

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE
ALASKA OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) proposes, in Docket R-21-001, to adopt regulation changes in Title 20 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with drilling, wells, inspections, and definitions. Specifically, the AOGCC proposes to amend:

20 AAC 25.072, “Temporary shutdown of drilling or completion operations” to add language that prohibits a well drilled from a mobile offshore drilling unit be eligible for suspension status.

20 AAC 25.105, “Abandonment of wells” to remove language that allows a well drilled from a mobile offshore drilling unit be eligible for suspension status.

20 AAC 25.110, “Suspended wells” to remove the requirement that initial or renewal suspension well site inspections must occur on calendar years ending in 0 or 5, to shorten the required period of suspension well site inspections from 24 months to 12 months before the renewal date, and to reduce the period of a well suspension approval from up to 10 years at a time to up to 5 years at a time. Language related to due dates for wells granted suspension status before 2010 is proposed for removal as it no longer applies.

20 AAC 25.534. The amendment codifies a longstanding practice where operators have provided transportation to remote locations when an AOGCC Inspector could not access the site by commercial transportation services or AOGCC vehicle. The amendment to 20 AAC 25.534, “Tests, surveys, and inspections,” adds clarifying language requiring an operator of facilities, wells, equipment and locations to provide transportation to remote locations, and defines “remote” in the context of inspections.

20 AAC 25.990. There is a wide range of interpretations about test acceptance criteria for mechanical integrity tests on both producing and injecting wells. AOGCC is amending 20 AAC 25.990, “Definitions” to establish criteria for what constitutes “stabilizing pressure.”

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, as well as the topics, policies, and issues raised herein, by submitting written comments to the AOGCC:

Grace Salazar, Special Assistant
Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
333 West Seventh Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Comments may also be submitted by electronic email at aogcc.customer.svc@alaska.gov, by fax at (907) 276-7542, or through the Alaska Online Public Notice System by accessing this notice on the system and using the "comment" link. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 2, 2021. All comments should reference Docket “R-21-001.”

The AOGCC has scheduled a **virtual** public hearing for these regulation changes on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** via MS Teams. The audio call-in information is:

(907) 202-7104, conference ID no. 714 487 404#

Anyone who wishes to participate remotely using MS Teams video conference should contact Ms. Salazar at least two business days before the scheduled public hearing to request an invitation for the MS Teams.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Ms. Salazar no later than October 29, 2021, to ensure that any necessary accommodation can be provided.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and by contacting Ms. Salazar.

After the public comment period ends, the AOGCC may either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

Statutory authority: AS 31.05.030

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 31.05.030

Fiscal information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

The AOGCC keeps a list of individuals and organizations interested in its regulations. Those on the list will automatically be sent a copy of all of the AOGCC notices of proposed regulation changes. To be added to or removed from the list, send a request to the AOGCC Special Assistant at grace.salazar@alaska.gov, and give your name and either your e-mail address or mailing address, as you prefer for receiving notices.

Date: September 29, 2021

Jeremy M. Price
Chair, Commissioner
Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission