

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1044

By: Justice

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to abandoned oil or gas wells;
8 amending 17 O.S. 2011, Section 53, which relates to
9 plugging of abandoned wells; authorizing the
10 Corporation Commission to promulgate rules requiring
removal of trash, materials and equipment and the
remediation of well sites; requiring Commission to
conduct certain hearing; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2011, Section 53, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 53. The Corporation Commission is hereby authorized to
17 promulgate rules for the plugging of all abandoned oil and gas
18 wells, including the removal of trash, materials and equipment and
19 the remediation of the well site. Abandoned wells shall be plugged
20 under the direction and supervision of Commission employees as may
21 be prescribed by the Commission. Provided, however, the Commission
22 shall not order any oil or gas well to be permanently plugged or
23 closed, or the removal of trash, materials and equipment and the
24 remediation of the well site, if the well is located on an otherwise

1 producing oil or gas lease as defined by the Commission, unless the
2 Commission, after conducting a show cause hearing, determines such
3 well poses an imminent threat to the public health and safety ~~which~~
4 ~~shall be determined by the Commission after conducting a public~~
5 ~~hearing on the matter~~ or such well, trash, materials or equipment
6 has been effectively abandoned by the lease operator or serves no
7 ascertainable benefit to the lease operations.

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

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