

Comments SB18-063

My name is Josh Joswick, Bayfield CO; I am here today representing Earthworks Oil and Gas Accountability Project, and am speaking in support of SB 18-063. Something has to be done by both the legislature and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to address the issue that everyone knows is looming—what happens when oil and gas development starts to shut down in earnest; and the issue of surface reclamation that SB 063 addresses is a good beginning toward bringing some fiscal responsibility to this problem while addressing a critical part of the cradle-to-grave impacts of oil and gas development in Colorado. It is imperative that both the state and the industry need to plan for and cover the costs of impacts associated with development; there is no logical argument that can counter this common sense concept. SB 063 beginnings the effort.

As for comment on content:

Section 2

What will become **34-60-106(b)**

“Establish the fee”: This fee covers the COGCC’s costs of analyzing the operator’s submitted financial assurance information, as it should.

What will become **34-60-106 (b)(13)**

- **The financial assurance will be sufficient to cover reasonably foreseeable eventualities** including full reclamation, spills, leaks, air pollution impacts, explosions, injuries, diseases and death. The amount for one well shall be multiplied by the number of wells the operator has to determine the final total.
As financial assurance should be.

Section 4

- Section 4 details the reclamation process and plan. Essentially this reclamation is for surface reclamation, and details how it shall be done in consultation with the surface owner and approval of COGCC.
- Section 4 requires an annual report submitted by the operator for COGCC review; this shall include what has been done and what will be done in the next year.
- The operator shall complete final reclamation within two years of phase commencement.

Jo Swick

All of these things are reasonable, achievable and consistent with responsible development.

The problems that will face Colorado when oil and gas development begins to wind down are huge. SB -063 is not aggressive or onerous, it is one *modest* step towards working to see that the state is not left wondering what to do as things fall apart. There is nothing wrong with planning for the eventualities we know will hit us; it is the fiscally responsible approach toward good governance.