

## State oil and gas association addresses flooding concerns

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Besieged by photos of overturned gas tanks and tilted rotary rigs in the state's Eastern Plains, Colorado oil and gas industry leaders took their next step Tuesday to address industry-related environmental concerns after last week's massive flooding across Colorado.

Colorado Oil and Gas Association President and CEO Tisha Schuller led an hourlong question-and-answer session on Twitter on Tuesday, tackling a variety of questions about the flood's impacts on Colorado's oil and gas infrastructure. Some highlights of the session:

- Schuller said all wells in flooded areas are shut in, with state regulators and oil and gas companies providing monitoring and emergency response around the clock.
- There are "no known threats to life and health" from oil and gas operations affected by the flood, with no major spills reported, she said.
- Tanks tipped on their side by the flood can still maintain their structural integrity, Schuller said.
- Some affected operations will be back online immediately, while others will take months to restore. Some, Schuller said, lost all road connections.
- "Reports of massive contamination are false," Schuller said.
- Schuller said no fracking operations were being conducted in the flood area, claiming in a tweet that "Fracking is 1day in the 30yr life of a well."
- Schuller said two empty tanks were confirmed floating in flood water, with some broken lines remotely shut.

Colorado environmentalists met Schuller's answers with skepticism and in some cases derision and continued calls for greater oversight of oil and gas development in the state.

On Monday, Gary Wockner, director of the Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, said his group is calling for inspection of all compromised wells, once they have been identified. Wockner is also executive director of Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, which seeks to have oil and gas development pushed farther from the banks of the Poudre River.

In Fort Collins, no oil and gas wells operated by Prospect Energy — the only company exploring for oil and gas within city limits — were damaged by the flood, CEO Scott Hall of parent company Black Diamond Minerals said Monday.

State regulators on Monday said it's too early to tell the extent of damage to oil and gas infrastructure in Colorado caused by the flood.