

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED

SENATE BILL NO. 132

By: Burns and Green of the  
Senate

and

Boles of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the Corporation Commission;  
amending 17 O.S. 2021, Section 53, which relates to  
plugging wells; establishing maximum time period for  
plugging certain wells; defining terms; directing  
rule promulgation; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2021, Section 53, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 53. A. The Corporation Commission is hereby authorized  
to promulgate rules for the plugging of all ~~abandoned~~ idle oil and  
gas wells. ~~Abandoned wells~~ Idle wells shall be plugged under the  
direction and supervision of Commission employees as may be  
prescribed by the Commission. Provided, however, the Commission

1 shall not order any oil ~~or gas~~ well to be plugged or closed if the  
2 well is located on an otherwise producing oil ~~or gas~~ lease as  
3 defined by the Commission, unless such well poses an imminent threat  
4 to the public health and safety which shall be determined by the  
5 Commission after conducting a public hearing on the matter.

6 B. An idle gas well shall be plugged if it has not produced gas  
7 within the last ten (10) years, provided that the operator, owner,  
8 or other responsible parties may be granted an exception by  
9 demonstrating good cause to the Corporation Commission. Good cause  
10 may include, but is not limited to, evidence regarding the gas  
11 well's future use for production, injection, carbon storage, and  
12 geothermal energy generation, pursuant to Corporation Commission  
13 rules.

14 C. An operator with multiple idle gas wells that have not  
15 produced gas for ten (10) years prior to the effective date of this  
16 act shall reduce the number of idle gas wells by plugging or  
17 producing from such wells, provided that the operator, owner, or  
18 other responsible parties may be granted an exemption by  
19 demonstrating good cause to the Corporation Commission. Good cause  
20 may include, but is not limited to, evidence regarding the gas  
21 well's future use for production, injection, carbon storage, and  
22 geothermal energy generation, pursuant to Corporation Commission  
23 rules. The reduction of idle gas wells shall be as follows:  
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1        1. Not later than July 1, 2028, by reducing the number of idle  
2 gas wells by at least twenty-five percent (25%);

3        2. Not later than July 1, 2031, by reducing the number of idle  
4 gas wells by at least fifty percent (50%); and

5        3. Not later than July 1, 2035, by plugging or producing from  
6 all remaining idle gas wells.

7        D. As used in this section:

8        1. "Idle well" or "idle gas well" means a nonproducing well  
9 with respect to which there has been no commercial production (i.e.,  
10 from which there has been no sale of crude oil or natural gas) for  
11 the preceding ten (10) years; and no reasonable case is made by the  
12 named operator for its future use, including, without limitation,  
13 for production, injection, carbon storage, and geothermal energy  
14 generation;

15        2. "Nonproducing well" means a well that was drilled for the  
16 purpose of producing hydrocarbons and that is currently shut-in or  
17 temporarily abandoned;

18        3. "Shut-in" means a well that is completed, not producing, but  
19 is mechanically capable of production and has requisite surface  
20 facilities; and

21        4. "Temporarily abandoned" means a well that is completed, not  
22 producing, and is not shut-in.

1       E. The Commission shall promulgate rules to effectuate the  
2 provisions of this section and establish any necessary enforcement  
3 measures.

4       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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