



Colorado Attorney General Threatens Legal Action against Boulder County's Moratorium on Oil and Gas Development

By: [Jill Fulcher](#)

On Thursday, January 26, 2017, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman issued a statement declaring that the State of Colorado would take appropriate legal action against Boulder County ("County") if the County does not rescind its ban on oil and gas development within its borders by February 10, 2017. Since February 2012, the County has prohibited oil and gas development through a series of temporary moratoria. Despite some of the moratoria being deemed "temporary" by the County, the moratoria have had an ongoing, continuous effect. The County's most recent moratorium against oil and gas development was enacted on December 13, 2016, and extends through May 1, 2017. The most recent moratorium was enacted by the County despite the Colorado Supreme Court's recent decisions maintaining local governments may not ban oil and gas development. (Click [here](#) for a more detailed article regarding the Colorado Supreme Court opinions issued in the City of Fort Collins v. Colo. Oil & Gas Ass'n and City of Longmont v. Colo. Oil & Gas Ass'n.)

Attorney General Coffman's official statement is available [here](#), and the accompanying press release is available [here](#).

Attorney General Coffman's announcement is a significant step towards halting local governments' effective ban on oil and gas development by way of enacting a series of "temporary" moratoria. For more information please contact [Jim Martin](#), [Karen Spaulding](#), or [Jill Fulcher](#).