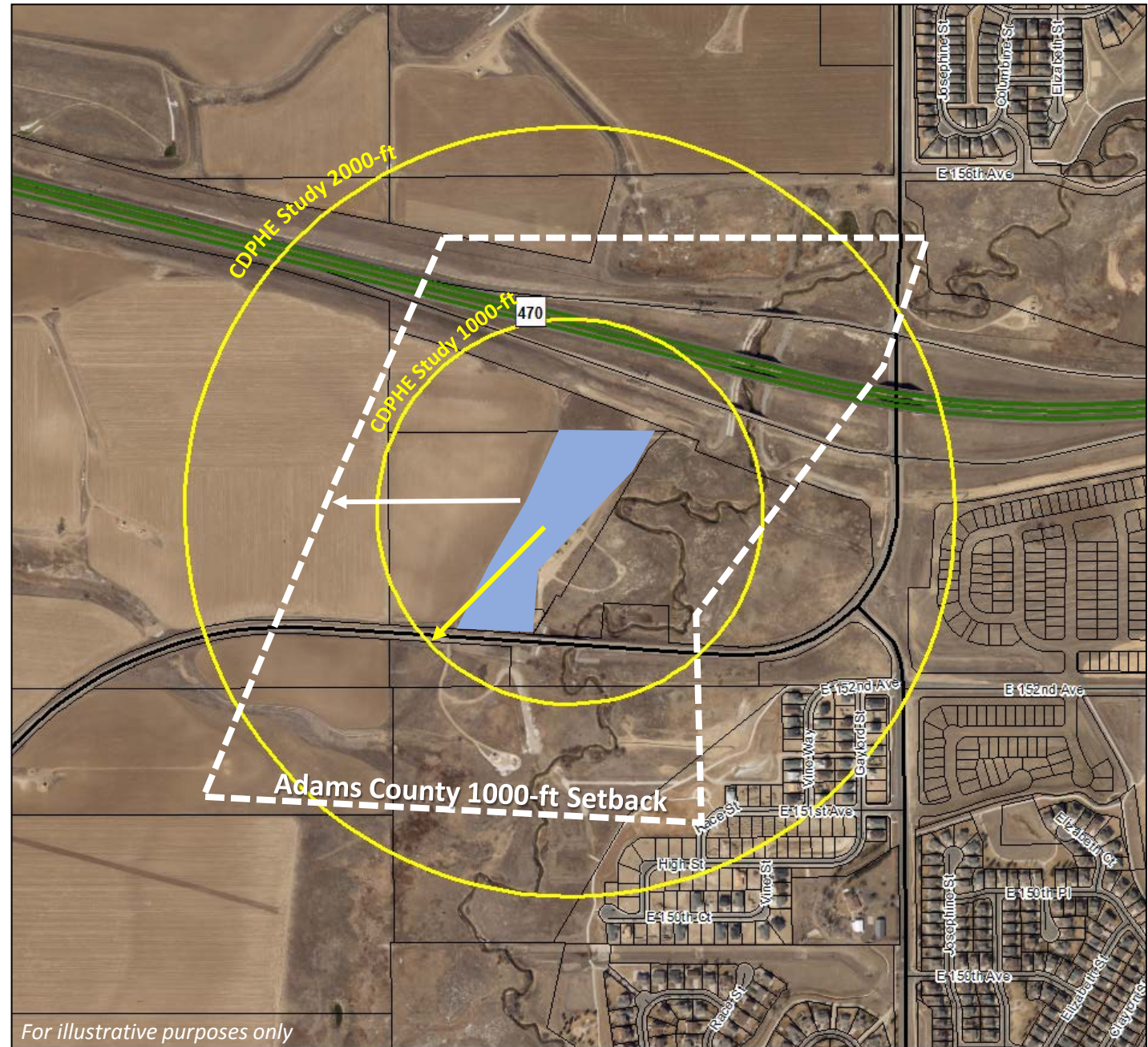
## Rio LC Pad: Permitted 1/3/2019

- 13.9 –acre well pad
- 26 horizontal wells
  - ✓ 11 Drilled – Flowing Back Production
  - ✓ 15 Remaining
- 4 structures within CDPHE Study 1,000-ft radius
- 4 residences within OGF regulation setback (within ADCO)
- Nearest High Occupancy Building Unit: >1 mile
  - ✓ Elementary school – 10,225-ft
- BMPs in place via MOU and CoAs of USR Permit
  - ✓ Baseline water well sampling within ½ mile
  - ✓ Landscaping, weed mitigation and fencing plans
  - ✓ Oil transportation via pipeline
  - ✓ Traffic impact fee paid
- OGF regulation setback extends beyond study's 1,000-ft radius



## Ivey Pad: Permitted 11/8/2017

- 6.8 –acre well pad
- 26 horizontal wells
  - ✓ 0 drilled – Location built, Pending COGCC Permits
  - ✓ 26 Remaining
- No structures within CDPHE Study 1,000-ft setback
- 0-3 residences within OGF regulation setback (subdivision)
- Nearest High Occupancy Building Unit: 2,854-ft
  - ✓ Child Care Facility
  - ✓ 3,479-ft from Elementary school
- BMPs in place via MOU and CoAs of USR Permit
  - ✓ Baseline water well sampling within ½ mile
  - ✓ Emergency Preparedness Plan in place
  - ✓ Closed loop drilling system utilized
  - ✓ Oil transportation via pipeline
- OGF regulation setback extends beyond study's 1,000-ft radius





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### Take Aways:

- New OGF regulations are currently equipped to address potential increased risks of acute health effects presented by CDPHE study
- Best location selected via alternative site analysis requirement
- 1,000-ft setback requirement; waiver does not have to be granted
- Air quality BMPs and controls currently required for all new sites:
  - ✓ Reduced emission completions
  - ✓ No flaring or venting of gas
  - ✓ Enclosed combustion devices with 98% hydrocarbon destruction efficiency
  - ✓ Restricted activities on ozone alert days
  - ✓ Tanks with 98% HC emission destruction control
  - ✓ 72-hour leak repair
- Air quality BMPs and emission controls that could be required for sites located within CDPHE study setback radius:
  - ✓ Tier 4 engines / electric powered drill rigs
  - ✓ Air monitoring – baseline and continuous
  - ✓ Tankless production techniques
  - ✓ Zero emission dehydrators
  - ✓ Pipeline transport of produced (flowback) water
  - ✓ No-bleed continuous and intermittent pneumatic devices
  - ✓ Automated tank gauging