

**Monthly Summary**  
**Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission**  
**January 1 to January 31, 2013**

**Commission Business**

1. Commissioner Seamount was interviewed by a Houston, TX newspaper regarding state oversight of Class VI injection on Federal and private lands in Alaska.
2. The Commission approved repeal of regulations (20 AAC 25.005 (c)(1), *et. seq.*) which required a \$100 fee to accompany each Application for a Permit to Drill. This was done to conform the regulation to the statute (AS 31.05.090), which had been amended.
3. Commissioner Norman gave a brief presentation to the Alaska District Export Council.
4. Commission held a public hearing to determine whether BLM or ASRC had responsibility for five disputed legacy wells.
5. Commissioner Foerster met with Dale Pittman and Karen Hagendorn of Exxon/Mobil.
6. Commissioner Foerster met with State Senator Giesel and answered miscellaneous oil and gas questions in preparation for the start of the 2013 legislative session.
7. Commissioner Foerster and senior staff met with a Cook Inlet operator to discuss a troubling pattern of regulatory non-compliance and to work for resolution of the problems.
8. The Commissioners and senior staff held a meeting to redistribute job duties more evenly, now that the most recently hired engineer and geologist have had sufficient time to complete training.
9. Commissioner Foerster met with Tom Crafford and Sara Longan of DNR to discuss the possibility of using legacy well cleanup as part of a wetlands mitigation credits program.
10. Commissioner Foerster met with the president and vice-president of Hilcorp Energy Alaska to discuss Hilcorp's development plans in Alaska.
11. Commissioner Norman attended a meeting of the national board of directors of the Ground Water Protection Council, in Sarasota, January 18-21.
12. On January 30, Governor Sean Parnell announced the reappointment of Commissioner Cathy Foerster. Her name will be submitted to the legislature for confirmation. She will be reappointed 3/1/2013 and her term is to expire 3/1/2019. Ms. Foerster was first appointed 3/23/2005 and reappointed 3/1/2007.
13. Commissioner Foerster participated in a STRONGER (State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations) review of EPA and BLM comments on draft hydraulic fracturing guidelines.
14. The EPA Grant Year 2013 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter UIC Program Technical Report was submitted.

15. A meeting was held between senior staff and representatives from Conoco Phillips to discuss the CRU CD 5 Plan of Development.
16. The Commissioners coordinated with the Governor's Legislative Office in response to questions about proposed amendments to the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Act, AS 31.05.
17. At the request of an Operator, the Commission conducted an Informal Review of a penalty proposed to be assessed against the Operator for violation of certain of the Commission's regulations and orders.

## **Orders**

1. The Commission issued Conservation Order No. 80.090.
2. The Commission issued Conservation Order No. 80.091.
3. The Commission issued Conservation Order No. 668.
4. The Commission denied the request to amend Conservation Order No. 456A.
5. The Commission issued Area Injection Order No. 6.011.
6. The Commission issued Area Injection Order 21A.

## **Regulatory Activities Completed / Continuing**

1. The Commission has proposed amending Fracturing Regulations 20 AAC 25.005, 20 AAC 25.280 and 20 AAC 25.990 and add a new section, 20 AAC 25.283, in order to define hydraulic fracturing, require notice to nearby owners and operators prior to commencement of hydraulic fracturing, require water sampling and analysis, require disclosure of hydraulic fracturing fluids, increase wellbore integrity and assure containment of hydraulic fracturing fluids. Hearing set 4/4/13 at 9am.
2. The Commission has taken action to repeal 20 AAC 25.005(c)(1) to eliminate the filing fee required to accompany an application for a Permit to Drill. In addition, the Commission proposes to amend the language of 20 AAC 25.005(e)(2), 20 AAC 25.015(a)(1), 20 AAC 25.015(b)(1) and 20 AAC 25.605(a) in order to delete all references to the filing fee required to accompany an application for a Permit to Drill. Waiting for approval from Lt. Governor's Office.

## **Permitting and Rig Activity**

1. Drilling Permit Approvals (January) – 7 ( Exp/Strat Test , Dev , Ser
2. Rig count - 18, North Slope – 13; Cook Inlet – 5 Coal Core – 0; Geothermal – 0; Down 4 in State total from last month.
3. Total Permit, Sundry Applications and Sundry Reports to data: 401's = 16; 403's = 48; 404's = 67; 407's = 30; Total 161

## **Public, Governmental and Industry**

1. Nine hundred nine (909) digital well logging/data files were released to the public.
2. Five hundred ninety seven thousand two hundred seventy seven (597, 277) MB of requested data were delivered to the public.
3. Compliance review was completed on 1 well history file.