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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### 2007 OUTSTANDING OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS AWARDS

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Executive Director Harris Sherman presented the 2007 Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) Outstanding Operations Awards on July 10, 2008, at the COGA Rocky Mountain Natural Gas Strategy Conference held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO.

Each January, the COGCC places a call for nominations for the awards, which are presented annually and are intended to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the oil and gas industry in Colorado in several operations, environmental, and community involvement categories. These awards honor year 2007 projects that merit special recognition.

Six Colorado operators were honored this year. The honorees are: EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc with two awards; Chevron North America; Williams Production RMT; Laramie II; Noble Energy; and PetroHunter Energy Corporation.

EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. was recognized with an Environmental Protection Award. It received the Production Partner of the Year award from the U.S. EPA Natural GasStar Program. The EPA's GasStar Program encourages natural gas and oil industry companies to adopt cost-effective technologies and practices that improve operation efficiency and reduce emissions of methane. In 2007 EnCana achieved more methane emission reductions from its operations than nearly 120 other oil and gas companies. Much of EnCana's success in reducing methane emissions occurred in Colorado. These reductions occurred in the Denver-Julesberg Basin with zero emission dehydration systems and in northwestern Colorado with natural gas driven pneumatic pumps, solar electric pumps and the reduction of flaring and venting volumes using "green completion" practices.

Chevron North America was recognized with a Water Quality Protection Award. It initiated a novel method of erosion control on a well site in La Plata County. Chevron incorporated a historical reserve pit as part of Chevron's storm water management plan for an existing well site. The pit could not be reclaimed so Chevron constructed diversions to the pit which would allow it to act as a catchment for storm water runoff. Follow up assessment of this construction indicates the system is working as planned and has minimized or eliminated erosion from the existing well site.

Williams Production RMT, EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc., Laramie II, Noble Energy, and PetroHunter Energy Corporation were all recognized with the Community Relations Award. These five companies have formed the group known as *Community Counts* to reduce industry impacts to local communities and to provide better communications regarding issues of noise, traffic, dust, odors, speeding and other concerns. The group has posted signs in various areas of Garfield County listing phone numbers for all five participating companies. The signs encourage residents to contact any of the listed companies to report oil and gas industry problems. The company receiving the call, if the matter of concern is not its issue, sends an email to area operators to find which operator can best handle the problem. The initial company contacted is responsible for assuring that a timely response from the responsible company is made. To date, the *Community Counts* program has received phone reports of traffic problems and diesel spills on the roadway. These problems were remedied within hours.