



**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES  
May 24, 2023**

**CONTACT**

Cecile Brown, (202) 271-6534, [cebrown@edf.org](mailto:cebrown@edf.org)  
Kyle Miller, [kyle@freestone-strategies.com](mailto:kyle@freestone-strategies.com)

**Senator Hickenlooper to Host Orphan Well Site-Visit  
Private-Public Collaboration Brings Market-Based Solutions to Slash Pollution**

*Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Carbon Path, Civitas Resources, Greenfield Environmental Solutions and Conservation Colorado Showcasing IRA and IJA Investments*

**Aurora, Colorado** - Oil and gas operators are required to seal wells at the end of their productive lives, but they're too often improperly abandoned, leaking climate pollution and posing direct threats to public health. Now the bipartisan infrastructure law is making federal funding available to plug these so-called "orphan" wells, named so because they are inactive, unplugged and have no solvent owner of record.

Senator John Hickenlooper and others will tour a Colorado site receiving federal grants for its closure and cleanup. These orphan wells pose significant risks to human and environmental health by leaking toxic chemicals into the air, contaminating groundwater and emitting methane, a potent greenhouse gas. [Environmental Defense Fund has mapped more than 120,000 documented orphan wells](#) eligible for federal closure funding, with estimates of 1,725 orphan wells in the state of Colorado alone.

**Who:** Senator John Hickenlooper, Colorado  
Adam Peltz, EDF, Director and Senior Attorney, Energy Transition  
Jeff Robins, Colorado Gas Commission  
Katie Keefe, Environmental Program Manager, Adams County  
Tyler Crabtree, CarbonPath  
Rich Coolidge, Civitas Resources  
Dave Stewart, Greenfield Environmental Solutions  
Lorena Gonzalez, Conservation Colorado, Communities and Justice Manager

**What:** Conversational Orphan Well Site-visit

**Where:** [39°55'53.7"N 104°35'01.8"W](#)

**When:** Thursday, May 25, 2023  
3:30 to 4:30 PM MDT

Interested reporters should RSVP to [Cecile Brown](#) or [Kyle Miller](#), professional video footage will be available upon request.

This event comes at a critical moment as President Biden's Clean Energy Plan (Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act) has opened up historic levels of funding to replace our unsustainable fossil fuel economy with a clean energy future that will reduce harmful pollution, improve public health and grow 21st century jobs.

###

*One of the world's leading international nonprofit organizations, **Environmental Defense Fund** ([edf.org](http://edf.org)) creates transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. To do so, EDF links science, economics, law, and innovative private-sector partnerships. With more than 3 million members and offices in the United States, China, Mexico, Indonesia and the European Union, EDF's scientists, economists, attorneys and policy experts are working in 28 countries to turn our solutions into action. Connect with us on Twitter [@EnvDefenseFund](https://twitter.com/EnvDefenseFund)*