

# Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative 2018



WESTERN STATES  
RURAL NATURAL  
GAS INITIATIVE

The Colorado Office of Energy (CEO) and the Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development (OED) have partnered with Colorado Mesa University's (CMU) Unconventional Energy Center for completion of a report that would build on the Grand Junction Economic Partnership/Colorado Mesa University "Piceance Basin to the Pacific Rim" report completed in 2015 and updated in 2017.

This collaborative effort between the state energy offices of Colorado and Utah was born out of a panel discussion at the Uintah Energy Conference in August 2017, which focused on common approaches toward natural gas and infrastructure development in Utah and Colorado. The panel recognized that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) considers the Uintah and Piceance energy basins a single, priority province with significant natural gas resource potential for its National Oil & Gas Assessment.

The panel also established that a common approach toward developing markets for Piceance and Uintah natural gas between the states of Utah and Colorado would help strengthen and benefit the rural economies of both states. Dubbing this new collaboration the "Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative" (WSRNGI), the energy offices of Colorado and Utah signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize their joint efforts.

This new report will identify current resources and infrastructure, geographic and land use planning barriers and opportunities, and the federal, state, and local regulatory frameworks relevant to the development and export of natural gas resources in the Piceance and Uintah Basins. The report will also identify potential new markets both internationally and domestically and the challenges and opportunities they present.

The report will serve as the basis for long-term coordination and collaboration between the two states. Future joint stakeholder engagement efforts will support assessment and action related to natural gas infrastructure; enhancing west coast natural gas exports through the identification and development of new markets; improving rural producers' cost structures and competitiveness; sharing technology and innovation; and additional opportunities to jointly promote rural natural gas resources domestically and internationally.

**KATHLEEN STAKS**  
Executive Director



*"Rural Colorado's Natural Gas has much to offer the nation and world. Together we can move the region's energy potential forward."*

**DR. LAURA NELSON**  
Energy Advisor and  
Executive Director



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT  
*Advancing Utah's Energy Future*

*"Utah & Colorado together will advance the Uintah & Piceance Basins for the benefit of our citizens and to the betterment of people around the world"*

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