

From: [Sharla Arledge](#) on behalf of [Comments](#)
To: [Kourtney Romine](#); [Mick Thomas](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on Draft Legislation
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 04:15:02 PM
Attachments: [20211130.SROG Comment on Draft Legislation.pdf](#)
[20211130.Idaho Code 47-3 Oil and Gas Conservation Act.REDLINE.pdf](#)

From: Michael Christian <mike@smithmalek.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Comments <comments@idl.idaho.gov>
Subject: Comment on Draft Legislation

Please see attached:

1. A letter of today's date from me with comments on the Department's draft revisions to the Act; and
2. A redline of the Act with proposed revisions to it.

Thank you,

--

Michael R. Christian
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Admitted in Idaho

November 30, 2021

Via email: comments@idl.idaho.gov

Mick Thomas, Administrator
Minerals, Public Trust and Oil and Gas Division
Idaho Department of Lands
300 N. 6th St, Suite 103
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: Draft Legislative Revisions

Dear Administrator:

As you know, I represent Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed revisions to Title 47, Chapter 3 of Idaho Code (“the Act”). As I stated during the last Commission meeting, I also appreciate the Department’s effort to review and update the Act. Snake River strives to maintain a good working relationship with Department’s Oil and Gas Program staff, and to operate in a manner that is fully compliant with the Act, protective of surface and groundwater resources, and beneficial to the State of Idaho and royalty owners. On behalf of Snake River, I have prepared a proposed redline of the Act, intended to correct some technical errors and oversights left over from the previous revisions to the Act in 2017, and which may be used to supplement or replace portions of the Department’s draft, as appropriate. A copy is attached. It includes proposed revisions to address the following:

1. § 47-310(11): The last sentence is removed from definition of “market value.” The term is used elsewhere in the Act only in § 47-332(4), relating to operator record keeping requirements, and the deleted language makes no sense in that usage. It has no use elsewhere in the Act. It was likely included in the previous amending legislation in error.
2. § 47-310(32): The term “underground waste” is added to the definition of waste related to gas, as the term is already in the definition of waste related to oil. The change is made for consistency.

November 30, 2021

2 of 5

3. § 47-315(2): The reference to prevention of waste being paramount in the event of conflict is added for consistency with subsection (1) of this section, which already includes that reference.

4. § 47-315(7): The reference to condensate pools or wells is deleted since condensate is already defined in the Act as oil.

5. § 47-316(1)(d): A definitive timeframe (14 business days) is added to decisions on permit applications not requiring notice and hearing (e.g., applications for permit to drill).

6. § 47-316(3)(i), (j): The fee schedule is clarified to include an application to establish individual spacing units (which is currently omitted), and an application to amend a fieldwide spacing order (which is currently omitted). Because no provision was ever made in the current form of the section for an application to change a drilling unit (even through such a process is contemplated in current §47-317), it is unnecessary to remove any language here to deal with the elimination of drilling units elsewhere in the Act.

7. §§ 47-317, 318: The previous amending legislation in 2017 created two redundant and inconsistent sections regarding “drilling units” and “spacing units” – which are the same thing. The proposed revision combines them into a single section and eliminates the redundancy and conflict, so that the Act refers only to spacing units. It also clarifies the setbacks for wells, by (a) making the oil well setback similar to the method used for gas wells, for consistency, and (b) addressing directionally drilled wells, which are currently not addressed in the Act at all for spacing purposes.

The provisions regarding “drilling units” in Idaho Code § 47-317 and “spacing units” in Idaho Code § 47-318 were cobbled together from other states in the earlier revisions to the Act. Drilling units and spacing units are the same thing. The two existing sections approach the same subject in different ways, and as a result are redundant and inconsistent. The redline includes revisions to combine the two sections and provide for (a) more efficient development on uniform (default) spacing, and (b) more efficient revision of spacing on a non-default basis or otherwise as development progresses. Generally, the process should be: (a) if an operator can drill a well based on default spacing (e.g., a standard 640 acre section for gas, or a standard 40 acre quarter-quarter section for oil, with a well location within legal setbacks from the unit boundary, and the unit owned or integrated as necessary, an APD should be issued; (b) if a mineral owner with affected correlative rights later files an objection based on actual production data, a hearing may be held to determine whether a unit’s configuration or allowable production from the existing unit should be changed; (c) if an operator wishes to drill a well in a non-standard unit or units (e.g., offset, or of a nonstandard size or shape) the operator may apply for an order establishing such unit(s), with mineral interest owners whose correlative rights may be impacted provided notice and an

November 30, 2021

3 of 5

opportunity to participate in the process. As an area develops, fieldwide spacing rules may be established.

The current framework is confusing and contradictory. Existing §47-317 provides for default “drilling units,” with defined sizes, locations and well offsets, but then provides in subsection (c) that before production from such a drilling unit may occur, notice and opportunity for a hearing must be provided to uncommitted mineral interest owners within the proposed unit area (if there are any), as well as providing “any other notice required by statute or rule,” without providing any reference to what that required notice might be. The operator and the Department are left to guess. Subsection (c) then provides that “[t]he department may authorize drilling units upon application, notice and an opportunity for hearing as provided in section 47-328, Idaho Code.” This is the same process as is provided for establishing spacing units under Idaho Code § 47-318. Subsection (4) of § 47-317 provides for an operator to apply for drilling units of different sizes and shapes, actually referring to the provision covering the same subject for spacing units in § 47-318(6) (which says simply that “[t]he department will review applications to change the size, shape or location of spacing units.”). Lastly, subsection (5) of § 47-317 again refers to the notice and hearing procedures set forth in §47-328 – arguably inconsistent with the language in subsection (6) regarding departmental review and approval of requested changes -- and requires a showing that “such change would assist in preventing the waste of oil and gas, avoid drilling of unnecessary wells, or protect correlative rights.”

Meanwhile, existing §47-318 provides that an “order establishing spacing units shall specify the size, shape and location of the units, which shall be such as will, in the opinion of the department, result in the efficient and economical development of the pool as a whole,” and that “the size of the spacing units shall not be smaller than the maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well.” These are entirely different standards from those set forth in § 47-317. Subsection (2)(a) provides for the establishment of “temporary” spacing units, and production from them. It is not clear how these are different from drilling units. As with §47-317 with respect to drilling units, subsections (3) and (6) of § 47-318 provide for changes to the size, shape and location of spacing units. Subsection (4) provides for an order establishing a spacing unit to “specify the location for the drilling of a well thereon,” but without referring to the well setback requirements for drilling units in §47-317, which in Snake River’s experience has created confusion.

Thus, the two sections cover the same subject matter with two different schemes, and no explanation of how they interact or can be reconciled. The remainder of the Act never refers to drilling units again, instead referring only to spacing units (for example, in §47-320, dealing with integration, and § 47-321, dealing with unitization, and § 47-316(3)(i), establishing the fee for an application to change a spacing unit). This suggests that §47-317 was included in the 2017 revisions for its “default unit” provisions, but without consideration of how it would interact with § 47-318 or the rest of the Act.

Snake River strongly believes the Act should be revised so that the inconsistencies and redundancy between these two sections are resolved, and the process for drilling and producing a well is make clearer and less burdensome.

8. §47-320: The standards for integration are clarified in the proposed revision, by (a) including the factors to be considered in establishing just and reasonable terms of integration, consistent with the Department's draft; (b) providing for spacing and integration to be pursued in a single application, and in a single hearing (except under certain circumstances if the proposed spacing is properly challenged), to eliminate the current three-hearing, six-month or more process; and (c) changing the required percent leased in order to make application to integrate a spacing unit from 67% to 55%, but increasing he resume of efforts period from 60 days to 90 days, to eliminate the current unwieldy two-tier scheme, which is not used in any other producing state.

9. §47-327: The proposed revision makes the time frames for confidentiality consistent as between well tests and well logs (the Act currently mixes references to days and months), and provides for a request for one-time request for extension of confidentiality of well tests, which already exists for well logs.

10. §47-321(8), (11): The proposed revision clarifies that the percentage required to have signed the agreement for unit operations includes the lessee of voluntary lessors and integrated lessors, and clarifies that the "just and reasonable terms" for a unitization order will be determined using the same factors as being added for integration applications.

11. §47-328: The proposed revision (a) clarifies the notice and hearing procedures that apply to applications for spacing units (currently not addressed in the Act); (b) reduces the time from filing of application to hearing from 45 days to 30 days (with some exception); and (c) clarifies that spacing and integration applications generally may be heard together, and that the issues of entitlement to integration and the terms and conditions of integration will be addressed in one hearing. Overall, the proposed revisions may reduce time from application to order from the current approximately 180 days (or more) to 60 days, which is more in line with other producing states.

With respect to the Department's draft revisions to the Act:

1. Snake River supports the change of Commission membership in § 47-314 to include an additional member with oil and gas experience;

2. As reflected in the attached redline, Snake River supports the inclusion of the "just and reasonable" terms for integration as set forth in the Department's draft.

November 30, 2021

5 of 5

3. Snake River supports the clarification in §47-327 in the Department's draft.

Snake River respectfully suggests that, concurrently with revision of the Act, the implementing rules set forth in IDAPA 20.07.02 should be similarly updated. In particular, the cementing rules currently set forth in IDAPA 20.07.02.310 should be updated and clarified to be consistent with standard industry practices.

Snake River is continuing to review the Department's proposed revisions, and the existing Act. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the above proposed revisions and others, toward the end of cooperatively revising the Act to bring it up to the standards needed for long-term production of oil and gas in Idaho.

Very truly yours,



MICHAEL R. CHRISTIAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

cc: Richard Brown, Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC

TITLE 47
MINES AND MINING

CHAPTER 3
OIL AND GAS WELLS -- GEOLOGIC INFORMATION, AND PREVENTION OF
WASTE

47-306. PRESERVATION AND USE OF SAMPLES AND RECORDS -- REPORTS OF DETERMINATIONS AND IDENTIFICATIONS. The Idaho geological survey shall preserve any samples or records deposited with it pertaining to mineral, oil or gas resources, exploration or production on lands within the state. The Idaho geological survey may use such samples or records to assist with mineral and petroleum assessments and characterization of geologic resources as part of its mission and directive to determine the geology, hydrogeology, geologic hazards, and mineral, oil and gas resources of the state. On request, the Idaho geological survey shall supply to the owner or owners of the samples or records a report of any such determinations and identifications specific to the samples or records provided by the owner or owners of the samples or records.

[(47-306) 1931, ch. 115, sec. 6, p. 196; I.C.A., sec. 46-306; am. 2009, ch. 11, sec. 15, p. 26; am. 2016, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 541.]

47-307. USE OF INFORMATION. The Idaho geological survey is hereby authorized to utilize in its study of regional geology, mineral deposits, industrial minerals and aggregates, oil and gas resources, and groundwater resources, in its dissemination of geological and mineral data, and in its publication of reports and maps on the geology and mineral resources of the state, any information derived from samples and records deposited with it. The Idaho geological survey shall not disclose any record, or any information contained therein, if the record or information is exempt from disclosure under the Idaho public records act, [chapter 1, title 74](#), Idaho Code, or is subject to a confidentiality agreement between the Idaho geological survey and the owner or owners of the records or information. Should a confidentiality or data-sharing agreement exist, the terms of that agreement shall control any disclosure by the Idaho geological survey. For information that becomes publicly available or that is not exempt from disclosure under the Idaho public records act, the existence of a confidentiality or data-sharing agreement will not extend the period of confidentiality beyond that available under the Idaho public records act. Subject to any confidentiality or data-sharing agreement, the Idaho geological survey is authorized to share such records or information obtained under section [47-306](#), Idaho Code, or information derived therefrom, with the Idaho oil and gas conservation commission and the Idaho department of lands, in furtherance of the respective authorized functions of the commission and the Idaho department of lands. The sharing of information between the Idaho geological survey, the oil and gas conservation commission and the Idaho department of lands shall not render the shared information subject to disclosure to other persons under the Idaho public records act.

[(47-307) 1931, ch. 115, sec. 7, p. 196; I.C.A., sec. 46-307; am. 2009, ch. 11, sec. 16, p. 26; am. 2016, ch. 194, sec. 2, p. 542.]

47-309. TITLE. This act may be cited as the Oil and Gas Conservation Act.

[(47-309) 47-329, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 16, p. 433; am. and re-desig. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 1, p. 678.]

47-310. DEFINITIONS. Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms defined in this section shall have the following meaning when used in this act. The use of the plural includes the singular, and the use of the singular includes the plural.

(1) "Commission" means the oil and gas conservation commission.

(2) "Confidential well status" refers to a well for which the operator has applied and received confidential status from the commission pursuant to section [47-327](#), Idaho Code. Information about a confidential well is exempt from disclosure as to the public, but not with regard to the commission or other state authority.

(3) "Condensate" means the liquid produced by the condensation of a vapor or gas either after it leaves the reservoir or while still in the reservoir.

(4) "Correlative rights" means the opportunity of each owner in a pool to produce his just and equitable share of oil and gas in a pool without waste.

(5) "Department" means the Idaho department of lands.

(6) "End purchaser" means a third-party, arms-length purchaser of oil, gas or condensate that is ready for refining or other use, or a third-party, arms-length purchaser of other fluid or gaseous hydrocarbons that have been separated in a processing facility.

(7) "Exploration" means activities related to the various geological and geophysical methods used to detect and determine the existence and extent of hydrocarbon deposits. The activities related to the search for oil and gas include without limitation aerial, geological and geophysical surveys and studies, seismic work, core drilling and the drilling of test wells.

(8) "Field" means the general area underlaid by one (1) or more pools.

(9) "Gas" means natural gas, which is a mixture of hydrocarbons and varying quantities of non-hydrocarbons that exist either in the gaseous phase or in solution with crude oil in natural underground reservoirs.

(10) "Gathering facility" means a facility that receives gathering lines from wells, commingles the produced materials, and then sends those materials to a processing facility.

(11) "Market value" means the price at the time of sale, in cash or on terms reasonably equivalent to cash, for which the oil and gas should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently and knowledgeably, and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus from either party. ~~The costs of marketing, transporting and processing oil and gas produced shall be borne entirely by the producer, and such cost shall not reduce the severance tax directly or indirectly.~~

(12) "MCF" means one thousand cubic feet of gas.

(13) "Mineral interest" means the right to explore, drill or produce oil and gas lying beneath the surface of property.

(14) "Natural gas liquids" means hydrocarbons that are gaseous in the reservoir, but will separate out in liquid form at the pressures and temperatures at which separators normally operate. The liquids consist of varying proportions of butane, propane, pentane and heavier fractions, with little or no methane or ethane.

(15) "Natural gas plant liquids" means hydrocarbon compounds in raw gas that are separated as liquids at gas processing plants, fractionating plants, and cycling plants. Natural gas plant liquids obtained include ethane, liquefied petroleum gases (propane and the butanes), and pentanes plus any heavier hydrocarbon compounds. Component products may be fractionated or mixed.

(16) "Occupied structure" means a building with walls and a roof within which individuals live or customarily work.

(17) "Oil" means and includes crude petroleum oil and other hydrocarbons, regardless of gravity, that are produced at the wellhead in liquid form and the liquid hydrocarbons known as distillate or condensate recovered or extracted from gas.

(18) "Oil and gas" means oil or gas or both. "Oil and gas" refers not only to oil and gas in combination with each other but also generally to oil, gas, casinghead gas, casinghead gasoline, gas-distillate or other hydrocarbons, or any combination or combinations thereof, which may be found in or produced from a common source or supply of oil, oil and gas, or gas-distillate.

(19) "Oil and gas administrator" means the division administrator for oil and gas conservation within the department of lands, as established under section [58-104A](#), Idaho Code.

(20) "Oil and gas facility" means equipment or improvements used or installed at an oil and gas location for the exploration, production, withdrawal, gathering, treatment or processing of oil or natural gas.

(21) "Oil and gas operations" means operations to explore for, develop or produce oil and gas.

(22) "Operator" means any duly authorized person who is in charge of the development of a lease, pool, or spacing or unitized area, or the operation of a producing well.

(23) "Owner" means the person who has the right to drill into and produce from a pool and to appropriate the oil and gas that he produces therefrom, either for himself or for himself and others.

(24) "Person" means any natural person, corporation, association, partnership, receiver, trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, fiduciary or other representatives of any kind, and includes any government or any political subdivision of any agency thereof. The masculine gender, in referring to a person, includes the feminine and the neuter genders.

(25) "Pool" means an underground reservoir containing a common accumulation of oil and gas. Each zone of a structure that is completely separated from any other zone in the same structure is a pool.

(26) "Processing facility" means a facility that refines gas and liquid hydrocarbons.

(27) "Producer" means the owner of a well or wells capable of producing oil and gas.

(28) "Reservoir" means a subsurface volume of porous and permeable rock in which oil and gas may have accumulated.

(29) "Royalty owner" means any owner of an interest in an oil and gas lease that entitles him to share in the production of the oil and gas under the lease.

(30) "Tract" means an expanse of land representing the surface expression of the underlying mineral estate that includes oil and gas rights. A tract:

- (a) May be identified by its public land survey system of rectangular surveys that subdivides and describes land in the United States in the public domain and is regulated by the United States department of the interior, bureau of land management;
- (b) Is of no particular size;
- (c) May be irregular in form;
- (d) Is contiguous;
- (e) May lie in more than one (1) township or one (1) section;
- (f) May have a boundary defined entirely or in part by natural monuments such as streams, divides or straight lines connecting prominent features of topography; and
- (g) May be combined with other tracts to form a lease.

(31) "Uncommitted owner" means one who is not leased or otherwise contractually obligated to the operator.

(32) "Waste" as applied to gas shall include underground waste, the escape, blowing or releasing, directly or indirectly, into the open air of gas from wells productive of gas only, or gas in an excessive or unreasonable amount from wells producing oil or both oil and gas; and the production of gas in quantities or in such manner as will unreasonably reduce reservoir pressure or unreasonably diminish the quantity of oil and gas that might ultimately be produced; excepting gas that is reasonably necessary in the drilling, completing and testing of wells and in furnishing power for the production of wells.

(33) "Waste" as applied to oil means and includes underground waste; inefficient, excessive or improper use or dissipation of reservoir energy, including gas energy and water drive; surface waste, open-pit storage and waste incident to the production of oil in excess of the producer's above-ground storage facilities and lease and contractual requirements, but excluding storage (other than open-pit storage) reasonably necessary for building up and maintaining crude stocks and products thereof for consumption, use and sale; the locating, drilling, equipping, operating or producing of any well in a manner that causes, or tends to cause, reduction of the quantity of oil and gas ultimately recoverable from a pool under prudent and proper operations.

(34) "Workover" means an operation in which a well is reentered for the purpose of maintaining or repairing it.

[(47-310) 47-318, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 4, p. 433; am. 2012, ch. 73, sec. 1, p. 209; am. 2015, ch. 89, sec. 1, p. 223; am. 2016, ch. 48, sec. 2, p. 131; am. and redesi. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 2, p. 678.]

47-311. PUBLIC INTEREST. It is declared to be in the public interest to foster, encourage and promote the development, production and utilization of natural resources of oil and gas in the state of Idaho in such a manner as will prevent waste; to provide for uniformity and consistency in the regulation of the production of oil and gas throughout the state of Idaho; to authorize and to provide for the operations and development of oil and gas properties in such a manner that a greater ultimate recovery of oil and gas may be obtained and that the correlative rights of all owners be fully protected; to encourage, authorize and provide for voluntary agreements for cycling, recycling, pressure maintenance and secondary recovery operations in order that the greatest possible economic recovery of oil and gas may be obtained within the state to the end that the land owners, the royalty owners, the producers and the general public may realize and enjoy the greatest possible good from these vital natural resources.

[(47-311) 47-315, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 1, p. 433; am. 2012, ch. 111, sec. 1, p. 302; am. and redesisg. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 3, p. 681.]

47-312. ACT NOT CONSTRUED TO RESTRICT PRODUCTION -- WASTE PROHIBITED. It is not the intent or purpose of this law to require the proration or distribution or the production of oil and gas among the fields of Idaho on the basis of market demand. This act shall never be construed to require, permit, or authorize the commission or any court to make, enter, or enforce any order, rule, regulation or judgment requiring restriction of production due to market demand of any pool or of any well (except as provided in section [47-315](#), Idaho Code, hereof) to an amount less than the well or pool can produce without waste in accordance with sound engineering practices. The waste of oil and gas or either of them as defined in this chapter is hereby prohibited.

[(47-312) 47-328, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 14, p. 433; am. 2012, ch. 73, sec. 5, p. 215; am. and redesisg. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 4, p. 681.]

47-313. LANDS SUBJECT TO THIS ACT. This act shall apply to all lands located in the state, however owned, including any lands owned or administered by any government or any agency or political subdivision thereof, including lands of the United States, or lands subject to the jurisdiction of the United States over which the state of Idaho has police power, except to the degree that it is inharmonious with the uses, activities or regulations of the United States, and furthermore, the same shall apply to any lands committed to a unit agreement approved by the secretary of the interior or his duly authorized representative, except that the commission may, with respect to such unit agreement, suspend the application of this act or any part of this act so long as the conservation of oil and gas and the prevention of waste as in this act provided is accomplished under such unit agreements, but such suspension shall not relieve any operator from making such reports as may be required by the commission with respect to operations under any such unit agreement.

[(47-313) 47-327, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 13, p. 433; am. and redesisg. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 5, p. 681.]

47-314. OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION CREATED -- POWERS -- LIMIT
ON LOCAL RESTRICTIONS -- ATTORNEY GENERAL. (1) There is hereby created an oil and gas conservation commission of the state of Idaho within the department of lands. The commission shall consist of the director of the department of lands, a county commissioner as described in this section, and three (3) members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

(a) The county commissioner shall be from a county where oil and gas are being produced or have been produced within the last ten (10) years and shall be elected by a majority of the county commissioners from such producing counties. The county commissioner shall serve a four (4) year term. A vacancy shall be filled by election for the unexpired term in the same manner provided for election to a full term.

(b) The members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure of the governor and shall have a college degree in geosciences or engineering and at least ten (10) years of experience

in the oil and gas industry. The governor shall appoint the three (3) technical expert members: one (1) member for a term of four (4) years, one (1) member for a term of three (3) years, and one (1) member for a term of two (2) years. Thereafter, the term of office of each appointed member of the commission shall be four (4) years. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner provided for an appointment to the full term.

(2) On July 1, 2017, the terms of the existing members of the commission appointed under this section shall terminate, with the sole exception that such commission shall decide any administrative actions filed prior to July 1, 2017. Actions filed on and after July 1, 2017, shall be decided by the new commission established under this section.

(3) The commission shall annually elect a chairman and a vice chairman from their membership. Such officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected. If a vacancy occurs in either office, the commission shall elect a member to fill such office for the remainder of the term.

(4) The commission shall meet at least annually and thereafter on dates set by the commission. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

(5) The members of the commission appointed by the governor or selected by the county commissioners shall be compensated as provided in section [59-509](#)(n), Idaho Code.

(6) The oil and gas administrator of the department of lands shall be the secretary for the commission.

(7) The department of lands shall have the power to exercise, under the general control and supervision of the commission, all of the rights, powers and duties vested by law in the commission, except those provided in sections [47-328](#) and [47-329](#)(3), Idaho Code.

(8) The commission shall have and is hereby given jurisdiction and authority over all persons and property, public and private, necessary to enforce the provisions of this act, and shall have power and authority to make and enforce rules, regulations and orders, and do whatever may reasonably be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. Any delegation of authority to any other state officer, board or commission to administer any and all other laws of this state relating to the conservation of oil and gas is hereby rescinded and withdrawn and such authority is hereby unqualifiedly conferred upon the commission, as herein provided. The commission shall follow procedures on applications as provided in section [47-328](#), Idaho Code, except as provided in sections [47-316](#)(1)(a) and [47-329](#)(3), Idaho Code.

(9) It is the intent of the legislature to occupy the field of the regulation of oil and gas exploration and production with the limited exception of the exercise of planning and zoning authority granted cities and counties pursuant to [chapter 65, title 67](#), Idaho Code.

(10) To implement the purpose of the oil and gas conservation act, and to advance the public interest in the orderly development of the state's oil and gas resources, while at the same time recognizing the responsibility of local governments to protect the public health, safety and welfare, it is herein provided that:

(a) The commission will notify the respective city or county with jurisdiction upon receipt of an application and will remit, electronically, a copy of all application materials.

(b) No ordinance, resolution, requirement or standard of a city, county or political subdivision, except a state agency with authority, shall actually or operationally prohibit the extraction of oil and gas, including oil and gas facilities necessary to extraction; provided however, that extraction may be subject to

reasonable local ordinance provisions, not repugnant to law, which protect public health, public safety, public order or which prevent harm to public infrastructure or degradation of the value, use and enjoyment of private property. Any ordinance regulating extraction enacted pursuant to [chapter 65, title 67](#), Idaho Code, shall provide for administrative permitting under conditions established by ordinance, not to exceed twenty-one (21) days, unless extended by agreement of the parties or upon good cause shown.

(c) No ordinance, resolution, requirement or standard of a city, county or political subdivision, except a state agency with authority, shall actually or operationally prohibit construction or operation of facilities and infrastructure needed for the post-extraction processing and transport of gas and oil. However, such facilities and infrastructure shall be subject to local ordinances, regulations and permitting requirements, not repugnant to law, as provided in [chapter 65, title 67](#), Idaho Code.

(11) The commission may sue and be sued in its administration of this act in any state or federal district court in the state of Idaho having jurisdiction of the parties or of the subject matter.

(12) The attorney general shall act as the legal advisor of the commission and represent the commission in all court proceedings and in all proceedings before it, and in any proceeding to which the commission may be a party before any department of the federal government. The commission may retain additional counsel to assist the attorney general and, for such purpose, may employ any funds available under this act.

[(47-314) 47-317, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 3, p. 433; am. 1974, ch. 17, sec. 30, p. 308; am. 2012, ch. 111, sec. 2, p. 302; am. 2013, ch. 189, sec. 1, p. 467; am. 2014, ch. 56, sec. 1, p. 133; am. 2015, ch. 102, sec. 1, p. 244; am. 2016, ch. 48, sec. 1, p. 129; am. and redesig. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 6, p. 681.]

47-315. AUTHORITY OF COMMISSION. (1) The commission is authorized and it is its duty to regulate the exploration for and production of oil and gas, prevent waste of oil and gas and to protect correlative rights, and otherwise to administer and enforce this act. It has jurisdiction over all persons and property necessary for such purposes. In the event of a conflict, the duty to prevent waste is paramount.

(2) The commission and the department shall protect correlative rights by administering the provisions of this chapter in such a manner as to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells or incurring unnecessary expense, and in a manner that allows all operators and royalty owners a fair and just opportunity for production and the right to recover, receive and enjoy the benefits of oil and gas or equivalent resources, while also protecting the rights of surface owners. In the event of a conflict, the duty to prevent waste is paramount.

(3) The commission is authorized to make such investigations as it deems proper to determine whether action by the commission in discharging its duties is necessary.

(4) The commission is authorized to appoint, as necessary, committees for the purpose of advising the commission on matters relating to oil and gas.

(5) Without limiting its general authority, the commission shall have the specific authority to require:

(a) Identification of ownership of oil and gas wells, producing leases, tanks, plants, structures, and facilities for the transportation or refining of oil and gas;

(b) The taking and preservation of samples and findings, if taken or analyzed;

(c) The drilling, casing, operation and plugging of wells in such manner as to prevent: (i) the escape of oil and gas out of one (1) pool into another; (ii) the detrimental intrusion of water into an oil and gas pool that is avoidable by efficient operations; (iii) the pollution of fresh water supplies by oil, gas, or saltwater; (iv) blow-outs, cavings, seepages, and fires; and (v) waste as defined in section [47-310](#), Idaho Code;

(d) The taking of tests of oil and gas wells;

(e) The furnishing of a reasonable performance bond with good and sufficient surety, conditioned upon the performance of the duty to comply with the requirements of this law and the regulations of the commission with respect to the drilling, maintaining, operating and plugging of each well drilled for oil and gas;

(f) That the production from wells be separated into gaseous and liquid hydrocarbons, and that each be measured by means and upon standards that may be prescribed by the commission;

(g) That wells not be operated with inefficient gas-oil or water-oil ratios, and to fix these ratios, and to limit production from wells with inefficient gas-oil or water-oil ratios;

(h) Metering or other measuring of oil, gas, or product;

(i) That every person who produces oil and gas in the state keep and maintain for a period of five (5) years complete and accurate records of the quantities thereof, which records, or certified copies thereof, shall be available for examination by the commission or its agents at all reasonable times within said period, and that every such person file with the commission such reasonable reports as it may prescribe with respect to such oil and gas production; and

(j) The filing of reports or plats with the commission that it may prescribe.

(6) Without limiting its general authority, and without limiting the authority of other state agencies or local government as provided by law, the commission shall have the specific authority to regulate:

(a) The drilling and plugging of wells and the compression or dehydration of produced oil and gas, and all other operations for the production of oil and gas;

(b) The shooting and treatment of wells;

(c) The spacing or locating of wells;

(d) Operations to increase ultimate recovery, such as cycling of gas, the maintenance of pressure, and the introduction of gas, water, or other substances into a producing formation; and

(e) The disposal of produced water and oil field wastes.

(7) The commission is authorized to classify and reclassify pools as oil, or gas, ~~or condensate~~ pools, or wells as oil, or gas, ~~or condensate~~ wells.

(8) The commission is authorized to make and enforce rules, regulations, and orders reasonably necessary to prevent waste, protect correlative rights, to govern the practice and procedure before the commission, and otherwise to administer this act.

(9) The commission shall require the department to perform the following activities on an annual basis:

- (a) Inspect and report on all active well sites and equipment;
- (b) Visit and file a report on production and processing facilities; and
- (c) Submit an opinion as to any areas of concern, as identified on inspection reports.

[[\(47-315\) 47-319](#), added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 5, p. 433; am. 1990, ch. 213, sec. 63, p. 532; am. 2012, ch. 73, sec. 2, p. 211; am. 2012, ch. 111, sec. 3, p. 303; am. 2013, ch. 189, sec. 2, p. 469; am. 2015, ch. 64, sec. 1, p. 173; am. 2015, ch. 141, sec. 120, p. 469; am. 2016, ch. 47, sec. 21, p. 115; am. 2016, ch. 194, sec. 3, p. 542; am. and redesisg. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 7, p. 683.]

47-316. PERMIT TO DRILL OR TREAT A WELL -- FEES. (1) It shall be unlawful to commence operations for the drilling or treating of a well for oil and gas without first giving notice to the commission of intention to drill or treat and without first obtaining a permit from the commission under such rules and regulations as may be reasonably prescribed by the commission and by paying to the commission a filing and service fee as provided by this section.

(a) Any request for a permit or authorization as set forth in subsection (3)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (m), (n) or (o) of this section shall be made by application to the department of lands, and processed as provided in this section.

(b) The department shall notify the director of the department of water resources regarding applications for permits to drill or treat a well. The director of water resources shall have ten (10) business days from the date of receipt of such notification from the department of lands to recommend conditions he believes necessary to protect freshwater supplies.

(c) Applications submitted under this section, except those listed in subsection (3)(c) and (g) of this section, shall be posted on the department of lands' website for ten (10) business days for a written comment period.

(d) The department of lands shall approve or deny applications in subsection (3)(a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (m), (n) and (o) of this section in a timely and efficient manner, not to exceed 14 business days. This time frame does not apply to permits submitted with an application processed under section [47-328](#), Idaho Code.

(e) The department's decision made under this section may be appealed to the commission by the applicant pursuant to the procedure in section [47-328](#) (4) through (6), Idaho Code.

(2) Upon issuance of any permit to drill or treat a well, a copy thereof, including any limitations, conditions, controls, rules or regulations attached thereto for the protection of freshwater supplies as required in section [47-315](#), Idaho Code, shall be forwarded to the director of the department of water resources.

(3) The department shall collect the following fees, which shall be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the oil and gas conservation fund and shall be used exclusively to pay the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the administration and enforcement

of this chapter:

(a) Application for a permit to drill a well	\$2,000
(b) Application to deepen a well	500
(c) Application to plug and abandon a well, if not completed within one (1) year from issuance of permit to drill a well	500
(d) Application to treat a well, if separate from an application for a permit to drill a well	1,000
(e) Application to construct a pit, if separate from an application for a permit to drill a well	1,500
(f) Application to directionally drill a well, if separate from an application for a permit to drill a well	1,000
(g) Application for a recompletion, modified blow out prevention standards, using a vacuum for oil or gas recovery, removing casing, or multiple zone completion, if separate from an application for a permit to drill or plug and abandon a well	1,000
(h) Application for an exceptional well location, if separate from an application for a permit to drill a well	1,300
(i) Application to change the size, shape or location of a spacing unit <u>or fieldwide spacing order</u>	1,300
(j) Application to establish or amend <u>an individual spacing unit or fieldwide spacing order</u>	1,300
(k) Application for an integration order	1,300
(l) Application for a unitization order	1,300
(m) Application for a seismic operations permit covering less than twelve (12) miles of a 2-D survey	800
(n) Application for a seismic operations permit covering between twelve (12) miles and twenty-four (24) miles of a 2-D survey, or up to seventy-two (72) square miles of a 3-D survey	2,000
(o) Application for a seismic operations permit covering more than twenty-four (24) miles of a 2-D survey, or more than seventy-two (72) square miles of a 3-D survey	2,500

[(47-316) 47-320, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 6, p. 433; am. 1973, ch. 255, sec. 1, p. 506; am. 1974, ch. 17, sec. 31, p. 308; am. 2012, ch. 71, sec. 1, p. 207; am. 2015, ch. 65, sec. 1, p. 174; am. 2016, ch. 48, sec. 3, p. 132; am. 2017, ch. 121, sec. 1, p. 280; am. and redesisg. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 9, p. 685; am. 2018, ch. 169, sec. 12, p. 360.]

47-317. ~~DRILLING LOCATIONS~~WELL SPACING. (1) To prevent or assist in preventing the waste of oil and gas, to avoid drilling unnecessary wells or to protect correlative rights, the department may, on its own motion or on the application of an interested person, and after notice and opportunity for hearing, issue an order establishing ~~drillingspacing~~spacing units on a statewide basis, or for defined areas within the state, or for oil and gas wells drilled to varying depths.

(2) An order establishing ~~drilling~~a spacing unit or units shall comply with section 47-318(2), Idaho Code. specify the size, shape and location of the units, which shall be such as will, in the opinion of the department, result in the efficient and economical development of the pool as a whole. Any unit established by the department shall be geographic. The geographic boundaries of the unit shall be described in accordance with the public land survey system. Except where circumstances, geologic or otherwise, affecting the orderly development of a pool reasonably require, or as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the size of the spacing units shall not be smaller than the

maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well; provided:

(a) If, at the time of a hearing to establish spacing units, there is not sufficient evidence from which to determine the area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well, the department shall make an order establishing temporary spacing units for the orderly development of the pool, pending the obtaining of the information required to determine what the permanent spacing should be.

(b) Where the federal agency administering federal minerals that would otherwise be included in a spacing unit has not leased or has failed to offer such federal minerals for lease auction for at least six(6) months, such federal minerals may be excluded from the unit upon application or upon the department's own determination.

(3) In the absence of an order by the department establishing ~~drilling or~~ a spacing unit or units, or authorizing different well density patterns for particular pools or parts thereof, the following spacing requirements shall apply:

(a) Oil wells. Every well drilled for oil shall be located in the center of a ~~drillingspacing~~ spacing unit consisting of a forty (40) acre governmental quarter-quarter section or lot or tract, or combination of lots and tracts substantially equivalent thereto, with a tolerance of two hundred (200) feet in any direction from the center location. An oil well located on a forty (40) acre spacing unit shall have a minimum setback of three hundred thirty (330) feet from the surface location to the exterior boundary of the unit, if the wellbore deviates less than three (3) degrees from vertical; or three hundred thirty (330) feet from the closest point of the completion interval to a vertical plane intersecting with the exterior boundary of the unit, if the wellbore deviates three (3) degrees or more from vertical. In the latter case, a directional survey will be required.

~~(i) No oil well shall be drilled less than nine hundred ninety (990) feet from any other well drilling to and capable of producing oil from the same pool; and~~

~~(ii) No oil well shall be completed in a known pool unless it is located more than nine hundred ninety (990) feet from any other well completed in and capable of producing oil from the same pool.~~

(b) Vertical gas wells. Every vertical well (including a directionally drilled well) drilled for gas shall be located in a ~~drillingspacing~~ spacing unit consisting of either a one hundred sixty (160) acre governmental quarter section or lot or tract, or combination of lots and tracts substantially equivalent thereto, or a six hundred forty (640) acre governmental section or lot or tract, or combination of lots or tracts substantially equivalent thereto. A vertical gas well located on a one hundred sixty (160) acre ~~drillingspacing~~ spacing unit shall have a minimum setback of three hundred thirty (330) feet from the surface location to the exterior boundary of the unit, if the wellbore deviates less than three (3) degrees from vertical; or three hundred thirty (330) feet from the closest point of the completion interval to a vertical plane intersecting with the exterior boundaryies of the ~~quarter section~~ unit, if the wellbore deviates three (3) degrees or more from vertical. In the latter case, a directional survey will be required. A vertical gas well located on a six hundred forty (640) acre drilling unit shall have a minimum setback of six hundred sixty (660) feet from the exterior

~~boundaries of the governmental section. the surface location to the exterior boundary of the unit, if the wellbore deviates less than three (3) degrees from vertical; or six hundred sixty (660) feet from closes point of the completion interval to a vertical plan intersecting with the exterior boundaries of the unit, if the wellbore deviates three (3) degrees or more from vertical. In the latter case, a directional survey will be required.~~

(i) ~~No gas well shall be drilled with the closest point of its completion interval less than nine hundred ninety (990) feet from the closest point of the completion interval of any other well drilling to and capable of producing gas from the same pool; and~~

(ii) ~~No gas well shall be completed in a known pool unless the closest point of its completion interval is located more than nine hundred ninety (990) feet from the closest point of the completion interval of any other well completed in and capable of producing gas from the same pool.~~

(c) ~~Horizontal wells. Every horizontal well drilled shall be located in a drilling spacing unit consisting of a six hundred forty (640) acre governmental section or lot or tract, or combination of lots or tracts substantially equivalent thereto. No portion of the completed interval of a horizontal lateral shall be closer than six hundred sixty (660) feet to a vertical plane intersecting with a section unit boundary or uncommitted tract within a unit. Except for wells in federal exploratory units or in secondary units, the completed interval shall be no closer than one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320) feet to any horizontal well or vertical well completed in the same formation.~~

~~(d) Notice. After drilling, testing and completing a well that meets the location requirements in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of this subsection, but prior to producing that well, an operator shall provide notice and opportunity for hearing for the proposed drilling unit. In addition to any other notice required by statute or rule, the operator shall provide notice of the proposed drilling unit by certified mail to all uncommitted owners within the proposed drilling unit. The department may authorize drilling units upon application, notice and an opportunity for hearing as provided in section ~~47-328~~, Idaho Code. However, prior to establishing a drilling unit for a well that meets the location requirements in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this subsection, the department may grant a permit to drill that provides only the notice required in section ~~47-316~~, Idaho Code.~~

(4) ~~An operator may request a change in the size, shape or location of a drilling spacing unit under this section, as provided in section ~~47-318~~(6), Idaho Code. Request may be made for drilling spacing units that are:~~

(a) ~~Larger or smaller than forty (40) acres for oil;~~

(b) ~~Larger or smaller than one hundred sixty (160) acres for gas; or~~

(c) ~~Not located within the boundaries of a governmental section, quarter section or quarter-quarter section.~~

(5) ~~An order establishing a spacing unit or units shall initially direct that no more than one (1) well shall be drilled to and produced from the common source of supply on any unit, and shall specify the required setbacks for the drilling of a well thereon, if deviating from those provided in subsection (3) of this section, in accordance with a reasonably uniform spacing pattern, with necessary exceptions for wells drilled or drilling at the time of the filing of the application. If the department finds that a well drilled at the prescribed location would~~

not be likely to produce in paying quantities, or that surface conditions would substantially add to the burden or hazard of drilling such well, or for other good cause shown, the department is authorized to make an order permitting the well to be drilled at a location other than that prescribed by such spacing order. Application for an exception shall be filed with the department and may be granted where it is shown that good cause for such exception exists and that notice and opportunity for hearing regarding the proposed exception, under the procedures set forth in section 47-328, Idaho Code, has been given by the operators of all drilling units directly or diagonally offsetting the drilling unit for which an exception is requested, and, as to the lands upon which drilling units have not been established, the mineral interest owners of those lands which would be included in directly or diagonally offsetting drilling units under said order, if said order were extended to include such additional lands.

~~(6) Changes to drilling units may be authorized upon application, notice and an opportunity for hearing as provided in section 47-328, Idaho Code. To authorize a change, the department shall find that such change would assist in preventing the waste of oil and gas, avoid drilling of unnecessary wells, or protect correlative rights. In addition to any other notice required by statute or rule, an operator shall provide proper notice and a copy of the application to all uncommitted owners within the proposed unit and to all other parties an operator reasonably believes may be affected. In establishing drilling units under this section, the department shall review the drilling unit's size, shape and location based on the application, any supporting exhibits, and evidence introduced at a hearing.~~

(6) An order establishing a spacing unit or units may be modified by the department from time to time, after notice and hearing, to include additional lands determined to be underlaid by such pool or to exclude lands determined not to be underlaid by such pool. A pool may be divided into zones and a spacing unit for each zone may be established if necessary to prevent or assist in preventing waste of oil and gas, to avoid drilling unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights or to facilitate production through the use of innovative drilling and completion methods. The spacing units within the zone may differ in size and shape from spacing units in any other zone but may not be smaller than the maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well.

(7) An order establishing a spacing unit or units may be modified by the department to change the size, shape or location of one (1) or more spacing units, or to permit the drilling of additional wells on a reasonably uniform pattern. An operator may apply for changes to the size, shape or location of spacing units. The department will review applications to change the size, shape or location of spacing units.

(8) Upon the filing of an application to establish a spacing unit or units, no additional well shall be commenced for production from the pool until the order establishing a spacing unit or units has been made, unless the commencement of the well is authorized by order of the department, including a previous order establishing a spacing unit or units covering other areas of the pool.

[47-317, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 10, p. 687.]

47-318. [Repealed] ~~WELL SPACING. (1) The department shall promptly~~

establish spacing units for each pool except in those pools that have been developed to such an extent that it would be impracticable or unreasonable to establish spacing units at the existing stage of development.

(2) An order establishing spacing units shall specify the size, shape and location of the units, which shall be such as will, in the opinion of the department, result in the efficient and economical development of the pool as a whole. Any unit established by the department shall be geographic. The geographic boundaries of the unit shall be described in accordance with the public land survey system. Except where circumstances, geologic or otherwise, affecting the orderly development of a pool reasonably require, or as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the size of the spacing units shall not be smaller than the maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well; provided:

(a) If, at the time of a hearing to establish spacing units, there is not sufficient evidence from which to determine the area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well, the department shall make an order establishing temporary spacing units for the orderly development of the pool, pending the obtaining of the information required to determine what the permanent spacing should be.

(b) Where the federal agency administering federal minerals that would otherwise be included in a spacing unit has not leased or has failed to offer such federal minerals for lease auction for at least six

(6) months, such federal minerals may be excluded from the unit upon application or upon the department's own determination.

(3) Except where circumstances, geologic or otherwise, affecting the orderly development of a pool reasonably require, spacing units shall be of approximately uniform size and shape for the entire pool. The department may establish spacing units of different sizes or shapes for different parts of a pool or may grant exceptions to the size, shape or location of any spacing unit or units or may change the sizes or shape of one (1) or more existing spacing units.

(4) An order establishing spacing units shall direct that no more than one (1) well shall be drilled to and produced from the common source of supply on any unit, and shall specify the location for the drilling of a well thereon, in accordance with a reasonably uniform spacing pattern, with necessary exceptions for wells drilled or drilling at the time of the filing of the application. If the department finds that a well drilled at the prescribed location would not be likely to produce in paying quantities, or that surface conditions would substantially add to the burden or hazard of drilling such well, or for other good cause shown, the department is authorized to make an order permitting the well to be drilled at a location other than that prescribed by such spacing order. Application for an exception shall be filed with the department and may be granted where it is shown that good cause for such exception exists and that consent to such exception has been given by the operators of all drilling units directly or diagonally offsetting the drilling unit for which an exception is requested, and, as to the lands upon which drilling units have not been established, by the majority of mineral interest owners of those lands which would be included in directly or diagonally offsetting drilling units under said order, if said order were extended to include such additional lands.

(5) An order establishing spacing units for a pool shall cover all lands determined or believed to be underlain by such pool, and may be modified by the department from time to time to include additional lands

determined to be underlaid by such pool or to exclude lands determined not to be underlaid by such pool. A pool may be divided into zones and a spacing unit for each zone may be established if necessary to prevent or assist in preventing waste of oil and gas, to avoid drilling unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights or to facilitate production through the use of innovative drilling and completion methods. The spacing units within the zone may differ in size and shape from spacing units in any other zone but may not be smaller than the maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one (1) well.

~~(6) An order establishing spacing units may be modified by the department to change the size, shape or location of one (1) or more spacing units, or to permit the drilling of additional wells on a reasonably uniform pattern. An operator may apply for changes to the size, shape or location of spacing units. The department will review applications to change the size, shape or location of spacing units.~~

~~(7) Upon the filing of an application to establish spacing units, no additional well shall be commenced for production from the pool until the order establishing spacing units has been made, unless the commencement of the well is authorized by order of the department.~~

[(47-318) 47-321, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 7, p. 433; am. 1974, ch. 17, sec. 32, p. 308; am. 2013, ch. 189, sec. 3, p. 470; am. 2015, ch. 94, sec. 1, p. 229; am. 2016, ch. 48, sec. 4, p. 133; am. and redesig. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 11, p. 688.]

47-319. SETBACKS. (1) Except as provided in this section, oil and gas wells, tank batteries and gas processing facilities shall not be constructed within three hundred (300) feet of an existing occupied structure, domestic water well, canal, ditch or the natural or ordinary high-water mark of surface waters or within fifty (50) feet of a highway.

(2) Oil and gas wells, tank batteries and gas processing facilities may be constructed less than three hundred (300) feet but more than one hundred (100) feet from an existing occupied structure, domestic water well, canal or ditch if the operator has obtained the express written permission from the owner of the occupied structure, domestic water well, canal or ditch.

[47-319, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 12, p. 689.]

47-320. INTEGRATION OF TRACTS -- ORDERS OF DEPARTMENT. (1) When two (2) or more separately owned tracts are embraced within a spacing unit existing as a result of a previous application to and order of the department or as a result of the application of section 47-317(3), Idaho Code, or a proposed spacing unit, or when there are separately owned interests in all or a part of an existing or proposed spacing unit, the interested persons may integrate their tracts or interests for the development and operation of the spacing unit. In the absence of voluntary integration, the department, upon the application of any owner in that existing or proposed spacing unit, shall order integration of all tracts or interests in the existing spacing unit, or as part of an order establishing a spacing unit where application for integration is made concurrently with application for a spacing unit, for drilling of a well or wells, development and operation thereof and for the sharing of production therefrom. The department, as a part of the order establishing a spacing unit or units, may prescribe the terms and conditions upon which the royalty interests in the unit or units shall, in the absence of

voluntary agreement, be deemed to be integrated without the necessity of a subsequent separate order integrating the royalty interests. Each such integration order shall be upon ~~terms and conditions that are~~ just and reasonable terms as set forth in subsection (3) of this section. An integration order including the terms specified in subsection (3) of this section fulfills the Department's obligation to integrate mineral interests upon just and reasonable terms.

(2) All operations, including, but not limited to, the commencement, drilling, or operation of a well upon any portion of a spacing unit for which an integration order has been entered, shall be deemed for all purposes the conduct of such operations upon each separately owned tract in the spacing unit by the several owners thereof. That portion of the production allocated to a separately owned tract included in a spacing unit shall, when produced, be deemed, for all purposes, to have been actually produced from such tract by a well drilled thereon.

(3) Each such integration order shall ~~authorize the drilling, equip- ping and operation, or operation, of a well on the spacing unit; shall~~ designate an operator for the integrated unit; shall prescribe the time and manner in which all the owners in the spacing unit may elect to participate therein; and shall make provision for the payment by all those who elect to participate therein of the reasonable actual cost thereof, plus a reasonable charge for supervision and interest. Each such integration order shall provide for the four (4) following options:

(a) Working interest owner. An owner who elects to participate as a working interest owner shall pay the proportionate share of the actual costs of drilling and operating a well allocated to the owner's interest in the spacing unit. Working interest owners who share in the costs of drilling and operating the well are entitled to their respective shares of the production of the well. The operator of the integrated spacing unit and working interest owners shall enter into an approved joint operating agreement ~~approved by the department in the integration order.~~ The department shall approve the joint operating agreement as just and reasonable if the agreement is based on a standard industry form, such as those supplied by the American Association of Professional Landmen, and the operator demonstrates to the Department that any changes to the standard form are not prejudicial to nonconsenting working interest owners.

(b) Nonconsenting working interest owner. An owner who refuses to share in the risk and actual costs of drilling and operating the well, but desires to participate as a working interest owner, is a nonconsenting working interest owner. The operator of the integrated spacing unit shall be entitled to recover a risk penalty of up to three hundred percent (300%) of the nonconsenting working interest owner's share of the cost of drilling and operating the well under the terms set forth in the integration order. After all the costs have been recovered by the consenting owners in the spacing unit, the nonconsenting owner is entitled to his respective shares of the production of the well, and shall be liable for his pro rata share of costs as if the nonconsenting owner had originally agreed to pay the costs of drilling and operating the well. The operator of the integrated spacing unit and nonconsenting working interest owners shall enter into an approved joint operating agreement ~~approved by the department in the integration order.~~ The department shall approve the joint operating agreement as just and reasonable if the agreement is based on a standard industry form, such as those supplied by the American Association of Professional Landmen, and

the operator demonstrates to the Department that any changes to the standard form are not prejudicial to nonconsenting working interest owners.

(c) Leased. An owner may enter into a lease with the operator of the integrated spacing unit under the terms and conditions in the integration order. The owner shall receive no less than one-eighth (1/8) royalty. The operator of an integrated spacing unit shall pay a leasing owner the highest bonus payment per acre that the operator paid to another owner in the spacing unit for the lease of the committed owner's mineral interest prior to the filing of the integration application. The form of lease shall otherwise comply with the just and reasonable terms set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section.

(d) Deemed leased. If an owner fails to make an election within the election period set forth in the integration order, such owner's interest will be deemed leased under following the terms and conditions: in the integration order. The owner shall receive one-eighth (1/8) royalty. The operator of an integrated spacing unit shall pay a leasing owner the highest bonus payment per acre that the operator paid to another owner in the spacing unit prior to the filing of the integration application.

- i. The owner shall receive one-eighth (1/8) royalty of any gas, oil, or natural gas liquids produced, proportionate to their interest in the integrated unit.
- ii. Royalty payments shall comply with the terms of section 47-331, Idaho Code.
- iii. The operator of an integrated spacing unit shall pay a leasing owner the highest bonus payment per acre that the operator paid to another owner in the spacing unit prior to the filing of the integration application.
- iv. The operator will avoid, to the extent reasonably possible, any use of surface lands belonging to owners integrated under this subsection. Where such use cannot be reasonably avoided, use of surface lands, and compensation for such use, shall be governed by sections 47-334, Idaho Code.
- v. The operator shall comply with the requirements of sections 47-319, 47-332, 47-333, and 47-334 Idaho Code.
- vi. The date of lease and primary term or offer with acreage in lease;
- vii. Annual shut-in rental per acre.

(4) An application for an order integrating the tracts or interests in a spacing unit shall substantially contain and be limited to only the following:

- (a) The applicant's name and address;
- (b) A description of the spacing unit to be integrated;
- (c) A geologic statement concerning the likely presence of hydrocarbons;
- (d) A statement that the proposed drill site is leased;
- (e) A statement of the proposed operations for the spacing unit, including the name and address of the proposed operator;
- (f) A proposed joint operating agreement and a proposed lease form;
- (g) A list of all uncommitted owners in the spacing unit to be integrated under the application, including names and addresses;

(h) An affidavit indicating that at least ~~sixty-seven~~fifty-five percent (~~67~~55%) of the mineral interest acres in the spacing unit support the integration application by leasing or participating as a working interest owner;

(i) An affidavit stating the highest bonus payment paid to a leased owner in the spacing unit being integrated prior to filing the integration application; and

(j) A resume of efforts documenting the applicant's good faith efforts on at least two (2) separate occasions within a period of time no less than ~~sixty-nine~~ (~~60~~90) days to inform uncommitted owners of the applicant's intention to develop the mineral resources in the proposed spacing unit and desire to reach an agreement with uncommitted owners in the proposed spacing unit. Provided however, if any owner requests no further contact from the applicant, the applicant will be relieved of further obligation to attempt contact to reach agreement with that owner. At least one (1) contact must be by certified U.S. mail sent to an owner's last known address. If an owner is unknown or cannot be found, the applicant must publish a legal notice of its intention to develop and request that the owner contact the applicant in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed spacing unit is located. The resume of efforts should indicate the applicant has made reasonable efforts to reach an agreement with all uncommitted owners in the proposed spacing unit. Reasonable efforts are met by complying with this subsection.

(5) At the time the integration application is filed with the department, the applicant shall certify that, for uncommitted owners who are unknown or cannot be found, a notice of the application was published in a newspaper in the county where the proposed spacing unit is located. Each published notice shall include notice to the affected uncommitted owner of the opportunity to respond to the application, and the deadline by which a response must be filed with the department.

~~(6) operator who has not been able to obtain consent from sixty-seven percent (67%) of the mineral interest acres in the spacing unit may nevertheless apply for an integration order under this section if all of the conditions set forth in this subsection have been met. The department shall issue an integration order, which shall affect only the unit area described in the application, if it finds that the operator has met all of the following conditions:~~

~~(a) The operator has obtained consent from at least fifty-five percent (505%) of mineral interest acres;~~

~~(b) The operator has negotiated diligently and in good faith for a period of at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to his application for an integration order; and~~

~~(c) uncommitted owners in the affected unit shall receive from the operator mineral lease terms and conditions that are no less favorable to the lessee than those set forth in section 47-331(2), Idaho Code.~~

(7) An application for integration shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 47-328, Idaho Code.

(8) Nothing herein shall prevent the applicant and an uncommitted mineral interest owner from entering into a voluntary lease agreement after an application for an integration is filed, or after an integration order is entered.

47-321. UNIT OPERATIONS. (1) An agreement for the unit or cooperative development or operation of a field, pool, or part thereof, may be submitted to the department for approval as being in the public interest or reasonably necessary to prevent waste or protect correlative rights. Such approval shall constitute a complete defense to any suit charging violation of any statute of the state relating to trusts and monopolies on account thereof or on account of operations conducted pursuant thereto. The failure to submit such an agreement to the department for approval shall not for that reason imply or constitute evidence that the agreement or operations conducted pursuant thereto are in violation of laws relating to trusts and monopolies.

(2) The department, upon its own determination or upon application of an owner, shall conduct a hearing to consider the need for unit operation of an entire pool or portion thereof, to increase ultimate recovery of oil and gas from that pool or portion thereof. The department shall issue an order requiring unit operation if it finds that:

(a) Unit operation of the pool or portion thereof is reasonably necessary to prevent waste or to protect correlative rights;

(b) Unit operation of the pool or portion thereof is reasonably necessary for maintaining or restoring reservoir pressure, or to implement cycling, water flooding, enhanced recovery, horizontal drilling, de-watering or a combination of these operations or other operations or objectives to be cooperatively pursued with the goal of increasing the ultimate recovery of oil and gas; and

(c) The estimated cost to conduct the unit operation will not exceed the value of the estimated recovery of additional oil and gas resulting from unit operation.

(3) An application for requesting an order providing for the operation as a unit of one (1) or more pools or parts thereof in a field shall contain:

(a) A plat map showing the proposed unit, the existing spacing units, and well(s) within the units;

(b) The names and addresses of all persons owning mineral interests and working interests in the proposed unit;

(c) An affidavit that the applicant, by certified mail, notified all persons owning unleased mineral interests and working interests in the proposed unit at least sixty (60) days prior to filing the application with the department of the applicant's intention to make the application;

(d) A proposed plan of unit operations for the proposed unit that contains the information in subsection (5) of this section; and

(e) A proposed operating agreement that is consistent with the proposed plan of unit operations.

(4) An application for unit operations shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section [47-328](#), Idaho Code.

(5) An order for a unit operation must be upon just and reasonable terms and conditions and shall prescribe a plan for unit operations that include all of the following:

(a) A description of the vertical and horizontal limits of the unit area;

(b) A statement of the nature of the operation contemplated;

(c) A provision for the supervision and conduct of the unit operation that designates an operator of the unit and provides a means to remove the operator and designate a successor operator;

(d) A provision to protect correlative rights, allocating to each separately owned tract in the unit area a just and equitable share of the production that is produced and saved from the unit area, other than production used or unavoidably lost in the conduct of the

unit operation;

(e) A provision for credits and charges to adjust among working interest owners in the unit area for their interest in wells, tanks, pumps, machinery, materials and equipment that contribute to the unit operation;

(f) A provision establishing how the costs of unit operation, including capital investments and costs of terminating the unit operation, shall be determined and charged to each working interest owner or the interest of each owner, including a provision establishing how, when and by whom the share of unit production allocated to an owner who does not pay the share of those costs charged to that owner or to the interest of that owner may be sold and the proceeds applied to the payment of that owner's share of those costs, and how accounts will be settled upon termination of the unit;

(g) A provision, if necessary, for carrying or otherwise financing an owner who elects to be carried or otherwise financed, which allows owners who carry or otherwise finance to recover up to three hundred percent (300%) of the unit costs attributed to an owner who elects to be carried or otherwise financed payable out of that owner's share of the production;

(h) A time when the unit operation is to commence and the manner in which, and the circumstances under which, the unit operation is to terminate and the unit is to be dissolved; and

(i) Additional provisions found to be appropriate to carry on the unit operation, to prevent waste and to protect correlative rights.

(6) An order for a unit operation may provide for a unit operation of less than the whole of a pool as long as the unit area is of size and shape reasonably required for that purpose and the conduct thereof will have no significant adverse effect upon other portions of the pool.

(7) The department, upon its own determination or upon the application of an owner, may for good cause terminate a unit operation and dissolve the unit on just and equitable terms. If not terminated earlier, the unit operation shall terminate upon final cessation of production from the pool or unitized portion thereof, the plugging and abandonment of unit wells and facilities, and reclamation of the surface.

(8) An order requiring a unit operation shall not become effective until the plan for unit operations approved by the department has been signed and approved in writing by the owners who, under the department's order, will be required to pay at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the costs of the unit operation, and also signed and approved in writing by the working interest owners of at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the production of the unit operations, and the department has made a finding in the order that the plan for unit operations has been so approved. Signing lessees of owners or signing lessees of integrated owners under an existing integration order or orders covering part of all of the proposed unit area shall be counted toward the required percentage.

(9) An order providing for unit operation may be amended by an order of the department in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as an original order providing for the unit operation.

(10) The department may issue an order for the unit operation of a pool or pools or parts thereof that includes a unit created by a prior order of the department or by voluntary agreement. This subsequent order, in providing for the allocation of the unit's production, must treat first the unit area previously created as a single tract and then allocate, in the same proportions as those specified in the prior order, the portion of the new unit's production allocated to the previous unit among the separately owned tracts included in the previously created

unit area.

(11) The department may approve additions to the unit or portions of a pool not previously included within the unit and may extend the unit area as reasonably necessary to prevent waste or to protect correlative rights. The department may approve exclusions from the unit area as reasonably necessary to prevent waste or to protect correlative rights. An order adding to or excluding from a unit area must be upon just and reasonable terms, which shall be determined by application of the factors set forth in subsection (3) of section 47-320, Idaho Code.

(a) An order that amends a plan of unit operations and adds an area to a previously established unit shall not become effective until the amended plan of unit operations has been signed and approved in writing by the owners who will be required to pay at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the costs of the unit operation in the area to be added, and also signed and approved in writing by the working interest owners of at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the production of the unit operations, and the department has made a finding in the order that the plan for unit operations has been so approved. Signing lessees of owners or signing lessees of integrated owners under an existing integration order or orders covering part of all of the proposed unit area shall be counted toward the required percentage.

(b) An order providing for an exclusion from a unit area may not become effective until an amended plan of unit operations excluding an area from the unit has been approved in writing by the owners in the original unit area that are required to pay at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the costs of unit operations, and also approved in writing by the working interest owners in the original unit area required to pay at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the production of the unit operations, and the department has made a finding in the order that the plan for unit operations has been so approved. Signing lessees of owners or signing lessees of integrated owners under an existing integration order or orders covering part of all of the proposed unit area shall be counted toward the required percentage.

(12) Operations, including the commencement, drilling or operation of a well upon a portion of a unit area, are deemed conducted on each separately owned tract in the unit area by the owner or owners thereof. That portion of a unit's production allocated to a separately owned tract in a unit area, when produced, is deemed produced from a well drilled on that tract. Operations conducted under an order of the department providing for a unit operation shall constitute fulfillment of expressed or implied obligations of a lease or contract covering lands within the unit area to the extent that compliance with those obligations is not possible without a further order of the department.

(13) That portion of unit production allocated to a tract and the proceeds of sale for that portion are deemed the property and income of the several persons to whom or to whose credit that portion is allocated or payable under the order providing for unit operation.

(14) A division order or other contract relating to a sale or purchase of production from a separately owned tract or combination of tracts remains in force and applies to oil and gas allocated to the tract until terminated in accordance with provisions of the order providing for unit operation, or in accordance with the terms of such division order or other contract.

(15) Except to the extent that all affected parties agree, an order providing for unit operation does not result in a transfer of all or part of a person's title to the oil and gas rights in a tract in the unit area.

(16) Except to the extent that all affected parties agree, all property, whether real or personal, that may be acquired in the conduct of a unit operation hereunder is deemed acquired for the account of the owners within the unit area and is deemed the property of the owners in the proportion that the expenses of the unit operation are charged.

(17) The formation of a unit and the operation of the unit under an order of the department shall not be in violation of any statute of this state relating to trusts, monopolies, contracts or combinations in the restraint of trade.

[(47-321) 47-323, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 9, p. 433; am. 2015, ch. 66, sec. 1, p. 176; am. 2016, ch. 48, sec. 6, p. 137; am. and redesi. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 14, p. 693.]

47-322. OIL AND GAS METERING SYSTEMS. (1) Each meter shall be properly constructed, maintained, repaired and operated to continually and accurately register the quantity of oil and gas produced from the well.

(2) The meter shall be installed, used and operated according to industry standards and guidelines promulgated by the American petroleum institute, American gas association, and the gas processors association that are in effect at the time of installation of the meter. If standards conflict, the most current American petroleum institute standard shall apply.

(3) All custody transfer meters and all allocation meters used in the allocation of custody transfer volumes shall be calibrated by a third party at least quarterly in each calendar year. The records of calibrations shall be maintained by the operator of the meter for at least five (5) years and copies shall be submitted to the department.

[47-322, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 15, p. 696.]

47-323. COMMINGLING OF PRODUCTION. A producer shall not, prior to metering, commingle production from two (2) or more oil and gas wells without prior approval from the department ~~after notice and opportunity for hearing.~~

[47-323, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 16, p. 696.]

47-324. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (1) All reporting parties shall file the applicable reports described in this section to the department within the time frames provided. Each report shall be completed on forms prescribed by the department.

(a) Monthly production report. Operators shall file monthly production reports to properly account for all oil, gas and water production and disposition from each well, including the amounts of oil and gas sold from each well. Production reports shall be filed on the required form before the fifteenth day of the second calendar month following the month of production.

(b) Gathering facility report. Operators of a gathering facility shall file monthly reports concerning the operation of the plant on the required form before the fifteenth day of the second calendar month following the month of operation.

(c) Gas processing plant report. The operator of each plant manufacturing or extracting liquid hydrocarbons, including gasoline, butane, propane, condensate, kerosene or other derivatives from natural gas, or refinery or storage vapors, shall file a report concerning the operation of the plant on the required form before the fifteenth day of the second calendar month following the month of operation.

(d) Monthly transportation and storage report. Each gatherer, transporter, storer or handler of crude oil or hydrocarbon products, or both, shall file monthly reports showing the required information concerning the transportation operations of the gatherer, transporter, storer or handler before the fifteenth day of the second calendar month following the month of operation. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the operator of any refinery, processing plant, blending plant or treating plant if the operator of the well has filed the required form.

(e) Monthly purchaser report. Any person who purchases or is entitled to purchase any product that is subject to the state of Idaho severance tax from the producer or operator of a lease located in this state shall file monthly reports to account for the purchase of all hydrocarbons, including volume and price paid. Purchaser reports shall be filed on the required form before the fifteenth day of the second calendar month following the month in which the hydrocarbons were purchased.

(2) All well test reports. An operator shall file all well test reports within thirty (30) days of completing or recompleting the well. The reports shall include all oil, gas and water produced during all tests.

(3) Well production potential test reports. Unless otherwise provided for in this section, each operator of producing gas or oil wells shall test each producing well for a twenty-four (24) hour period every six (6) months and shall record all oil, gas and water volumes, including choke size, pressures and any interim bottom hole pressure surveys every six (6) months, resulting from the test on the form.

(4) Logs. An operator shall file all logs, including but not limited to those listed in this subsection, not later than thirty (30) days after the date the log was run, if run:

(a) An open hole electrical, radioactivity or other similar log, or combination of open hole logs of the operator's choice;

(b) A gamma ray log from total depth to ground level elevations. The operator may require a shorter-logged interval if it determines that the log is unnecessary or impractical or if hole conditions risk jeopardizing the open hole; and

(c) A cement bond log across the casing, verifying the formation seal integrity and isolation.

(5) Additional reports. An operator shall file a drilling, completion, workover or plugging report within thirty (30) days of completing or plugging the well.

(6) The department shall report quarterly to the commission on the produced volumes of oil and gas, sales volumes of oil and gas, and the meeting of industry standards.

(7) Should an operator fail to comply with this section, the commission may assess a penalty in accordance with section [47-329\(3\)](#), Idaho Code, or may order the well or oil and gas facilities to be shut-in, after notice, opportunity to cure, and opportunity for a hearing.

[47-324, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 17, p. 696.]

47-325. FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS -- LIMITATION OF ACTIONS. (1) Any person who, for the purpose of evading this act or any rule, regulation or order of the commission shall make or cause to be made any false entry in any report, record, account, or memorandum required by this act, or by any such rule, regulation or order, or shall omit, or cause to be omitted, from any such report, record, account, or memorandum, full, true and correct entries as required by this act, or by any such rule, regulation

or order, or shall remove from this state or destroy, mutilate, alter or falsify any such record, account, or memorandum, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve (12) months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) No suit, action or other proceeding based upon a violation of this act or any rule, regulation or order of the commission hereunder shall be commenced or maintained unless same shall have been commenced within one (1) year from date of the alleged violation. Provided however, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to actions governed by the provisions of [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code.

[(47-325) 47-326, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 12, p. 433; am. 2012, ch. 73, sec. 4, p. 214; am. and redesig. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 18, p. 697.]

47-326. PUBLIC DATA. (1) Subject only to any applicable provisions of section [47-327](#), Idaho Code, the following data is public information that shall not be considered trade secret information under [chapter 8, title 48](#), Idaho Code, nor be exempt from public records disclosure under [chapter 1, title 74](#), Idaho Code. Except as provided in section [47-327](#), Idaho Code, the department shall, upon receipt of the information, make publicly available all data under this section on its website without requiring any person to submit a public records request:

- (a) All reports required under section [47-324](#)(1) through (5), Idaho Code;
- (b) All well plats; and
- (c) All state-required permits, except seismic data.

(2) The department shall provide complete internet access to all documents in subsection (1) of this section, not granted confidential status, on its website by no later than December 31, 2017.

(3) A claim to exempt data from disclosure shall be supported and accompanied by a specific citation to the law authorizing an exemption from disclosure and an explanation of how the data meets the standards for being withheld from disclosure. When a portion of a record or a portion of a page in that record is subject to disclosure and the other portion is subject to a claim that it is exempt from disclosure under this chapter or [chapter 1, title 74](#), Idaho Code, the person making the claim must clearly identify the portion claimed as exempt and the portion not claimed as exempt from disclosure at the time of submittal.

[47-326, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 19, p. 698.]

47-327. CONFIDENTIALITY OF WELL AND TRADE INFORMATION. (1) Information that shall be held confidential from the public includes logs of a well granted confidential well status pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, electrical or radioactivity logs, electromagnetic or magnetic surveys, core descriptions and analyses, maps, and other geological, geophysical and engineering information. Seismic data shall remain confidential from all parties at the discretion of the operator due to the nature of purchasing and licensing such data.

(2) An operator may request confidential well status at the time of filing an application for a permit to drill. The information in the application form itself will not be confidential.

- (a) Confidential status shall be granted and shall include all pertinent data and information relating to drilling, ~~completion~~completing and testing the well. Such information shall be kept confidential from the public for a period of one hundred

eighty (180) days after completion of the well.

(b) Well test results shall be kept confidential from the public for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days after completion of the test.

(c) ~~No extensions shall be allowed beyond the one hundred eighty (180) day confidentiality period.~~ An operator may request, and the department may grant, an additional one hundred eighty (180) days of confidentiality for well tests.

(3) An operator may request that well logs for a well with confidential well status be held confidential.

(a) To obtain confidential treatment of a well log, the operator of the well shall place the log in an envelope, noting log readings and marked "confidential."

(b) An operator may request, and the department may grant, an additional ~~six (6) months~~ one hundred eighty (180) days of confidentiality for well logs.

(c) Confidential status for a well log shall terminate ~~six (6) months~~ one hundred eighty (180) days after the run date on the log or, in the case of an extension, ~~twelve (12) months~~ three hundred sixty (360) days after the run date on the log. Confidential status for a well log shall not continue for a period in excess of ~~twelve (12) months~~ three hundred sixty (360) days from the date the log was run on the well.

(4) The state tax commission, the oil and gas conservation commission, the Idaho geologic survey and other state agencies shall share oil and gas records when necessary for those agencies to carry out their duties assigned by law, regardless of whether the records are held confidential from the public under this section. This sharing of records shall not render the shared records subject to disclosure to the public under the public records act.

(5) All state agencies, state employees, contract personnel, temporary personnel and their agents or affiliates shall be governed by the confidentiality provisions of this section and shall be subject to sections [74-117](#) and [74-118](#), Idaho Code, should any information or records protected under statute be disclosed.

[47-327, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 20, p. 698.]

47-328. RULES FOR COMMISSION -- ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. (1) The commission shall have authority to hear rulemaking proceedings, complaints filed with it pursuant to this chapter and appeals from the oil and gas administrator's decision on an application filed pursuant to this chapter, and any other matter the commission decides should be heard by the commission. The commission may act on its own motion. The commission may prescribe rules governing the procedure before it, subject to the provisions of the administrative procedure act, [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code. Provided however, that no rulemaking except for that done under section [67-5226](#), Idaho Code, may be conducted for twelve (12) months beginning on July 1, 2017.

(2) In all cases where a complaint is made by the commission or any person that any provision of this act or any rule or order of the commission is being violated, the commission shall serve notice of any hearing to be held on such application or complaint to the interested persons by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in the same manner as is provided in the rules of civil procedure for the service of summons in civil actions. Where the interested person is unknown or cannot be located, the commission shall serve notice by publishing at least one (1) notice of the hearing to such person in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the affected tract is located.

Such notice must be sent, delivered or published, as appropriate, at least five (5) business days before the date of the hearing.

(3) Except as provided in section 47-316(1)(a), Idaho Code, and subsection (2) of this section, any request for an order related to oil and gas activities within the commission's jurisdiction, other than a civil penalty proceeding pursuant to section 47-329, Idaho Code, or other enforcement action by the department of lands or the commission, shall be made by application to the department of lands and processed as provided in this section.

(a) The department shall notify the applicant within five (5) business days of receipt of an application if additional information is required for the department to evaluate the application.

(b) For applications involving an order regarding establishment or amendment of a spacing unit or units, unit operations or integration of a ~~drilling~~ spacing unit, the applicant shall send a copy of the application and supporting documents to all known and located uncommitted mineral interest owners, ~~to~~ and all working interest owners within the proposed spacing unit, and in the case of an application to amend an existing spacing unit, to all working interest owners and all uncommitted mineral interest owners within the existing spacing unit and within the proposed amended unit area, and to the respective city or county where the proposed unit is located. The mailing shall be sent by certified mail within seven (7) calendar days of filing the application and include notice of the hearing date on which the oil and gas administrator will consider the application. For any uncommitted owners and working interest owners who cannot be located, an applicant shall publish notice of any application for an order, notice of hearing and response deadline once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the affected property is located and request the department publish notice on its website within seven (7) calendar days of filing of the application. Only an uncommitted owner in the affected unit may file an objection or other response to the application, and the uncommitted owner shall file at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the hearing date provided in the notice.

(c) For applications not involving paragraph (b) of this subsection, the department and any uncommitted owner within the area defined in the application may file objections or other responses to the application and shall file at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the hearing date provided in the notice.

(d) The oil and gas administrator shall hear the application and make a decision on the application's merits. The oil and gas administrator shall set regular hearing dates. Applications shall be filed at least ~~forty-fivethirty~~ (4530) calendar days before a desired hearing date. Untimely applications shall be continued until the next hearing. The oil and gas administrator may for good cause supported by factual findings continue any hearing, but in no event to a date more than 60 days after an application was filed. Unless the size or configuration of a proposed spacing unit is challenged, by an objection supported specific factual allegations regarding the the proposed unit area, by the department or an owner permitted by this section to file an objection to the application, an application to concurrently establish a spacing unit and integrate the unit shall be heard in its entirety in a single hearing. If a properly supported objection is made regarding the proposed spacing, the spacing portion of the application shall be heard according to the schedule set forth above in this subsection, and the integration portion of the application shall be heard within thirty (30) days after issuance of the order establishing spacing, unless the order

establishes a spacing unit different from the spacing applied for, such that the integration application must be amended to cover the spacing unit ordered. The issue of the right to integrate a spacing unit and the issue of the just and reasonable terms and conditions of integration shall be considered in a single hearing. The oil and gas administrator may appoint a hearing officer, who shall have the power and authority to conduct hearings. Discovery is not permitted. The department may appear and testify at the hearing. When applications are uncontested, the applicant may request, and the oil and gas administrator may allow, approval without a hearing based on review of the merits of a verified application and the supporting exhibits.

(e) The oil and gas administrator shall issue a written decision on any such application within thirty (30) calendar days of the hearing. The oil and gas administrator's decision shall not be subject to any motion for reconsideration or further review, except for appeal to the commission provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) The oil and gas administrator's decision on an application or a request for an order may be appealed to the commission by the applicant or any owner who filed an objection or other response to the application within the time required. An appeal must be filed with the oil and gas administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of issuance of the oil and gas administrator's written decision. The date of issuance shall be three (3) calendar days after the oil and gas administrator deposits the decision in the U.S. mail, or the date on which he remits a decision electronically. Such appeal shall include the reasons and authority for the appeal and shall identify any facts in the record supporting the appeal. Any person appealing shall serve a copy of the appeal materials on any other person who participated in the proceedings, by certified mail, or by personal service. Any person who participated in the proceeding may file a response to the appeal within five (5) business days of service of a copy of the appeal materials. The appellant shall provide the oil and gas administrator with proof of service of the appeal materials on other persons as required in this section. The commission shall make a decision based on the record as set forth in the written submittals of only the appellant and any other participating qualified person, the oil and gas administrator's decision, and any oral argument taken by the commission at an appeal hearing.

(5) Appeals to the commission shall be heard at the next regularly scheduled commission hearing, or at a special meeting of the commission if determined by the commission. In no case will a hearing be later than thirty (30) calendar days after the filing of an appeal. The commission may take argument from, but not new testimony of, the appellant and other qualified participating persons at the hearing. The commission shall make a decision on the appeal at the hearing and issue a written order within five (5) business days of the hearing. The prevailing party shall draft a proposed written order and submit it within two (2) business days. The final order of the commission shall not be subject to any motion for reconsideration.

(6) If no appeal is filed with the commission within the required time, the decision of the oil and gas administrator shall become the final order.

(7) Judicial review of actions taken by the commission shall be governed by the provisions of [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code.

(8) For an application or request for an order submitted under subsection (3) of this section, only a person qualified under subsection (4) of this section who has completed the appeal procedures set forth in this section shall be considered to have exhausted administrative

remedies as required in section [67-5271](#), Idaho Code.

(9) Each order shall include a reasoned statement in support of the decision, including a concise statement of facts supporting any findings, a statement of available procedures and time limits for appeals. Findings must be based exclusively on materials in the record. The applicant and any participating qualified person shall be served with a copy of the order. The order shall include or be accompanied by a certificate of service.

(10) Every application shall be signed by the applicant or his representative, and his address shall be stated thereon. The signature of the applicant or his representative constitutes a certificate by him that he has read the application and that to the best of his knowledge, information and belief there is good ground to support the same. Each application shall be of such form and content and accompanied by the number of copies required by rule of the commission. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee as established in statute or rule.

[(47-328) 47-324, added 1963, ch. 148, sec. 10, p. 433; am. 1974, ch. 17, sec. 33, p. 308; am. 1981, ch. 247, sec. 1, p. 495; am. 1993, ch. 216, sec. 42, p. 625; am. 2016, ch. 48, sec. 7, p. 141; am. 2017, ch. 121, sec. 3, p. 284; am. and redesig. 2017, ch. 271, sec. 21, p. 699; am. 2018, ch. 169, sec. 13, p. 361.]

47-329. POWERS OF COMMISSION -- WITNESSES -- PENALTY. (1) The commission shall have the power to summon witnesses, to administer oaths, and to require the production of records, books, and documents for examination at any hearing or investigation conducted by the commission.

(2) In case of failure or refusal on the part of any person to comply with a subpoena issued by the commission, or in case of refusal of any witness to testify as to any matter regarding which he may be interrogated, any district court in the state, upon the application of the commission, may issue an attachment for such person and compel him to comply with such subpoena, and to attend before the commission and produce such records, books, and documents for examination, and to give his testimony. Such court shall have the power to punish for contempt as in the case of disobedience to a like subpoena issued by the court, or for refusal to testify therein.

(3) Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules or orders made or promulgated hereunder may be assessed a civil penalty by the commission or its duly authorized agent of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each violation and shall be liable for reasonable attorney's fees. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate and additional violation, punishable by separate and additional civil penalties in like amount or other like civil penalties as determined by the commission; provided that the civil penalties do not begin to accrue until the date notice of violation and opportunity to be heard are given.

(a) Assessment of a civil penalty may be made in conjunction with any other commission administrative action.

(b) No civil penalty may be assessed unless the person charged was given notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code, which civil penalty begins to accrue no earlier than the date notice of violation and opportunity for a hearing are given.

(c) If the commission is unable to collect such penalty or if any

person fails to pay all or a set portion of the civil penalty as determined by the commission, it may recover such amount by action in the appropriate district court.

(d) Any person against whom the commission has assessed a civil penalty under the provisions of this section may, within twenty-eight (28) days of the final action by the agency making the assessment, appeal the assessment to the district court of the county in which the violation is alleged by the commission to have occurred pursuant to [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code.

(e) All civil penalties collected pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the oil and gas conservation fund.

(4) Whenever it shall appear that any person is violating or threatening to violate any provision of this act or any rule, regulation, or order made hereunder, the commission may bring a civil action in the name of the state against such person in the district court in the county of the residence of the defendant, or in the county of the residence of any defendant, if there be more than one (1) defendant, or in the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred, to restrain such person from continuing such violation or from carrying out the threat of violation. In such suit, the court may grant injunctions, prohibitory and mandatory, including temporary restraining orders and temporary injunctions. In such suit, the commission may seek damages to recover costs caused by such violation including, but not limited to, costs of well control, spill response and cleanup, restoration of fresh waters, well plugging and abandonment, and reclamation of surface disturbance.

(5) Nothing in this act, and no suit by or against the commission, and no violation charged or asserted against any person under any provisions of this act, or any rule, regulation or order issued hereunder, shall impair or abridge or delay any cause of action for damages which any person may have or assert against any person violating any provision of this act, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder. Any person so damaged by the violation may sue for and recover such damages as he otherwise may be entitled to receive. In the event the commission shall fail to bring suit to enjoin any actual or threatened violation of this act, or of any rule, regulation or order made hereunder, then any person or party in interest adversely affected and who has, ten (10) days or more prior thereto, notified the commission in writing of such violation or threat thereof and has requested the commission to sue, may, to prevent any or further violation, bring suit for that purpose in the district court of any county in which the commission could have brought suit.

(6) Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this chapter, or any of the rules promulgated hereunder for carrying out the provisions of this chapter, or who knowingly fails or refuses to comply with any requirements herein specified, or who knowingly interferes with the commission, its agents, designees or employees in the execution or on account of the execution of its or their duties under this chapter or rules promulgated hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or be imprisoned in a county jail for not more than twelve (12) months, or be subject to both such fine and imprisonment.

(7) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the commission to report minor violations for prosecution when it believes that the public interest will be best served by suitable warnings or other administrative action.

2017, ch. 271, sec. 22, p. 701.]

47-330. OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION FUND CREATED -- TAX. (1) For the purposes of paying the expenses of administration of this act and for the privilege of extracting oil and gas in this state, there is hereby levied and imposed on all oil and gas produced, saved and sold or transported from the premises in Idaho where produced a tax of two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the gross income received by the producer of the oil and gas produced. "Gross income" shall mean the amount realized by the producer for sale of the oil and gas, whether the sale occurs at the wellhead or after transportation of the product, without deduction for marketing, transportation, manufacturing, and processing costs borne by the producer. Where the parties to the sale are related parties and the sales price is lower than the price for which that oil and gas could otherwise have been sold to a ready, willing, and able buyer and where the taxpayer was legally able to sell the oil and gas to such a buyer, gross income shall be determined by reference to comparable arms-length sales of like kind, quality, and quantity in the same field or area. For purposes of this subsection, "related parties" shall be as defined in section 267 of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined, in section [63-3004](#), Idaho Code. This tax is in addition to all other taxes provided by law. It shall be the duty of the state tax commission to enforce collection of this tax and to make such rules as may be necessary, pursuant to the provisions of [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code. All money so collected shall be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the oil and gas conservation fund, which fund is hereby created in the office of the state treasurer of the state of Idaho.

(2) The persons owning an interest, working interest, royalty interest, payments out of production, or any other interest in the oil and gas, or in the proceeds thereof, shall be liable for such tax in proportion to their ownership at the time of production. The tax so assessed and fixed shall be payable monthly, and the sum so due shall be remitted to the state tax commission, on or before the twentieth of the month following the month in which the tax accrued, by the producer on behalf of himself and all other interested persons. The person remitting the tax, as herein provided, is hereby empowered and required to deduct from any amounts due the persons owning an interest in the oil and gas, or in the proceeds thereof, at the time of production a proportionate amount of such tax before making payment to such persons.

(3) The tax imposed by this section shall apply to all lands in the state of Idaho, anything in this act to the contrary notwithstanding; provided however, there shall be exempted from the tax hereinabove levied and assessed the following, to wit:

(a) The interest of the United States of America and the interest of the state of Idaho and the political subdivisions thereof in any oil and gas or in the proceeds thereof.

(b) The interest of any Indian or Indian tribe in any oil and gas or the proceeds thereof, produced from lands subject to the supervision of the United States.

(c) Oil and gas used in producing operations or for repressuring or recycling purposes.

(4) To the extent that such sections are not in conflict with the provisions of this act, the deficiency in tax and notice of deficiency as well as the collection and enforcement procedures provided by the Idaho income tax act, sections [63-3038](#), [63-3039](#), [63-3040](#), [63-3042](#) through [63-3065A](#), [63-3068](#), [63-3071](#) and [63-3075](#) through [63-3078](#), Idaho Code, shall apply and be available to the state tax commission for enforcement of

the provisions of this act and the assessment and collection of any amounts due. Said sections shall for this purpose be considered a part of this act and wherever liens or any other proceedings are defined as income tax liens or proceedings they shall, when applied in enforcement or collection pursuant to this act, be described as an oil and gas tax lien or proceeding.

The state tax commission may be made a party defendant in an action at law or in equity by any person aggrieved by the unlawful seizure or sale of his property, or in any suit for refund or to recover an overpayment, but only the state of Idaho shall be responsible for any final judgment secured against the state tax commission, and said judgment or any other amount erroneously or illegally collected shall be paid or satisfied out of the state refund account created by section [63-3067](#), Idaho Code.

(5) All moneys collected under this chapter shall be distributed by the state tax commission as follows:

(a) An amount of money shall be distributed to the state refund account sufficient to pay current refund claims. All refunds authorized under this chapter by the state tax commission shall be paid through the state refund account, and those moneys are continuously appropriated.

(b) For the balance of the proceeds, forty percent (40%) shall be distributed by the end of the month following each monthly due date by the state tax commission into any oil and gas revenue share account as follows:

(i) Forty-four percent (44%) is hereby appropriated and shall be paid to the current expense fund of the county from which the oil and gas was produced, to be used to mitigate the impacts associated with oil and gas production, development and transportation in that county;

(ii) Twenty-eight percent (28%) is hereby appropriated and shall be paid to the cities within the county from which the oil and gas was produced. Such funds shall be distributed to each city based upon the proportion that the city's population bears to the total population of all of the cities within the county; and

(iii) Twenty-eight percent (28%) is hereby appropriated and shall be paid to the public school income fund.

(c) The remainder of the moneys deposited into the oil and gas conservation fund, sixty percent (60%) of the proceeds after refunds, may be expended pursuant to legislative appropriation and shall be used for defraying the expenses of the oil and gas conservation commission in carrying out the provisions of this act. At the beginning of each fiscal year, those moneys in the oil and gas conservation fund, after applicable refunds and distribution as noted in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, that exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the current year's appropriations for the oil and gas conservation commission shall be transferred to the general fund. The oil and gas conservation commission shall audit all bills for salaries and expenses incurred in the enforcement of this act that may be payable from the oil and gas conservation fund that shall be audited, allowed and paid as to the claims against the state.

363.]

47-331. OBLIGATION TO PAY ROYALTIES AS ESSENCE OF CONTRACT -- INTEREST.

(1) The obligation arising under an oil and gas lease to pay oil and gas royalties to the royalty owner or the owner's assignee, to deliver oil and gas to a purchaser to the credit of the royalty owner or the owner's assignee, or to pay a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the oil and gas to the royalty owner or the owner's assignee is of the essence in the lease contract.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties or ordered by the department in an integration order:

(a) A royalty of no less than twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of the oil and gas or natural gas plant liquids produced and saved shall be paid. The lessee shall make payments in legal tender unless written instructions for payment in kind have been provided.

(b) Royalty shall be due on all production sold from the leased premises except on that consumed for the direct operation of the producing wells and that lost through no fault of the lessee.

(3) If the operator under an oil and gas lease fails to pay oil and gas royalties to the royalty owner or the owner's assignee within one hundred twenty (120) days after the first production of oil and gas under the lease is marketed, or within sixty (60) days for all oil and ninety (90) days for all gas produced and marketed thereafter, the unpaid royalties shall bear interest at the maximum rate of interest authorized under section [28-22-104](#)(1), Idaho Code, from the date due until paid. Provided, however, that whenever the aggregate amount of royalties due to a royalty owner for a twelve (12) month period is less than one hundred dollars (\$100), the operator may remit the royalties on an annual basis without any interest due.

(4) A royalty owner seeking a remedy for failure to make payments under the lease or seeking payments under this section may file a complaint with the commission or may bring an action in the district court pursuant to section [47-333](#), Idaho Code. The prevailing party in any proceeding brought under this section is entitled to recover court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

(5) This section does not apply if a royalty owner or the owner's assignee has elected to take the owner's or assignee's proportionate share of production in kind or if there is a dispute as to the title of the minerals or entitlement to royalties, the outcome of which would affect distribution of royalty payments.

[47-331, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 24, p. 704.]

47-332. REPORTS TO ROYALTY OWNERS. (1) Each royalty payment shall be accompanied by an oil and gas royalty check stub that includes the following information:

- (a) Lease or well identification;
- (b) Month and year of sales included in the payment;
- (c) Total volumes of oil, condensate, natural gas liquids or other liquids sold in barrels or gallons, and gas in MCF;
- (d) Price per barrel, gallon, or MCF, including British thermal unit adjustment of gas sold;
- (e) Severance taxes attributable to said interest;
- (f) Net value of total sales attributed to such payment after deduction of severance taxes;
- (g) Owner's interest in the well, expressed as a decimal to eight

- (8) places;
- (h) Royalty owner's share of the total value of sales attributed to the payment before any deductions;
- (i) Royalty owner's share of the sales value attributed to the payment, less the owner's share of the severance taxes;
- (j) An itemized list of any other deductions; and
- (k) An address at which additional information pertaining to the royalty owner's interest in production may be obtained and questions may be answered. If information is requested by certified mail, an answer must be mailed by certified mail within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request.

(2) All revenue decimals shall be calculated to at least eight (8) decimal places.

(3) All oil and gas volumes shall be measured by certified and proved meters.

(4) The lessee must maintain, for a period of five (5) years, and make available to the lessor upon request, copies of all documents, records or reports confirming the gross production, disposition and market value including gas meter readings, pipeline receipts, gas line receipts and other checks or memoranda of the amount produced and put into pipelines, tanks, or pools and gas lines or gas storage, and any other reports or records that the lessor may require to verify the gross production, disposition and market value.

[47-332, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 25, p. 705.]

47-333. ACTION FOR ACCOUNTING FOR ROYALTY. (1) Whenever an owner of a royalty interest makes a written demand for an accounting of the oil and gas produced, but no more frequently than once every twenty-four (24) months, and makes written demand for delivery or payment of his royalty as may then be due upon the person or persons obligated for the delivery or payment of the royalty, and the obligated persons then fail to make the accounting demanded and the payment or delivery of the royalty due within a period of ninety (90) days following the date upon which the demand is made, then the royalty owner may file an action in the district court of the county wherein the lands are located to compel the accounting demanded and to recover the payment or delivery of the royalty due against the person or persons obligated.

(2) In such an action, the prevailing party or parties shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees to be allowed by the court, together with the costs allowed to a prevailing party, pursuant to section [12-120](#), Idaho Code.

(3) The remedies under this section are not exclusive and do not abrogate any right or remedy under other laws of this state.

[47-333, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 26, p. 706.]

47-334. USE OF SURFACE LAND BY OWNER OR OPERATOR. (1) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Surface land" means land upon which oil and gas operations are conducted.

(b) "Crops" means any growing vegetative matter used for an agricultural purpose, including forage for grazing and domesticated animals.

(c) "Surface landowner" means a person who owns all or part of the surface land as shown by the records of the county in which the surface land is located. Surface landowner does not include the surface landowner's lessee, renter, tenant or other contractually

related person.

(d) "Surface landowner's property" means a surface landowner's surface land, crops on the surface land and existing improvements on the surface land.

(e) "Surface use agreement" means an agreement between an owner or operator and a surface landowner addressing the use and reclamation of surface land owned by the surface landowner and compensation for damage to the surface land caused by oil and gas operations that result in loss of the surface landowner's crops on the surface land, loss of value of existing improvements owned by the surface landowner on the surface land and permanent damage to the surface land.

(2) An owner or operator may:

(a) Enter onto surface land under which the owner or operator holds rights to conduct oil and gas operations; and

(b) Use the surface land:

(i) To the extent reasonably necessary to conduct oil and gas operations; and

(ii) Consistent with allowing the surface landowner the greatest possible use of the surface landowner's property, to the extent that the surface landowner's use does not interfere with the owner's or operator's oil and gas operations.

(3) Except as is reasonably necessary to conduct oil and gas operations, an owner or operator shall:

(a) Mitigate the effects of accessing the surface landowner's surface land;

(b) Minimize the interference with the surface landowner's use of the surface landowner's property; and

(c) Compensate a surface landowner for unreasonable:

(i) Loss of a surface landowner's crops on the surface land;

(ii) Loss of value to existing improvements owned by a surface landowner on the surface land; and

(iii) Permanent damage to the surface land.

(4) For the purposes of this section, an owner or operator is not required to:

(a) Obtain location or spacing exceptions from the department or commission; or

(b) Utilize directional or horizontal drilling techniques that are not:

(i) Technologically feasible;

(ii) Economically practicable; or

(iii) Reasonably available.

(5) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section do not apply to the extent that they conflict with or impair a contractual provision relevant to an owner's or operator's use of surface land for oil and gas operations.

(6) (a) The provisions of this section do not prevent:

(i) A person from seeking a remedy allowed by law; or

(ii) An owner or operator and a surface landowner from addressing the use of surface land for oil and gas operations through a lease, a surface use agreement or another written contract.

(b) An agreement described in paragraph (a)(ii) of this subsection shall control:

(i) The use of surface land for oil and gas operations; and

(ii) Compensation for damage to the surface land caused by oil and gas operations.

(7) A nonbinding mediation may be requested by a surface landowner

and an owner or operator by providing written notice to the other party if they are unable to agree on the amount of damages for unreasonable crop loss on the surface land, unreasonable loss of value to existing improvements owned by the surface landowner on the surface land, or unreasonable permanent damage to the surface land. A mediator may be mutually selected by a surface landowner and an owner or operator. The surface landowner and the owner or operator shall equally share the cost of the mediator's services. The mediation provisions of this section do not prevent or delay an owner or operator from conducting oil and gas operations in accordance with applicable law.

(8) A surface use bond shall be furnished to the department by the owner or operator in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) A surface use bond does not apply to surface land where the surface landowner is a party or a successor of a party to:

- (i) A lease of the underlying privately owned oil and gas;
- (ii) A surface use agreement applicable to the surface landowner's surface land; or
- (iii) A contract, waiver or release addressing an owner's or operator's use of the surface landowner's surface land.

(b) The surface use bond shall be in the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per well site and shall be conditioned upon the performance by the owner or operator of the duty to protect a surface landowner against unreasonable loss of crops on surface land, unreasonable loss of value of existing improvements, and unreasonable permanent damage to surface land.

(c) The surface use bond shall be furnished to the department on a form designed by the department after good faith negotiation and prior to the approval of the application for a permit to drill. The mediation process identified in this section may commence and is encouraged to be completed. The department may accept a surface use bond in the form of a cash account or a certificate of deposit. Interest will remain within the account. The department may allow the owner or operator, or a subsequent owner or operator, to replace an existing surface use bond with another bond that provides sufficient coverage. The surface use bond shall remain in effect by the operator until released by the department.

(d) The surface use bond shall be payable to the department for the use and benefit of the surface landowner, subject to this section. The surface use bond shall be released to the owner or operator after the department receives sufficient information that:

- (i) A surface use agreement or other contractual arrangement has been reached;
- (ii) Final resolution of the judicial appeal process for an action for unreasonable damages has occurred and damages have been paid; or
- (iii) Plugging and abandonment of the well is completed.

(e) The department shall make a reasonable effort to contact the surface landowner prior to the department's release of the surface use bond.

[47-334, added 2017, ch. 271, sec. 27, p. 706.]

47-335. PRODUCERS -- MONTHLY STATEMENTS -- IDAHO STATE TAX COMMISSION. (1) Every producer engaged in the production of oil or gas from any well or wells in the state shall each month file with the Idaho state tax commission, on forms prescribed by the Idaho state tax commission, a statement containing the information required by subsection (2) of this section relating to the oil or gas produced, saved and sold or

transported from the premises in Idaho where produced.

(2) The statement required in subsection (1) of this section shall include:

(a) The name, description and location of:

(i) Every well or wells; and

(ii) Every field in which the well or wells are located; and

(b) Any other reasonable and necessary information required by the Idaho state tax commission.

(3) The statements required to be filed with the Idaho state tax commission shall be signed and sworn to by the producer or a designee.

(4) The Idaho state tax commission is authorized to conduct audits, relating to producer compliance with the provisions of this section, at least every three (3) years.

[(47-335) 47-331, added 2017, ch. 116, sec. 1, p. 267; am. and re-desig. 2018, ch. 169, sec. 15, p. 365.]

47-336. INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR CONSERVATION OF OIL AND GAS RATIFIED. (1) The state of Idaho does hereby ratify, approve, adopt and confirm the interstate compact to conserve oil and gas heretofore executed in the city of Dallas, Texas, on February 16, 1935, and is now deposited with the department of state of the United States and which has been extended with the consent of congress to September 1, 1947, which said compact is substantially as follows:

INTERSTATE COMPACT TO CONSERVE OIL AND GAS

ARTICLE I

This agreement may become effective within any compacting state at any time as prescribed by that state, and shall become effective within those states ratifying it whenever any three of the states of Texas, Oklahoma, California, Kansas and New Mexico have ratified and congress has given its consent. Any oil-producing state may become a party hereto as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of this compact is to conserve oil and gas by the prevention of physical waste thereof from any cause.

ARTICLE III

Each state bound hereby agrees that within a reasonable time it will enact laws, or if the laws have been enacted, then it agrees to continue the same in force, to accomplish within reasonable limits the prevention of:

(a) The operation of any oil well with an inefficient gas-oil ratio.

(b) The drowning with water of any stratum capable of producing oil or gas, or both oil and gas, in paying quantities.

(c) The avoidable escape into the open air or the wasteful burning of gas from a natural gas well.

(d) The creation of unnecessary fire hazards.

(e) The drilling, equipping, locating, spacing or operating of a well or wells so as to bring about physical waste of oil or gas or loss in the ultimate recovery thereof.

(f) The inefficient, excessive or improper use of the reservoir energy in producing any well.

The enumeration of the foregoing subjects shall not limit the scope of

the authority of any state.

ARTICLE IV

Each state bound hereby agrees that it will, within a reasonable time, enact statutes, or if such statutes have been enacted then that it will continue the same in force, providing in effect that oil produced in violation of its valid oil and/or gas conservation statutes or any valid rule, order or regulation promulgated thereunder, shall be denied access to commerce; and providing for stringent penalties for the waste of either oil or gas.

ARTICLE V

It is not the purpose of this compact to authorize the states joining herein to limit the production of oil or gas for the purpose of stabilizing or fixing the price thereof, or create or perpetuate monopoly, or to promote regimentation, but is limited to the purpose of conserving oil and gas and preventing the avoidable waste thereof within reasonable limitations.

ARTICLE VI

Each state joining herein shall appoint one representative to a commission hereby constituted and designated as "The Interstate Oil Compact Commission," the duty of which said commission shall be to make inquiry and ascertain from time to time such methods, practices, circumstances, and conditions as may be disclosed for bringing about conservation and the prevention of physical waste of oil and gas, and at such intervals as said commission deems beneficial it shall report its findings and recommendations to the several states for adoption or rejection.

The commission shall have the power to recommend the coordination of the exercise of the police powers of the several states within their several jurisdictions to promote the maximum ultimate recovery from the petroleum reserves of said states, and to recommend measures for the maximum ultimate recovery of oil and gas. Said commission shall organize and adopt suitable rules and regulations for the conduct of its business

No action shall be taken by the commission except: (1) by the affirmative votes of the majority of the whole number of the compacting states represented at any meeting, and (2) by a concurring vote of a majority in interest of the compacting states at said meeting, such interest to be determined as follows: such vote of each state shall be in the decimal proportion fixed by the ratio of its daily average production during the preceding calendar half-year to the daily average production of the compacting states during said period.

ARTICLE VII

No state joining herein shall become financially obligated to any other state, nor shall the breach of the terms hereof by any state subject such state to financial responsibility to the other states joining herein.

ARTICLE VIII

This compact shall continue in effect until congress withdraws its

consent. But any state joining herein may, upon sixty (60) days notice, withdraw herefrom.

The representatives of the signatory states have signed this agreement in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the department of state of the United States, and a duly certified copy shall be forwarded to the governor of each of the signatory states.

This compact shall become effective when ratified and approved as provided in article I of this compact. Any oil-producing state may become a party hereto by affixing its signature to a counterpart to be similarly deposited, certified, and ratified.

(2) Notice of approval of said compact shall be given by the governor of Idaho to the interstate oil and gas compact commission (IOGCC) and to the department of state of the United States.

(3) That the governor of the state of Idaho be and hereby is authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of the state of Idaho, to determine when and if it shall be for the best interests of the state of Idaho to withdraw from said compact, upon sixty (60) days' notice, as provided by terms thereof, and in the event he shall determine that the state should withdraw from said compact, he shall have full power and authority to give necessary notice and take any and all other steps necessary to effect the withdrawal of the state of Idaho from said compact.

(4) The governor of the state of Idaho shall appoint one (1) representative of the state of Idaho to the IOGCC, whose duty and authority on behalf of the state of Idaho shall be as provided in said compact.

[(47-336) 47-331, added 2017, ch. 68, sec. 1, p. 165; am. and redesig. 2018, ch. 169, sec. 16, p. 365.]

CHAPTER 4
GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS -- [REPEALED]