



**DIVISION OF
OIL & GAS RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT**
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (Division) will hold a public hearing to accept testimony on proposed amendments to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules 1501:9-8-01 through 1501:9-8-02, 1501:9-9-02 through 1501:9-9-06, 1501:9-10-01 through 1501:9-10-06, and 1501:9-11-01 through 1501:9-11-12. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

The public hearing will be held **May 16, 2024, starting at 2:00 p.m. EDT**. Any person affected by the proposed rule may present their comments in-person, in writing, virtually, or via telephone. For those wishing to participate, please choose from the following options:

- **In-person:** The hearing will be held at 2045 Morse Road, F-1 Conference Room, Columbus, OH 43229. If you attend the hearing in person, all visitors to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be asked to provide photo identification at the gatehouse before entering the complex. Please allow time to complete the check-in process.
- **Written:** Written comments received by 5:00 p.m. on May 16, 2024, will be accepted into the record. Written comments may be submitted to DOGRM.Rules@dnr.ohio.gov or mailed to Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management, Attn: Kerry Adkins, Building F, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus, OH 43229.
- **Virtually:** Participants wishing to stream the meeting via the internet may go to [HTTPS://WWW.MICROSOFT.COM/EN-US/MICROSOFT-TEAMS/JOIN-A-MEETING](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting) to be taken to the Teams meeting and enter the following:

MEETING ID: 295 441 848 954

PASSCODE: nh44en

- **Telephone:** Dial 1-614-721-2972 and enter the phone conference ID: 604 348 447#

You can join the hearing virtually or by phone up to 15 minutes before the start time. Please note if you join the hearing over an internet connection using a phone or tablet, you will need to download the Microsoft Teams app. If you call in using your phone, or if you are using a web browser on a desktop computer, you do not need to download the Teams app.

You do not have to speak if you join the hearing. If you do speak at the hearing, your comments will be recorded. If you are unable to attend the hearing or uncomfortable making a statement at the hearing but would like to include comments in the record, you may submit written comments as instructed above.

The Division proposes to amend OAC rules 1501:9-8-01 through 1501:9-8-02 (Emergencies Reporting), 1501:9-9-02 through 1501:9-9-06 (Safety Regulations), 1501:9-10-01 through 1501:9-10-06 (Pipelines), and 1501:9-11-01 through 1501:9-11-12 (Plugging of Wells) to remove regulatory restrictions in compliance with ORC 121.95.

OAC 1501:9-8-01 through 1501:9-8-02 establish emergency reporting requirements for oil and natural gas wells in the State. The Rules seek to ensure that the Division is informed of incidents such as releases of crude oil or natural gas, and other oil-field related substances including wastes, so that the Division can facilitate a response minimizing or eliminating impacts to public health and safety and minimizing or preventing damage to the State's environment and natural resources.

OAC 1501:9-9-02 through 1501:9-9-06 govern general safety provisions for oil and natural gas wells in the State, including: operations involving hydrogen sulfide; specifications of equipment and safety measures to be followed in production operations; use of blowout preventers; measures to be taken during drilling operations; fire prevention and protection; providing for reasonable access for first responders in emergencies; noise and light mitigation requirements; prohibition of buried tanks in urbanized areas, flaring for safety or when allowed by section 1509.20 of the ORC; requirements and specifications for fencing in urbanized areas; safety

setbacks for certain pieces of equipment and specific signage requirements.

OAC 1501:9-10-01 through 1501:9-10-06 establish standards for the creation and maintenance of records identifying and showing the location of pipelines, safe operating pressures for the pipelines, and proper burial of pipelines for all pipelines used in the drilling, operation, and production of oil and/or natural gas wells and the transportation of oil and/or natural gas to storage locations or points sale, and transportation of leasehold gas. The Pipeline Rules expressly do not apply oil and/or natural gas pipelines covered by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. sections 1802 et seq.) or the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act (49 U.S.C. sections 1671 et seq.).

OAC 1501:9-11-01 through 1501:9-11-12 establish the standards and requirements for plugging oil and gas wells in the State. Well plugging is critical in the life cycle of a well because a properly plugged well protects human health, safety, and the environment. Proper plugging also allows for continued oil and gas development in a responsible manner by ensuring pathways for potential gas migration are eliminated. Ohio law requires oil and gas operators to plug wells that have not reported production after a specified period of time and that are not placed in temporary inactive status, or another status approved by the Division Chief. Oil and gas operators will plug older wells where production has declined or to allow for new development of different formations.

For more information about the proposed rules, visit oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov. Those with questions may contact Kerry Adkins at (614) 265-6920 or kerry.adkins@dnr.ohio.gov.