

# COGCC Public Meeting Policy



## Public Meeting Policy

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The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission has in place a Policy to ensure that people of all opinions are comfortable attending public meetings and hearings, and are able to express their opinions without fear or intimidation.

As public hearings and meetings are official civil proceedings, it is the policy of the COGCC that the following Rules of Conduct be observed for all hearings in order to facilitate an orderly, respectful and fair discussion where all points of view may be heard and the Commission may conduct its business:

#### Rules of conduct

1. It is inappropriate to cheer, boo, hiss, talk, cry out, applaud, or interrupt a speaker or the proceedings in some other manner. Members of the public are not expected to agree on all issues but shall respect the process so that all viewpoints are heard.
2. The waving or posting of signs, banners or other materials in the hearing room is not allowed.
3. So that everyone can hear the proceedings, side conversations must be taken outside of the hearing room.
4. The use of profanity, threatening or abusive language is not allowed.
5. The placement of electronic recording devices and cameras, including but not limited to audio recorders, video cameras, still cameras, motion picture cameras, smartphones or microphones, may be regulated by the Chair so as to avoid interference with the orderly conduct of the hearing.

In accordance with COGCC policy and Colorado State Law, **disruption of a public hearing or meeting by audience members will not be tolerated**. Disruption is defined as significantly obstructing or interfering with the meeting by physical action, verbal utterance, or other means.

Individuals and/or groups who attempt to disrupt a Commission meeting or who attempt to thwart the ability of specific speakers to address the Commission will be asked to stop their disruption. If further disruption continues, and at the discretion of the Chair of the Commission, those individuals may be subject to removal by law enforcement from the public hearing and, depending on the seriousness of the violation, may be prosecuted under state law. The Chair also has the discretion, if necessary to ensure an orderly and safe meeting, to clear the hearing room.

The State of Colorado has a long and storied tradition of protecting First Amendment rights and taking extensive public input on policy and legislative matters. However, the Commission must be able to both hear from the public and conduct the Commission's business efficiently.