



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

NEW

June 4, 2013

Industrial Commission Recommends Changes in Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Rule

BISMARCK - The North Dakota Industrial Commission says a proposed federal rule on hydraulic fracturing contains provisions that will impose major costs and delay much-needed funding for western North Dakota communities.

The commission issued its comments on the matter on May 28 to the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

“North Dakota has developed a great deal of expertise in the oversight of hydraulic fracturing in the Bakken Shale Formation,” Dalrymple said. “The state has stringent rules in place and we believe the state is in the best position to regulate hydraulic fracturing.”

The revised rule contains the original language that duplicates state regulations. North Dakota already enforces hydraulic fracturing rules with chemical disclosure, well construction standards and well bore pressure testing.

“From the beginning, the commission has maintained that this is a state’s rights issue,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “We live here and we will make sure that the state’s regulations are enforced.”

The revised rule still contains provisions that will impose major costs and delays negatively impacting the amount of oil and gas revenue generated for the state, affecting much needed funding for communities.

“This loss in revenue would be greatest felt on the Fort Berthold Reservation, where funding is needed most,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “Enforcement of the revised rule would still require a significant time investment from an already understaffed and overwhelmed BLM staff.”

Commission members noted that the new rule gives some consideration to many states already having effective regulatory procedures. They said that if BLM is willing to rework this portion of the rule based on new comments submitted during the current 30-day comment period, it could allow those states with existing effective rules to ‘op-out’ of the final rule.

The Industrial Commission consists of Gov. Jack Dalrymple, chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

-30-

For further information contact: Alison Ritter at 328-8036