



COLORADO
Oil & Gas Conservation
Commission
Department of Natural Resources

***The Colorado Oil and Gas
Conservation Commission and the
Floods of September 2013—
The Response So Far***

Matt Lepore

Director, Colorado Oil and Gas
Conservation Commission

May 20, 2014

How bad was this flood event?

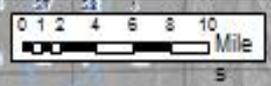
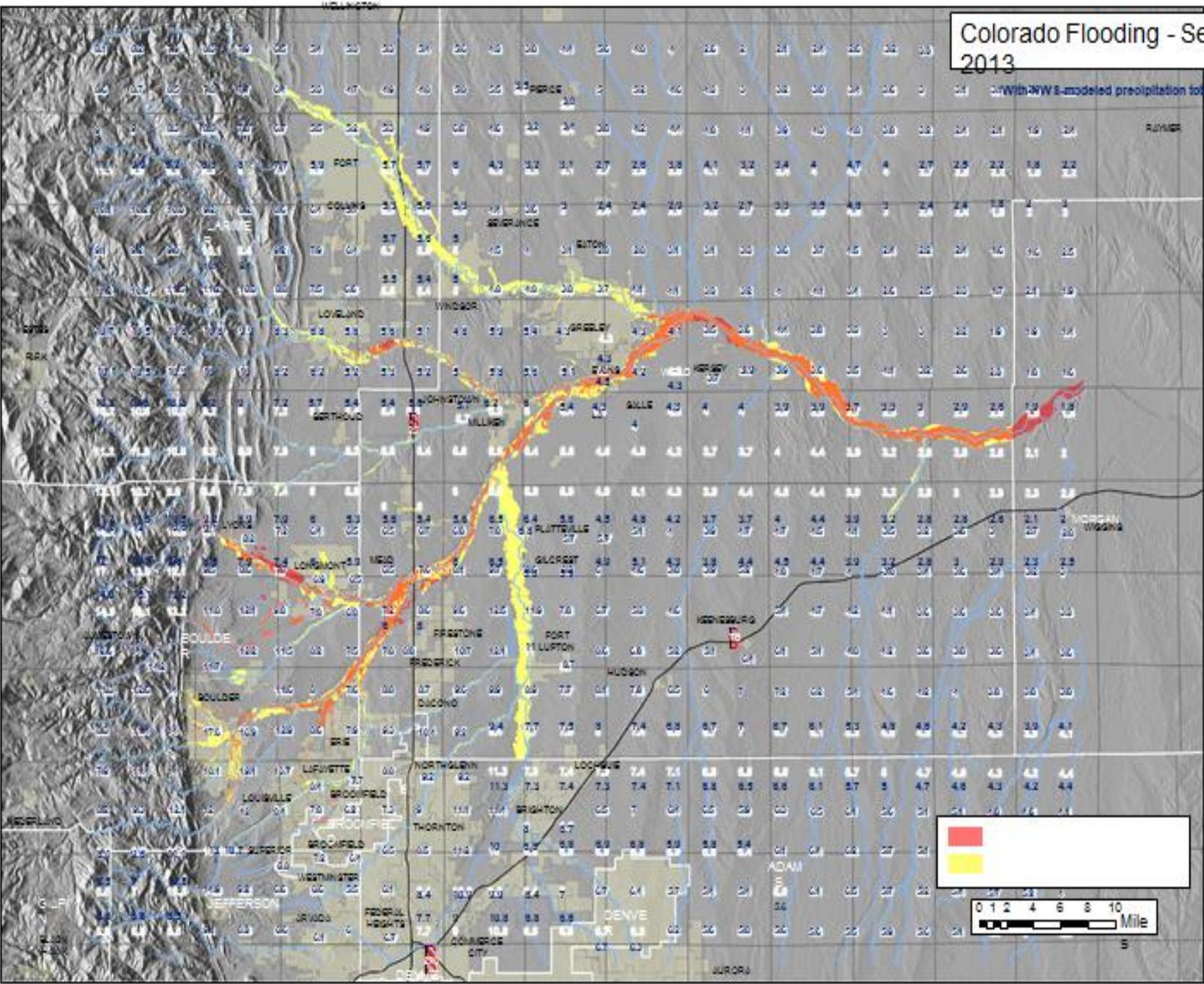
Perspectives:

- Ten people killed
- 1800 homes destroyed
- Mountain communities isolated
- Rainfall amounts – 10” to 17” in 24 hours over a wide region
- Flood flows did not add to runoff during this September event



Colorado Flooding - September 2013

With WW 8-modeled precipitation totals for Sept 10 - Sept 18



Where Colorado stands today with flood response

- In anticipation of the flood, the oil and gas industry shut-in 2658 wells.
- 2499 of those wells – 94% -- are now back in production.



Where Colorado stands today with flood response

- Operators reported 50 spill sites to COGCC resulting from the flood. 24 of those sites are now fully cleaned.
- 1149 bbls oil or condensate released (48,250 gals).
- 1035 bbls produced water released (43,479 gals)



Where Colorado stands today with flood response

- COGCC inspectors and engineers have undertaken 3541 first-hand inspections and evaluations of oil and gas facilities affected by the flood.



COLORADO
Oil & Gas Conservation
Commission

Department of Natural Resources



Near Estes Park, CO on September 13, 2013



A home and car are stranded after a flash flood in Coal Creek destroyed the bridge near Golden, Colorado, on September 12, 2013. (Reuters/Rick Wilking)



September 14, 2013 in Weld County, CO

AP/Atlantic Magazine



September 14, 2013 near Greeley, CO







Hwy 34 East of Greeley Aerials Sept 14-18

COGCC and the September Floods

- Strong public and news media interest in oil and gas impacts and responses
 - Appeals for information about spills
 - Demand for continuously updated flood response statistics
- Integrating information from COGCC's work into the broad flood response activity of the State of Colorado
- Oversight by the General Assembly
- Working closely with Governor Hickenlooper's Response Office





Denver Post – September 14, 2013

Colorado's Oil and Gas Industry and the September 2013 Floods

- Wells and production equipment are located in flood plains across the Northern Front Range
- Industry preparation before the floods
- Damage to wells and associated equipment
- Spills of oil and condensate and produced water
- Special issues: chemicals; hydraulic fracturing





09.17.2013 10:40



COGCC and the September Floods

- COGCC has had many discussions with interested parties from all perspectives. COGCC gathered all the suggestions it heard
- COGCC’s “Lessons Learned” workshop held on February 6, 2014
- Public “Lessons Learned” report delivered to the Commissioners by COGCC staff – with regulatory and policy recommendations – on March 14, 2014



COGCC and the September Floods

- COGCC's flood response is ongoing
- Supporting repair to oil and gas sites and equipment; restarting production
- Cleaning spills; remediation
- Ongoing inspections in flood-affected areas
- Balancing flood response with ongoing COGCC responsibilities across the State



COGCC and the September Floods

All these documents are on the COGCC website:

- Startup procedures for undamaged, shut-in wells (September 23, 2013)
- Permit stipulations -- bald eagle construction ban -- waived until December 1, 2013; allow rapid repair of flood-damaged facilities (September 27, 2013)
- Worker health and safety information -- working in flooded areas (September 30, 2013)
- Public warning: damaged and orphan oil field equipment and tanks (October 1, 2013)

COGCC and the September Floods

All these documents are on the COGCC website:

- Notice to operators: Handling oil and gas and other debris safely and properly (October 2, 2013)
- Notice to operators: returning damaged oil field equipment to service; reporting requirements in the “flood impact zone” (October 4, 2013)
- Recommended practices for reconstruction of oil field sites in floodplains (October 22, 2013) (“lessons learned”)
- Request for chemical inventories and spill information in the flood impact zone (November 6, 2014)
- Notice to operators: Spring runoff in 2014 and potential for new flooding

COGCC and the September Floods

Where do we go from here?

- Monitor repairs of equipment, shut-in's and startups
- Monitor all cleanups to conclusion
- Learn lessons from this experience for future emergencies. Better siting of wells? Better construction?
- Continue to inform the public every step of the way
- Continue to balance flood response with other oil and gas duties statewide



Thank you



COLORADO
Oil & Gas Conservation
Commission
Department of Natural Resources