

Illinois Oil and Gas Advisory Board

August 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Board members in attendance: Ross Basnett, Malcolm Booth, Brandi Stennett, Matt Davis, Brad Daugherty

Non-voting members in attendance: Dan Brennan (DNR)

IOGA Representatives: Steve Lampley

DNR – OOGRM in attendance: Hernando Albarracin, Vanasa Brittin

Guests: Craig Hedin, Nelson Wood, Bryan Dicus, Bert Farrara, Jared Tynes

1) Chair Ross Basnett called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

2) Meeting Minutes Submission

A motion was made by Ms. Brandi Stennett to accept the minutes as proposed, with a second from Mr. Malcolm Booth and carried unanimously.

3) Round Table Discussion

a. Update on Administrative Rules

Edited rules that caught fee increases that were missed in last year's edits were reviewed internally and submitted to the Governor's Office for review. The Department hopes to have the first notice published soon, but they will probably not make into the rules until end of the year. The Department will post a link online to the proposed rules.

b. Update on plugging of orphan wells (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant)

Since 1/1/2024, 104 wells have been plugged for a total of 453 since 10/2022 with an additional 68 work orders executed. A total of \$16.5 million spent on initial grant with the average per well plugging cost around \$37,000. The Department received notice of award for the second round of funding for \$25 million with hope for a 2-year term. This funding may be delayed or changed due to the Department of the Interior working through the Endangered Species Act. The Department can begin using those funds 10/1/2024. The Department is working with the State's Procurement Office to improve the master contracts. The Department has been using 5 contractors for the work but would like to have more.

c. Update on Mitigating Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells Grant with the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Brennan stated the Department attended the kick-off meeting with all other participating states. The Department is looking into software that could be utilized to help facilitate and track the program. A notice was issued with the annual well fees to inform all operators of the program. The funding is just now coming online for the ISGS to utilize and prioritize wells. The Department will discuss with the ISGS about accepting attachments to the well submission form to allow for a list of wells to be submitted. The Department hopes to begin testing the beginning of October. When asked about progress with the Landowner Grant fund, the Department stated they cannot work on it until they have hired a PRF Manager.

d. Wells in Temporary Abandonment (TA) prior to Current TA Requirements [62 Ill. Adm. Code 240.1130(d)(3)] – use of cement in lieu of cast-iron bridge plug

The Department would like to draft a new rule on using cement rather than a Cast-iron Bridge Plug in wells TA'd before the new regulations took effect. The Department would like Industry to propose the new language and will place this item on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion.

e. Temporary Abandonment application Review Process

Discussed this item in combination with the item 4a. Please see notes below.

4) New Business

a. Length of Time for UIC Permit Application Review

There have been issues with staff of the Department taking on both responsibilities of TA reviews and UIC process. The Department is reviewing to see if additional staff can be trained to handle both processes. The Department is still sticking to the 20 business days rule for both. The Department is hoping to speed up the initial review process for TA applications and getting those out to the field inspectors. The Department is working with operators with a “grace period” if they have submitted the documents to the Department for review prior to the expiration date and haven’t heard anything yet on approval. Over time the requirement for additional documentation for TA renewals will be phased in as renewals come up. Industry requested the department provide a contacts list for each person in each review group. The Department is trying to determine how they will handle wells volunteered for plugging if the wells come up for TA renewal. The Department is trying to staff-up to handle the day-to-day operations and administer the various programs and funds. Currently, it is first-come first-serve when submitting applications on which gets review first between UIC and TA.

5) Public Participation

Mr. Nelson Wood asked that the Department get to work on the Landowner Grant program sooner rather than later.

6) Next Meeting

The following date is for the next meeting held in Mt. Vernon, IL at 10am CST:
November 7, 2024

Ms. Brandi Stennett made the motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Malcolm Booth. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Malcolm Booth – Secretary, IOGA Advisory Board