

# Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

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## ❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The mission of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission 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. In FY00 the number of new wells was 785.

Another agency goal was to assist operators in achieving an annual increase in gas production of 1 to 2 percent. In calendar year 1999, gas volumes increased by 70 billion cubic feet or 5.7 percent. The goal for oil production was a reduction in decline rate from 5.5 percent. However, low oil prices early in 1999 contributed to a decline in oil production of 4.4 million barrels or 6.7 percent.

An increased emphasis on reducing the state's dormant well count was successful as 115 wells were returned to production or plugged and abandoned. This equates to a reduction of 3 percent. At the end of the year, there were 448 dormant wells.

One of the commission's rules, Chapter 3, Section 4, was modified to provide double the bond level for individual wells and triple the blanket bond level. Also, additional bonding now applies to all idle wells. During FY00, \$1.3 million in idle well bonding was posted.

The staff's training needs are an ongoing goal. This fiscal year, six staff members attended one or more computer software classes, five attended professional seminars, one enrolled in a college course, and the whole office (25) attended two in-house seminars. Funding for these training classes was budgeted so additional funding was unnecessary.

## ❖ *Strategic plan changes*

The WOGCC programs shall continue to monitor oilfield activities to ensure the beneficial and responsible development of oil and gas resources through statutory authority and agency rules and regulations.

The commission will expand the level of inspections, casing mechanical integrity tests and monitoring cementing of coalbed methane wells to ensure all drilling and production activities are carried out in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

The commission will continue to encourage operators to return to production wells that have the potential for additional reserves or to plug and restore the locations on wells

## **General information**

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## **Agency contact**

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## **Year established**

1951

## **Statutory references**

Sections 30-5-101 through 30-5-126, 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	\$1,761,238
Federal funds	190,200
Other	64,469
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,015,907</b>

with no future utility. This fiscal year the idle well count is 4,451.

The WOGCC's Web site makes information available to all interested parties and is updated on a real-time basis. The commission will work toward increasing the number of operators filing their production and sundry notices electronically to 80 percent and 25 percent respectively. Currently, 63 percent of the production reports are filed electronically.

To further improve customer service, shorter time limits were set for approving all paperwork, and a substantial number of well locations and files will be checked for accuracy.

## Oil and Gas Conservation Commission organization chart

