AOGCC Public Hearing Guidelines

Adequate information must be provided to the Commission and the public during a hearing. The applicant bears the burden of preparing and presenting testimony of sufficient detail to establish that approval of the application is warranted and to allow the Commission to establish governing rules. This testimony must be prepared and presented by authorized representatives of the applicant, capable of addressing detailed Commission questions and comments, including, where relevant to the application, the following topics:

Area Injection Order (20 AAC 25.460)

1. Confidentiality issues: identify specific exhibits and testimony, establish confidentiality as to each request
2. Ownership, operator and lease issues
3. Injection area legal description (quarter-quarter section)
4. Notification of affected operators and surface owners
5. Description of Operation
6. In-place and recoverable hydrocarbon volumes
7. Geological and geophysical description
8. Confinement mechanisms (e.g., strata, faults)
9. Mechanical Integrity and construction of injection wells
10. Mechanical condition of adjacent wells
11. Fluid types and sources
12. Fluid or gas composition and compatibility with formation
13. Injection rates and pressures
14. Fracture gradient information and fracture modeling
15. Underground sources of drinking water
    a. nearest wells with depths
    b. total dissolved solids concentrations within affected aquifers

Aquifer Exemption Order (20 AAC 25.440)

1. Confidentiality issues: identify specific exhibits and testimony, establish confidentiality as to each request
2. Location and facility description
3. Ownership, operator and lease issues
4. Exemption area legal description
5. Geological, geophysical, groundwater hydrology descriptions
6. Salinity of affected aquifer (total dissolved solids concentrations)
7. Nearest wells with depths
8. Alternate, nearby sources of drinking water
9. Unsuitability of aquifer for drinking water purposes (e.g., location, depth, salinity, hydrocarbon contamination)

Conservation Order (Field and Pool Rules - 20 AAC 25.520)

1. Confidentiality issues: identify specific exhibits and testimony, establish confidentiality as to each request

2. Ownership, operator and lease issues
3. Pool area legal description (quarter-quarter section)
4. Notification of affected operators and surface owners
5. Exploration and delineation history
6. Geological and geophysical description
7. Reservoir description, rock and fluid properties, reservoir modeling
8. Production mechanisms
9. Hydrocarbon-in-place, recovery factors, reserves
10. Production (historical and projected)
11. Reservoir management and surveillance plans
12. Well construction and integrity
13. Development Plans
14. Facilities, including metering
15. Specialized waivers: request and justify

Disposal Injection Order (20 AAC 25.252)

1. Confidentiality issues: identify specific exhibits and testimony, establish confidentiality as to each request
2. Ownership, operator and lease issues
3. Notification of affected operators and surface owners
4. Geological and geophysical description of disposal interval and confining mechanisms / strata, faults, etc.
5. Mechanical Integrity and construction of injection wells
6. Mechanical condition of adjacent wells
7. Fluid types and sources
8. Fluid composition and compatibility with formation
9. Injection rates and pressures
10. Fracture gradient information and fracture modeling
11. Salinity of formation water within disposal interval (total dissolved solids concentrations)
12. Applicable freshwater exemption

Enhanced Recovery Injection Order (20 AAC 25.402)

1. Confidentiality issues: identify specific exhibits and testimony, establish confidentiality as to each request
2. Ownership, operator and lease issues
3. Project location
4. Notification of affected operators and surface owners
5. Description of Operation
6. Expected increase in recoverable hydrocarbon volumes
7. Geological and geophysical description
8. Confinement mechanisms (e.g., strata, faults)
9. Mechanical Integrity and construction of injection wells
10. Mechanical condition of adjacent wells
11. Fluid types and sources
12. Fluid or gas composition and compatibility with formation
13. Injection rates and pressures
14. Fracture gradient information and fracture modeling

15. Underground sources of drinking water
    a. nearest wells with depths
    b. total dissolved solids concentrations within affected aquifers

Storage Injection Order (20 AAC 25.252)

1. Confidentiality issues: identify specific exhibits and testimony, establish confidentiality as to each request
2. Ownership, operator and lease issues
3. Storage area legal description (quarter-quarter section)
4. Notification of affected operators and surface owners
5. Description of Operation
6. Capacity of storage reservoir (original gas in place and remaining gas)
7. Working gas and cushion gas estimates
8. Delivery rates
9. Geological and geophysical description of storage reservoir and confining strata
10. Confinement mechanisms
11. Mechanical Integrity and construction of injection wells
12. Mechanical condition of adjacent wells
13. Fluid types and sources
14. Fluid or gas composition and compatibility with formation
15. Original reservoir pressure
16. Injection rates and pressures
17. Fracture gradient information and fracture modeling
18. Underground sources of drinking water
    a. nearest wells with depths
    b. aquifer salinity (total dissolved solids concentrations)

In addition to displays used to illustrate technical discussions, the applicant must also supply a legible base map to identify key geographic features and key elements of the proposed project. Non-confidential versions of these illustrations and maps must be supplied to the court reporter at the hearing for the public record.

Commission hearings are generally conducted in accordance with the provision of AS 31.05.060 and 20 AAC 25.540.

Confidentiality issues are addressed in AS 31.05.035, AS 45.50.920 and 20 AAC 25.537.

Revised August 19, 2010