

## Community Exposure to Water Quality Changes Near Unconventional Oil and Gas Development (UOGD) in Colorado and New Mexico

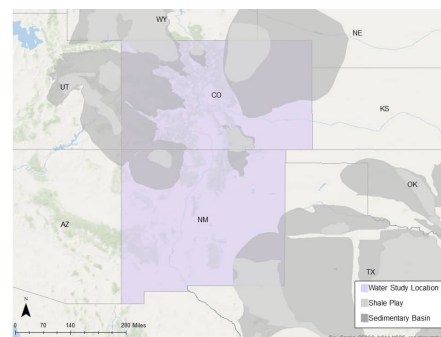
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### Study Description

**ABOUT** Fact sheet in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

**GOAL** Analyze water quality and oil and gas operator data to produce a framework for identifying pathways between specific UOGD processes and potential groundwater and surface water contamination. The framework will be broadly applicable to oil and gas regions in the United States.



*General study locations*

### What's happened?

- Analyzed community water supply data and oil and gas operational records for Colorado to assess whether detected chemicals might be associated with UOGD.
- Consulted with state officials in New Mexico about the availability of water quality data and oil and gas development operational records to inform the research.

### What's new?

- Continuing to analyze water quality data and oil and gas operational records for Colorado to identify potential indications of UOGD sources affecting community water supplies.
- Identifying case studies of possible pathways connecting communities with UOGD.

### What's next?

- Assess whether the case study connections between UOGD sources and communities are feasible by modeling how chemicals from UOGD might move through the environment.
- Engage with communities, state officials, and others to increase awareness of the research and its relevance to policy decisions to protect public health.

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