

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (CDA)
PROTOCOL FOR STAKEHOLDER RULE-MAKING ENGAGEMENT**

Background on Stakeholder Engagement

Pursuant to state statute, the Colorado Department of Agriculture is often required to promulgate rules as part of our regulatory activities. By design, CDA's process of reviewing and adopting rules and regulations is a public one. Comments are taken into consideration throughout the duration of the entire process, including during the formal stages and steps of Colorado's rule making process that rulemaking agencies must follow as outlined in the State Administrative Procedure Act.

Pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. §24-4-103(2), CDA divisions with rulemaking authority must also establish a representative group of participants with an interest in the subject of our rulemaking to submit views or participate informally in discussions on the proposals under consideration or to participate in the public rulemaking proceedings on the proposed rules. In an effort to ensure early stakeholder engagement when promulgating permanent rules, CDA divisions with rulemaking authority also utilize these groups to solicit input *prior* to filing Notices of Proposed Rulemaking with the Secretary of State. The type of early stakeholder engagement performed by CDA ultimately depends on the unique circumstances of each potential rule-making, but typically includes one or more of the following:

- E-mail "blast" notifications with working drafts of rules, which may include questions for consideration;
- Open Forums to discuss preliminary concepts/ideas;
- Specific and targeted outreach;
- Webinars for stakeholders; and
- Formal and informal meetings/roundtables.

The overarching goal is to assure interested parties have easy and early notification and opportunity to submit comments or questions for meaningful consideration and discussion on rules and regulations.

How to Become a Department Stakeholder

As stated above, citizens can be involved in both the drafting of proposed rules and the revision of such rules after they have been formally noticed for potential promulgation. To sign-up as a stakeholder for one or more of CDA's representative groups (and in so doing, receive email notification of both early stakeholder engagement opportunities and formal Notices of Proposed Rulemaking), simply contact Karen Lover, Executive Assistant, via email at karen.lover@state.co.us

Petitions for Rulemaking

You also have the right to petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule. This provides you the opportunity to identify problematic rules and to help us improve efficiency. The "Petition for Rulemaking" must be submitted to us directly (via email to the individual above) and is open to public inspection. Action on a petition is at our discretion; but when we undertake rulemaking on a matter, all related petitions for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of rules must be considered and acted upon in the same proceeding.

Other Resources

The rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by CDA are available in multiple places, including the Department's web-site. They are public facing intentionally, so that interested parties can learn about the process and can provide comments, particularly if the rule or regulation affects a stakeholder, individual, or business. Citizens can access extensive information regarding CDA's rule-making activities online, including the following:

Notices of Proposed Rulemaking: You may sign up to receive notices from the Colorado Secretary of State. This service alerts you via e-mail whenever notices of rulemaking, permanent rules, or emergency rules have been published by the Secretary of State in the Colorado Register. This email notification contains a link to the Colorado Register to view the logistics of the hearing, the full text of notices, proposed rules, adopted rules (permanent or emergency), and the associated Attorney General opinions. You may also sign up to receive regulatory notices from the Department of Regulatory Agencies. This service will alert you via e-mail when permanent rules are being proposed according to specific subject areas, such as agriculture, water, environment, education and public safety or by specific state agencies. These notices include the logistics of the rulemaking hearing as well as a redline/strikethrough version (if applicable) of the proposed rules so that stakeholders can easily see what is being changed and why. Through the Department of Regulatory Agencies Office of Policy, Research, and Regulatory Reform you may also request a cost-benefit analysis of any new or amended rule.

Final Rules: The Secretary of State compiles and publishes the administrative rules adopted and promulgated by CDA (as well as all of Colorado's Executive Agencies) in the Code of Colorado Regulations. Notices of rulemaking, proposed rules, new and amended rules, and Attorney General rules opinions are published twice monthly in the companion publication, the Colorado Register. The official Code and Register are also published on the Secretary of State website.

Regulatory Agenda & Rule Review Schedules: To find out when CDA will be reviewing specific rules, view our annual Regulatory Agenda and our full rule review schedule on our website.