

Oil and Gas Conservation 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, to assist industry, the Legislature has extended the tax incentives on new wells until March 31, 2003. In FY99, the number of new wells was 725.

The agency would like to see gas production increase by an average of 1 percent to 2 percent each year. In calendar year 1998, the volume of gas production increased by 26 billion cubic feet, or 2.4 percent. For information purposes, the volume of oil declined by 6.5 percent or 4.6 million barrels.

The commission would like to see a reduction of dormant wells, those that no longer have potential for production or injection, by 55 wells each year. Wells that were dormant last year may have been plugged, but new dormant wells appear as well. This fiscal year the dormant well count was 2,952.

One of the commission's rules, Chapter 3, Section 16(f), was modified to provide a mechanism for funding orphan well plugging. Mill levy money will be used to plug those wells when necessary.

The staff's training needs are an ongoing goal. This fiscal year, 13 staff members attended computer software classes, and two attended professional seminars. Funding for these training classes was budgeted so additional funding was unnecessary.

New computers and software were purchased to ensure Y2K compliancy. The WOGCC's Web site makes information available to all interested parties and is updated on a real-time basis. A firm written plan for future programs and changes or modifications to existing programs has not been developed because changes are necessary on a daily basis.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

The WOGCC programs shall continue to monitor oilfield activities to ensure the beneficial and responsible development of oil and gas resources via statutory authority and agency rules and regulations. The tax incentives for new wells until March 31, 2003, and the incentives for workovers and recompletions of wells until March 31, 2001, should promote sales tax collections to more than offset the severance taxes that were forgiven. No substantial changes were made to the plan for next year.

General information

Don J. Likwartz, State Oil and Gas Supervisor

Agency contact

Don J. Likwartz
307/234-7147
P.O. Box 2640
Casper, WY 82602-2640
dlikwa@missc.state.wy.us

Year established

1951

Statutory references

Sections 30-5-101 through 30-5-305, W.S. 1999

Number of authorized personnel

31 full-time

Organizational structure

Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Clients served

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

Budget information

Earmarked funds	\$1,632,561
Other	479,242
Total	\$2,111,803

Oil and Gas Conservation Commission organization chart

