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DR 0021 (06/04/25)
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Denver CO 80261-0006
Tax.Colorado.gov

2025 Colorado Severance Tax–Oil and Gas

General Information

Colorado severance tax is imposed upon nonrenewable natural resources that are removed from the earth in Colorado. The tax related to oil and gas is calculated on the gross income from oil and gas and carbon dioxide production.

Who Must File Return DR 0021

Anyone who receives taxable income from oil or gas produced in Colorado. If you own a working interest, or a royalty interest in any oil or gas (including carbon dioxide) produced in Colorado, you must pay severance tax to the State of Colorado. Severance tax might be due even though you do not realize a net profit on your investment.

A partnership, LLC or S Corporation must file at the entity level. Partners, members, or shareholders do not file a severance tax return to report oil and gas income received by the pass-through entity.

Oil and gas production from “stripper wells” is exempt from severance tax. This includes oil from a well that produces 15 barrels or less of crude oil per day or gas from a well that produces 90,000 cubic feet or less of gas per day, for the average of all producing days during the taxable year. Each commodity must be tested for each well to determine that commodity’s stripper well status. For additional information, please see the Department’s guidance on stripper well withholding and filing requirements available online at Tax.Colorado.gov/severance-tax-guidance-publications.

Exception

It is not necessary to file a severance tax return if you meet both of the following conditions:

1. the total gross oil and gas withholding on form(s) DR 0021W for the calendar year is less than \$250; and
2. the producer has withheld sufficiently from royalty or production payments to cover the severance tax liability.

Submitting an incomplete return will delay the processing of your return. Please ensure you provide any supporting schedules or forms and documentation as requested in the instructions.

Severance Withholding

Producers or first purchasers who disburse funds must withhold 1% of the gross income for **each** interest owner. This applies to any relevant interest owners, including those with royalty interest or working interest.

The producer or first purchaser is required to send the DR 0021W, Oil and Gas Withholding Statement, to interest owners by **March 1 of each year**. This form lists the gross income and the amount of severance tax the producer has withheld and paid to the state from your royalty or production payments. If you own an interest in more than one well or field, you should receive a separate withholding statement from each producer or first purchaser. **A copy of each withholding statement must be included with your severance tax return (DR 0021).**



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The producer or first purchaser will also list your share of “ad valorem” taxes, if any, on the withholding statement. Ad valorem taxes are paid by the producer to local governments (cities and counties). You are allowed a credit against severance tax of 75% of your share of ad valorem taxes paid or assessed on actual, taxable oil and gas production (not the tax on facilities or equipment).

Ad valorem taxes on production from “stripper wells” should not be included in the credit.

Specific instructions for this deduction are on the DR 0021D, Colorado Oil and Gas Severance Tax Schedule. You should verify that the withholding statements accurately report the same information as shown on your division of interest statements and revenue checks.

Filing Period

The Colorado severance tax filing period should match the tax year/filing period used for federal income tax purposes.

Filing Status

The Colorado filing status will generally match the filing status from your federal income tax return. However, the Colorado severance tax filing status will always be joint if you are married - regardless of whether you file jointly or separately for federal income tax purposes. If you are filing as single or head of household for income tax purposes, you should file a single status Colorado severance tax return.

Due Date

You must complete and file the DR 0021, Colorado Oil and Gas Severance Tax Return, annually. The return (and payment, if any) are due by the 15th day of the fourth month after the close of your taxable year. Therefore, if your taxable year ends on December 31, your severance tax return is due April 15 of the following year. The envelope must be postmarked by the due date or the next business day if the deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday.

Mail Colorado severance tax returns and tax payments to:

Colorado Department of Revenue
Denver, CO 80261-0006

Filing Extension

An automatic six-month extension of time for filing the Colorado severance tax return is allowed for all taxpayers.

However, an extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay the tax. If at least 90% of the net tax liability is not paid by the original due date of the return, penalty and interest will be assessed. If 90% or more of the net tax liability is paid by the original due date of the return and the balance is paid when the return is filed by the last day of the extension period, only interest will be assessed.

Use the DR 0021S to make a payment that must be made by the original due date of the return to meet the 90% requirement.

Amended Returns

To change or correct a Colorado severance tax return, you must file a DR 0021X. This form is available for download from Tax.Colorado.gov.



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Returns For Prior Years

Colorado severance tax returns for prior years can be filed at any time. However, the statute of limitations for claiming a severance tax refund is three years from the due date. Colorado severance tax returns for prior years are available for download from Tax.Colorado.gov.

Estimated Severance Tax Payments

Corporations who expect their Colorado severance tax liability for the year to exceed their Colorado severance credits by \$5,000 or more are required to make estimated tax payments. Estimated tax payments are due each month by the 15th day of that month and **must** be submitted online at Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline.

Individuals are not required to make estimated payments for severance tax.

Deceased Persons

Legal representatives and surviving spouses may file a return on behalf of a deceased person. Complete the return as usual. Write "Deceased" in large letters in the white space above the tax year of the return, mark the deceased box for the appropriate person, and fill in the date of death. Write "Filing as surviving spouse" or "Filing as legal representative" after your signature, and include the DR 0102 (refunds only) and a copy of the death certificate.

Record Retention

Keep all documentation you used to prepare your return for at least three years after the due date or filing date of your return, whichever is later. If your return is audited by the Colorado Department of Revenue, you must be able to provide back-up documents for all claims and credits listed on your return. Please note that you are not protected from audit adjustments to your severance tax return simply because an operator or purchaser supplied the information. Also, the Department of Revenue may request copies of your federal and Colorado income tax return or other documentation in connection with your Colorado severance return.

Income Tax Filing Requirement

Severance tax is different from income tax. If you receive oil, gas or CO₂ income from Colorado sources, you must also complete and file a Colorado state income tax return. Visit Tax.Colorado.gov to download the DR 0104, which can be filed electronically for free using Revenue Online. See the DR 0104 for details. **Do not claim severance tax withholding as a tax credit on your Colorado income tax return.**

Failure To File

If your severance tax account is open, or if you have severance income that is reported to the Colorado Department of Revenue and you do not file a return for the tax period, the Department may file a return on your behalf. This does not apply if you meet the conditions under the "Exception" section on page 2 of this booklet. Any severance tax assessed if the Department does file on your behalf will remain due and payable until you file your return. If you are no longer doing business in the State of Colorado, you are required to close your account by filing the DR 1108 Business Tax Account Closure Form.



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Common Filing Errors

Be alert to the following filing tips to avoid delays in return processing, payments and refunds.

- Indicate the correct tax year or fiscal year when filing a Colorado severance tax return.
- Married couples must file jointly even if only one spouse has oil and gas income or the couple uses a different filing status for income tax purposes.
- Taxpayers must complete the DR 0021D, Colorado Oil and Gas Severance Tax Schedule, and include it with the DR 0021 return. Both of these forms are in this booklet.
- Be sure to carry the correct totals from the DR 0021D schedule to the DR 0021 return.
- Include all DR 0021Ws (Oil and Gas Withholding Statement) with the DR 0021 return. Missing DR 0021Ws result in delayed refunds.
- Add up all the DR 0021W withholding statements, then round to the nearest dollar. Do not round each individual DR 0021W statement and then add them.
- Do not use a 1099-MISC withholding document for severance tax filing. 1099s are income tax withholding documents. They will not report severance tax withholding and the department will not allow credit based on the withholding shown on a 1099 document.
- Do not claim a percentage of the withholding shown on the DR 0021W and do not create spreadsheets to show the ownership percentage. Use the amounts on the DR 0021W. The ownership percentage has already been calculated by the entity that issued the DR 0021W withholding statement.
- Do not claim all of the withholding but only part of the income.
- Do not deduct gross payments attributable to stripper well production if these are not shown as stripper well income on a DR 0021W.
- Taxpayers are either on an accrual basis or a cash basis, not both. Most individuals are on a cash basis while most corporations are on an accrual basis.
- If a return is filed on behalf of an entity such as partnership or limited liability company, do not try to file as an individual.
- Corporations that expect their Colorado severance tax liability for a tax year to exceed their Colorado severance tax credits by \$5,000 or more are required to make estimated tax payments.
- To avoid underestimation penalties, corporations must make severance tax estimated payments by the 15th day of the month and payments must be submitted at Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline.

Please visit Tax.Colorado.gov for more information.



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DR 0021 Instructions

Who Must File

Every individual, corporation, business trust, limited partnership, LLC, partner in a general partnership, association, estate, trust or any other legal entity that received income from oil and gas produced in Colorado must file a severance tax return. The return must be made for the same tax year used for federal income tax purposes and is due on or before the 15th day of the fourth month following the end of the taxable year or the next business day if the deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday. See General Information section for exception. If you are an oil and gas producer you must complete the DR 0021PD and retain for your records.

Controlled Group: Corporations, Family Group, or Other Type of Group

In the case of a controlled group of corporations as defined in section 613A of the Internal Revenue Code where more than one member of the group is subject to the severance tax, the tax must be jointly computed and the severance tax return must be jointly filed under the name of the principal taxpaying corporation. DR 0021AS, available at Tax.Colorado.gov, must be included.

Joint Returns

When more than one member of a family is subject to the severance tax, they shall compute the severance tax on one combined return. Note: parties to a Civil Union should refer to federal tax law to determine the correct filing status.

Social Security or Colorado Account Number

Individuals must use a Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN) as the Colorado account number. Business entities must provide the Colorado account number (CAN) and the Federal Employer Identification number (FEIN). Whether you are an individual or a business entity, once you have been assigned a Colorado account number by the Colorado Department of Revenue, use the Colorado account number on all returns and correspondence submitted to the Department. See Tax.Colorado.gov for Privacy Act Notice.

Tax and Credit

First, complete schedule DR 0021D to calculate your severance tax.

Line 1 Oil and Gas Severance Tax

Enter your net tax from line 5 of schedule DR 0021D.

Line 2 Reserved for future use

Line 3 Net Tax

Equal to line 1, but not less than zero.

Line 4 Severance Tax Withheld

Enter the total amount shown on all of your oil and gas withholding statements (DR 0021W) as Colorado severance tax withheld. Add all amounts, then round to the nearest dollar. **Be sure to include your DR 0021W forms with your return;** missing DR 0021Ws will delay your refund. **Do not claim credit for conservation tax or ad valorem taxes on this line.**



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Line 5 Estimated Tax and Extension Payments

Enter the total amount of your estimated tax and extension payments made for the taxable year.

Refund or Balance Due

Line 7 Overpayment

Subtract line 3 from line 6 and enter the difference on line 7.

Line 8 Refund

Enter the amount from line 7 that you wish to have refunded. The Department can deposit your refund directly into your account at a U.S. bank or other financial institution (such as a mutual fund, brokerage firm, or credit union) in the United States or the Department can send you a refund check.

Line 9 Refund Applied to Future Period

Enter on line 9 the amount of overpayment, if any, you wish credited to estimated severance tax payment for next year.

Line 10 Tax You Owe

If line 3 is more than line 6, you have additional tax to pay. Subtract line 6 from line 3 and enter the difference on line 10. This is the amount you owe. Include with your return a check or money order in this amount payable to the Colorado Department of Revenue. **Be sure to write your Social Security number (SSN), Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN), Federal Employer Identification number (FEIN) or Colorado account number (CAN) on your check or money order to ensure credit for your payment.**

Line 11 Interest

If the return is filed after the due date, interest at the current statutory rate will accrue on any balance of tax due until paid. For the current interest rates, refer to publication *Tax Topics: Penalties and Interest*. The regular rate will apply if we bill you and your payment is made more than 30 days after you receive your bill. If you pay your tax with your return or within 30 days of receiving a bill, the discounted rate will apply. Enter the amount of late filing interest on line 11.

Line 12 Penalty

The penalty on any late filed return with a balance of tax due is \$30 or 30% of the balance of tax due, whichever is greater. Enter the amount of late filing penalty on line 12.

Line 13 Estimated Tax Penalty

Corporations that underpay the estimated tax must enter the penalty due from the DR 0206.

Be sure to sign your return! If filing a joint return, both parties must sign.

To ensure proper processing, please include your account number on the return.



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2025 Colorado Severance Tax–Oil and Gas

Tax Year Beginning (MM/DD/25)		Ending (MM/DD/YY)	
Last Name or Business Name		First Name	Middle Initial
Deceased <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Date Deceased (MM/DD/YY)	SSN or ITIN
			Colorado Account Number
If Joint, Spouse or Partner Last Name (see controlled group definition)		First Name	Middle Initial
Deceased <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Date Deceased (MM/DD/YY)	SSN or ITIN
Address		FEIN	
Foreign Country		City	State
		ZIP	Phone Number
If this is a final return, check this box <input type="checkbox"/>		Are you a producer of Colorado Oil or Gas? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Basis Filer <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual Basis Filer			
Tax and Credit – Complete schedule DR 0021D first. Include the DR 0021D with this form when you file			Round To The Nearest Dollar
1. Oil and gas tax, enter amount from line 5, DR 0021D • 1			00
2. Line reserved for future use. • 2			00
3. Net tax, equal to line 1 but not less than zero 3			00
Prepayments			
4. Severance tax withheld, include form(s) DR 0021W • 4			00
5. Estimated tax and extension payments • 5			00
6. Total prepayments, sum of lines 4 and 5 6			00
Refund			
7. If line 6 is larger than line 3, enter your overpayment 7			00
8. Enter amount from line 7 you want refunded • 8			00
9. Enter amount from line 7, if any, you want credited to estimated tax for next year • 9			00



DR 0021 (06/04/25)
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
 Denver CO 80261-0006
Tax.Colorado.gov
Page 2 of 2

Name (Should match primary tax payer on page 1)		FEIN, ITIN or SSN (match page 1)	

Direct Deposit

Routing Number

Account Number

Type: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Balance Due		
10. If line 3 is larger than line 6, enter the balance due here	10	00
11. Interest on balance due	• 11	00
12. Penalty on balance due	• 12	00
13. Estimated tax penalty (corporations only)	• 13	00
14. Total amount due, sum of lines 10, 11, 12 and 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Paid electronically	• 14	

The State may convert your check to a one time electronic banking transaction. Your bank account may be debited as early as the same day received by the State. If converted, your check will not be returned. If your check is rejected due to insufficient or uncollected funds, the Department of Revenue may collect the payment amount directly from your bank account electronically.

Mail Your Severance Tax Return Separately From Your Income Tax Return.

Include Form DR 0021W Withholding Forms and Form DR 0021D Colorado Oil and Gas Severance Tax Schedule.

If you are filing this return **with** a check or payment, please mail the return to:
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Denver, CO 80261-0006

If you are filing this return **without** a check or payment, please mail the return to:
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Denver, CO 80261-0005

Under penalty of perjury in the second degree, I declare that I have examined this return and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Signature of Individual Taxpayer		Date (MM/DD/YY)	
Spouse's Signature		Date (MM/DD/YY)	
Signature of Corporate Officer		Date (MM/DD/YY)	
Preparer's Last Name	Preparer's First Name	Preparer's Phone Number	
Address			
City	State	ZIP	