



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **New oil and gas commissioners, division administrator, web site announced**

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter announced the appointments of Boise resident **James (Jim) Classen**, Emmett resident **Kevin Dickey**, and Moscow resident **Dr. Renee Breedlovestrout** to the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (OGCC) today.

**Richard “Mick” Thomas** was named the new Oil and Gas Division Administrator within the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL).

A new web site, <https://ogcc.idaho.gov>, will host information about the OGCC and Idaho oil and gas regulatory program.

The OGCC regulates the exploration, drilling and production of oil and gas resources on private, state and federal land in Idaho. The Idaho oil and gas regulatory program functions as part of IDL.

[House Bill 301 as amended](#) was unanimously approved by the 2017 Legislature and signed into law, establishing a new OGCC effective July 1 to include the IDL director, one county commissioner, and three Governor-appointed technical experts who initially will serve staggered terms. In May Governor Otter announced the appointments of IDL Director Tom Schultz and Payette County Commissioner Marc Shigeta to the OGCC.

**Classen** was a member of the previous OGCC. He is a petroleum exploration geologist and geological engineer with more than 50 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. He holds an Engineer of Geology degree from the Colorado School of Mines and a master’s degree in geology from Stanford University. Classen will serve a four-year term.

**Dickey** is a Gem County landowner with more than 30 years of oil and gas operations experience. He most recently worked for Boise-based Petroglyph Energy. He holds a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. Dickey will serve a three-year term.

**Breedlovestrout** is a faculty member and instructor in the University of Idaho’s Department of Geological Sciences. She recently worked as a senior petroleum geoscientist for the Idaho Geological Survey, ExxonMobil Exploration Company, and XTO Energy. She has more than 11 years of experience in petroleum geology and sedimentology. She holds a doctorate degree in geology from the University of Idaho and a bachelor’s degree in geology from Washington State University. Breedlovestrout will serve a two-year term.

**Thomas**, the new administrator of the Oil and Gas Division within IDL, will serve as secretary to the new commission. The position was created during the 2017 legislative session. Thomas most recently served as senior geologist and head of mineral resources at the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. Before that, he worked for Devon Energy Corporation and in other private sector positions in oil and gas operations, exploration and development across multiple states. Thomas holds a master’s degree in geology and bachelor’s degree in math and science from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Online information about the OGCC and Idaho oil and gas regulatory program now is easier to find on a new web site, <https://ogcc.idaho.gov>. Oil and gas information previously was hosted on the IDL web site along with information about several other IDL programs.

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