

Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Hearing Wrap-up Report September 2017



The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission held its monthly hearing September 12, 2017 at 9 a.m. Commissioners present were the Honorable Governor Matt Mead, Bridget Hill, Mark Doelger and Tom Fitzsimmons. Also representing the WOGCC were Supervisor Mark Watson and Attorneys Eric Easton and Michael Armstrong.

Announcements:

The meeting opened with Commissioner Tom Fitzsimmons announcing his resignation immediately to pursue other aspirations. All wished him the best and extended their appreciation of his service.

Supervisor Mark Watson emphasized that draft orders must be in by the 90 day deadline or the APD will be denied. Watson also stated the agency will be drafting a couple of policies to help manage workload and space issues at the WOGCC due to the increased amount of submitted applications and APDs.

WOGCC Attorney Eric Easton announced that due to technical issues with the rules identified by the Legislative Services Office, the WOGCC would withdraw the draft rules of Chapters 1, 5, and 6 and start the rulemaking process over for approval and adoption of these rules.

The September 2017 Hearing docket showed:

- 376 total applications
- 29 applications continued
- 21 applications withdrawn
- 123 returned for admin processing
- 175 examiner hearings
- 5 aquifers/units hearings
- 0 pit treatment hearing
- 21 applications to be heard by the Commission
- 2 preliminary matters

Preliminary Matters:

Docket 716-2016 and 925-2016 Legal counsel for GRMR asked that their two filings be continued until January 2018. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 530-2017 and 531-2017 Legal counsel for EOG requested that their two filings be continued until October 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 611-2017 and 612-2017 Legal counsel for Navigation requested that their two filings be continued until October 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 850-2017 Legal counsel for Anadarko requested that their filing be continued until October 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 773 2017 and 923 2017 Legal counsel for Chipcore requested that their two filings be continued until October 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 941-2017 Legal counsel for Southwestern Production requested that their filing be continued until October 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Before the Commission:

Docket 370-2012 Conoco-Phillips provided a quarterly report per the Commission's motion to review its 2015 decision regarding the venting of non-hydrocarbon gases from the Lost Cabin Gas Plant in Fremont County. Motion was made and approved by Commission for another review in 18 months under the same conditions.

*Docket 1681-2017 WOGCC staff recommended Antelope Resources be fined and its bond revoked for failure to report production in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, Section 13; and failure to conduct mechanical integrity tests in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, section 16; and failure to maintain workmanlike conditions in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 4, Section 4 in Natrona County, Wyoming. It was approved by the Commission to adopt the staff's recommendation.

*Docket 1682-2017 WOGCC staff recommended Buffalo Resources be fined and its bond revoked for failure to report production in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, Section 13; all in Fremont and Sublette Counties, Wyoming. Buffalo Resources paid their fine prior to the hearing and appeared before the Commission and outlined staffing changes they have made to remedy the problem. The stipulations made by the staff to collect the fine but not revoke the company's bond based on changes the company has made with their reporting process was approved by the Commission.

**Fines collected by the WOGCC are given to the school district where the violation occurred.*