

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

Commission Business

1. The Commission held its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, March 6th.
2. Commissioners Foerster and Seamount attended the Energy Council meeting in Washington, D.C. While in Washington they met with the Alaska Congressional delegation.
3. Senior staff met with Hilcorp representatives to discuss a path forward on applying for administrative approval for amendments to Area Injection Orders detailing Class II EOR fluids eligible for injection within Cook Inlet leases.
4. EPA Region 10 Underground Injection Control (UIC) program manager Thor Cutler (Seattle), and Tim Mayers, Environmental Scientist (Anchorage) visited with AOGCC Senior Staff to complete a mid-year review of the Alaska Class II UIC program for which AOGCC has primacy. Performance metrics were achieved, the program continues to be well resourced and run, and there was opportunity to discuss improvements to the program. The meeting allowed for discussion of current and future Federal funding appropriations, Aquifer Exemption Orders, hydraulic fracturing activities, Legacy Wells, abandonments, bonding, and provide a forum for recent UIC updates and program changes.
5. Senior staff met with Repsol representatives.
6. Commissioner Foerster and senior staff met with representatives of Exxon-Mobil to clarify suspension and P&A (plugging and abandonment) requirements for old Pt Thomson exploratory wells.
7. Commissioner Foerster testified before Senate State Affairs Committee as part of her confirmation process.
8. Senior staff met with representatives from Exxon on the 27th for an information sharing discussion and presentation on Custody Transfer Metering plans and requirements for Pt Thomson.
9. Commissioner Foerster consulted with representatives of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Law on how the AOGCC or DNR would determine “new oil” per HB21.
10. Commissioner Foerster discussed HB140 with staff in Representative Keller’s office.
11. Commissioner Foerster and Geology senior staff interviewed candidates for AOGCC’s summer intern position.
12. Commissioner Foerster discussed HB140 with staff in Representative Reinbold’s office.

Orders

1. The Commission issued Area Injection Order No. 2B.075.
2. The Commission issued Other No. 80.
3. The Commission has corrected the Administrative Approval to reflect the correct administrative approval numbers for CO 430A, CO435A, and CO456A.

Significant Regulatory Activities Completed / Continuing

1. The Commission is continuing to work on proposed revisions to the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Act, AS 31.05.
2. The Commission has amended its regulations dealing with obsolete references to filing fee for Permit to Drill: 20 AAC 25.005(c)(1), (e)(2); 20 AAC 25.015(a)(1), (b)(1); 20 AAC 25.605(a). The amended regulation also eliminates the filing fees required to accompany an application for a Permit to Drill. The Lieutenant Governor signed and filed the regulation changes on March 5, 2013, with an effective date of April 4, 2013.

Permitting and Rig Activity

1. Drilling Permit Approvals (March) – 17 (Exp/Strat Test 1 , Dev 15, Ser 1)
2. Rig count - 22, North Slope – 16; Cook Inlet – 6 Coal Core – 0; Geothermal – 0; Down 1 in State total from last month.
3. Total Permit, Sundry Applications and Sundry Reports to data: 401's = 51; 403's = 156; 404's = 161; 407's = 70; Total 438

Public, Governmental and Industry

1. One thousand seventy four (1,074) digital well logging/data files were released to the public.
2. Compliance review was completed on 23 well history files.
3. Twenty two (22) wells and associated data were released to the public.
4. Eighteen (18) core chip and washed and dried sample sets representing 187,269 borehole feet were transferred to the G.M.C.

* For a more complete list of ongoing AOGCC Activities, please contact Special Assistant Jody Colombie at jody.colombie@alaska.gov.