

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 SENATE BILL 1718

By: Ivester

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to Seismic Exploration Regulation;
8 stating Legislative findings; requiring the
9 Corporation Commission to implement policy changes
10 and promulgate certain rules; requiring report by
11 certain date; providing for noncodification; and
12 declaring an emergency.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
15 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

16 A. The Corporation Commission, as directed by state law in
17 Section 318.21 et seq. of Title 52 of the Oklahoma Statutes, is the
18 entity responsible for regulating seismographic exploration
19 associated with oil and gas exploration and it is responsible for
20 protecting the interests and property of the citizens of this state.
21 The Oklahoma Legislature finds many surface owners are unable to
22 adequately resolve conflicts with operators relating to claims of
23 damages caused by underground seismic exploration or the actions of
24 employees contracted to perform seismic exploration due to the

1 complexity of locating the offending operators and the cost of
2 seeking damages in court.

3 B. The Commission is hereby directed to modify agency
4 procedures, amend current rules or promulgate new rules governing
5 seismic exploration to implement the following:

6 1. Update the Commission's tracking system to allow citizens
7 better and easier access to contact information for permit holders
8 and operators, such as listing permits by location in addition to
9 names of operators or other entities;

10 2. Require seismic exploration permit holders to post contact
11 information on site and include such information in notification
12 requirements to surface owners and tenants;

13 3. Increase the financial surety required by the Commission to
14 at least One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00); and

15 4. Award treble damages against the financial surety bond of
16 operators in gross violation of state laws or agency rules governing
17 seismic exploration.

18 C. The Commission shall prepare a report of their findings,
19 copies of proposed rule changes necessary to incorporate the items
20 in subsection B of this section and any others rules it deems
21 necessary to implement the provisions of this act along with
22 legislative recommendations, and deliver such report to the
23 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of
24 the House of Representatives no later than November 1, 2008.

1 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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