



AB 591: Oil and Gas Production: Hydraulic Fracturing

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

Under existing law, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources in the Department of Conservation regulates the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil and gas wells in the state. The State Oil and Gas Supervisor supervises the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of wells and the operation, maintenance, and removal or abandonment of tanks and facilities related to oil and gas production within an oil and gas field regarding safety and environmental damage. Existing law requires the owner or operator of a well to keep, or cause to be kept, a careful and accurate log, core record, and history of the drilling of the well. Within 60 days after the date of cessation of drilling, rework, or abandonment operations, the owner or operator is required to file with the district deputy certain information, including the history of work performed.

This bill would require a person carrying out hydraulic fracturing on behalf of an owner or operator at a well to provide to the owner or operator a list of the chemical constituents used in the hydraulic fracturing fluid. The bill would additionally require the history of the drilling of the well to include certain information regarding the amount and source of water used in the exploration or production from the well and the radiological components or tracers injected into the well. The bill would also require the history to include, if hydraulic fracturing was used at the well, a complete list of the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing.

The bill would require the owner or operator to submit to the supervisor information regarding the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, who would be required to add this information to existing Internet maps on the division’s Internet Web site and to make this information available to the public.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommend revisions

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/IMPACT TO COUNTY

- (1) Revise to include the occurrence of hydraulic fracturing as a milestone in Section 3215(a) of the Public Resources Code, which now only includes cessation of drilling, rework, or abandonment operations, or date of suspension of operations. Also clarify herein that required reportable logs must be filed with the district deputy within 60 days of completing hydraulic fracturing, or completing each milestone.
- (2) Revise to reconcile the timing of these reporting requirements, which occur after hydraulic fracturing, with those under CEQA when a lead agency processes necessary permit approvals for oil and/or gas wells, including performance of hydraulic fracturing to ensure no conflict or preemption of CEQA applicability.
- (3) Reconcile with pending federal bills (HR 1084 & S 587) with regard to trade secrets.

POSSIBLE SUPPORTERS: National Resources Defense Council

POSSIBLE OPPOSITION: California Independent Petroleum Association has stated conceptual support for mandatory disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations.

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