



Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force to Hold Critical Meeting February 2-3

By: [Jim Martin](#)

On February 2nd and 3rd, 2015, Governor Hickenlooper's Oil and Gas Task Force will hold a meeting to deliberate over findings and recommendations collected in its five months existence to date.

In September 2014, by executive order, Governor Hickenlooper established an oil and gas task force to address conflict among operators, the state, and local governments. In a separate executive order, the governor appointed to the task force equal numbers of representatives of industry, and local government and non-governmental organizations. He also appointed an equal number of prominent civic leaders. Finally, the governor appointed two co-chairs: Randy Cleveland, President of XTO Energy, and Gwen Lachelt, La Plata County Commissioner.

The executive orders can be found at the [Department of Natural Resources'](#) web site.

The task force has now met in Denver, Durango, Loveland, Rifle, and Greeley. The focus of these meetings largely was on informing the task force member through a series of panels, and on taking comment from citizens. At each of those meetings, industry was well represented. Audio transcripts of those meetings are also available on the [website](#).

At the February meeting, the task force will shift dramatically from an informational format to deliberation over findings and recommendations at the Denver Convention Center. There will be only one additional meeting: February 24, also at the Denver Convention Center.

Any findings or recommendations to be offered by any member of the task force must be submitted to the facilitator (Keystone) by Jan. 26, and those proposals will then be made available on the web site soon thereafter. The Governor's executive order requires that any legislative recommendations to the Governor must receive support from two-thirds of the task force members; it is difficult to predict whether the Governor would forward any legislative recommendations to the General Assembly, and if he does so how the General Assembly would address those recommendations. It also is not yet clear what voting threshold will apply to recommendations and findings for administrative action since the executive order was silent on that point; that likely will be a topic for discussion by the task force at their Denver meeting.

Clearly, the Denver meetings will be critically important. Over the course of two days, the task force will consider both process issues and proposed findings and recommendations. There likely will be a wide range of proposals before the task force.

There will be ample space if you would like to observe. The proceedings also will be webcast through the DNR website.

For any additional information, please contact [Jim Martin](#) at Beatty & Wozniak.