

Oil and Gas Commission

☛ *Mission and philosophy*

The mission of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) is to promote the beneficial and environmentally responsible development of Wyoming's oil and gas resources.

☛ *Results of outcomes*

The commission encourages new well drilling, and the Legislature has extended the tax incentives on new wells until March 31, 2003 to assist industry. In FY98 the number of new wells increased by 271, which falls into the range predicted of 160-320.

The commission would like to see gas production increase by an average of 1 percent to 2 percent each year. In 1997 the volume of gas production increased by 19 mmcf or 1.6 percent.

The commission would like to see a reduction of dormant wells, those that do not have potential for future production, by 55 wells each year. Wells that were dormant last year may have been plugged but new dormant wells appear as well. This year dormant wells were reduced by 19. The amount of dormant wells increased because of low oil prices.

The commission modified one of the rules, Chapter 3 Section 16(f), to identify an orphan well. Mill levy money will be used to plug them when necessary.

The commission tries to meet the training needs of the staff. When needed, staff members attended Excel, WordPerfect, and Windows '95 classes. Staff members also took advantage of professional classes.

The commission did not obtain additional funding for training from outside sources since it had budgeted enough money.

The commission recreated the well files consisting of 33 databases to be year 2000 compliant by eliminating all date fields to numeric values. This, along with an expanded Web site, has made information more available to all interested parties.

The commission does not have a plan written for future endeavors in information technology.

In January 1998 the State Attorney General informed the commission that WOGCC mill levy funds cannot be used to support the Wyoming Natural Gas Pipeline Authority (WNGPA) so none of the budgeted funds were expended. It is suggested that the new Wyoming Business Council consider funding Pipeline Authority.

☛ *Strategic plan changes*

The Legislature extended the tax incentive on new wells drilled by allowing a severance tax reduction until March 31, 2003. The tax incentive for workovers and recompletions of wells expires March 31, 2001. Since these are beneficial to operators, the commission hopes the Legislature will contin-

General information

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Year established

1951

Statutory references

Sections 30-5-101 through 30-5-305, W.S. 1997

Number of authorized personnel

Full-time 31

Organization structure

Oil and Gas Commission

Clients served

Oil and gas industry, other state and federal agencies, general public

Budget Information

I.A.	\$460,418
I.B.	460,418
II.A.	460,418
II.B.	460,418
III.A.	6,809
III.B.	0
IV.A.	48,154
IV.B.	48,154
V.A.	0
V.B.	0
V.C.	0
Total	\$1,944,789

ue to extend and improve the package of incentives in the future. As justification for this extension, records indicate the sales tax collected more than offset the severance tax that was forgiven. The monies budgeted for the Wyoming Natural Gas Pipeline Authority will not be used as, according to the state Attorney General's office, mill levy funds cannot be used to support the Pipeline Authority.

Oil and Gas Commission organization chart

