



## Client Alert: COGCC Issues a Notice to Operators regarding Flowlines or Pipelines following Firestone Investigation

By: [Jill Fulcher](#)

On May 2, 2017, immediately following the press conference held by Firestone's Fire Protection District Chief, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission ("COGCC") issued a Notice to Operators ("NTO") concerning inspection and documentation of existing flowlines. The NTO requires all operators to inspect their inventory of existing flowlines and verify that any flowline not in active use is properly abandoned pursuant to Commission Rule 1103, and to document the location of all existing, active flowlines located within 1,000 feet of a home or business and verify that the flowlines have integrity.

Pursuant to the NTO, operators are required to re-inspect any existing flowlines and pipelines within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit (defined as a home or commercial facility/warehouse of a designated size in regular use during working hours) by **May 30, 2017**. As part of this requirement, operators must provide flowline and pipeline inventory information to the COGCC. Also by **May 30, 2017**, operators must inspect all existing flowlines, regardless of distance to a Building Unit, to ensure that any existing flowline or pipeline not in use (**regardless of when it was installed or taken out of service**) is abandoned pursuant to Rule 1103.

By June 30, 2017, operators are required to ensure that all flowlines within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit have integrity. Operators must also complete abandonment of any flowline not actively operated, regardless of distance to a Building Unit, pursuant to Rule 1103 and the NTO by June 30, 2017.

Click [here](#) to read the full text of the NTO. For further information or questions regarding the NTO or COGCC rules related to inspection and abandonment of flowlines, please contact [Jill Fulcher](#) or [James Parrot](#).

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