

## Illinois Oil and Gas Advisory Board

### September 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

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

IOGA Representatives: Ed Cross

DNR – OOGRM in attendance: Vanasa Brittin, Jessica Donnelly, Kendra Brockamp

Guests: Mathew McCarthy, Eldon Doty, J. Nelson Wood, Calvin Herdes, David Britton, Michael Cole, Donnie Busscher, Charles Dedek, Peyton Breedlove, Craig Hedin, Bryan Dicus, Bert Farrara, Seth Whitehead, Casey Lampley, Jared Tines, Stephanie Storkman

- 1) Chair Ross Basnett called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM
- 2) Approval of Minutes of 04/24/2025 Meeting  
Motion to approve minutes as presented by Justin Gesell . Seconded by Malcolm Booth.
- 3) Round Table Discussion
  - A. Update on Plugging of Orphan Wells (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant with U.S. Department of Interior)  
Plugged approx. 500 wells in the first federal funding round. Priority was breakout wells throughout the state. Active projects are underway in White Co and Bond Co is slated soon.
  - B. Update on Mitigating Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells Grant with U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <https://publish.illinois.edu/methane-wells-project/volunteer-your-well/>  
Dan had a meeting in September with IGS. He reminded the advisory board that IGS is picking the test wells and the program wells not IL DNR. As of that meeting 22 of 37 wells were tested by IGS. Bids closed last week on plugging contracts. Four contracts will be awarded for approx. \$1 M each. These were published in Bid Buy, however no notification was given to IPRB, IOGA or the Advisory Committee. Emissions are a consideration of this plugging program; however they are also considering the age of the well and try to maintain a list of wells to be considered further if they are not an immediate priority.
  - C. Update on processing of Temporary Abandonment status.  
Dan reminded the Committee that Ron Hutmacher was the newly appointed Assistant Director. Ron then led the discussion concerning the timeline for TA's approval. He had researched that a typical TA approval was able to be approved within about 7 working days in Springfield and then sent via email to the field inspector. It is the timeline from the district office notification to the operator to schedule the fluid level testing that has been prolonged the majority of the time. It was requested that Springfield TA approval be emailed to the field inspector and the operator at the same time to expedite the inspection process. It was also suggested that these be allowed to proceed with a pre-scheduled timeline to allow for field conditions and efficiency of both the operators and the inspectors. IL DNR officials stated they would take that under advisement and check with legal to the timeline for testing pre-approval.
  - D. Proposed amendments to 62 IL Admin Code 240.370  
Discussion was suggested to have Dan go back to discuss this proposed amendment with counsel regarding adding the third party delivery service being used as to notice individuals similar to the

updated coal notification amendment.

E. Proposed amendments to 62 IL Admin Code 240.1500

This amendment was discussed regarding the change in use of a test well. It was recommended that a completion report be established and filed with the department that is similar to the OG-5 Drilling Report since a test well can not be completed, therefore a completion report is not the correct term or form.

F. Proposed amendments to 62 IL Admin Code Subpart L

4. New Business

A. State inspector boundaries and authority

Dan Brennan and Ron Hutmacher are going to have a discussion and investigate the concerns mentioned regarding the continuation of field inspectors determining commercial economical value of production to define an active well. Dan stated that the Department was shall be professional and reasonable. It was also noted that discussion occurred about when a well status changes from an oil well to an injection well by state definition: at the time tubing and packer are installed in the well the state is to consider it an active well.

Ron relayed that they are going through the state database currently and updating the well status. If operators find discrepancies on their annual well list or TA list they need to notify the Department.

The proper timeline on the current OG-15C should read:

Annual Report 2025 7/2024-6/2025 due December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Lastly Dan commented John Rekesius is handling the UIC program alone while Kyle Fitzpatrick is on paternity leave.

B. OG 13/23 Form clarification between workover and reactivation

4) Public Participation- None

5) Next Meeting

The following date is for the next meeting to be held in Mt. Vernon, IL at 10am CST:  
12/11/2025

Matt Davis made the motion to adjourn seconded by Malcolm Booth. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Brandi Stennett – Secretary, IOGA Advisory Board