

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1472

By: Boren

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to oil and gas operations; requiring certain notice; requiring submission of certain information; stating surface owners have certain standing; authorizing surface owners to take certain actions; prohibiting retaliation; stating requirements of operators; authorizing the Corporation Commission to take certain actions; construing provisions; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 320.4 of Title 52, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. A surface rights owner shall receive written notice at least thirty (30) days prior to consideration by the Corporation Commission of any proposed transfer of operator, lease, or well interest that affects the surface rights owner's land.

2. Upon written request, the operator or proposed successor operator shall provide to the surface owner:

- a. all due-diligence materials submitted to the Commission,
- b. mechanical integrity reports, environmental assessments, and well status documentation,
- c. estimated plugging and site restoration costs, and
- d. financial assurance instruments submitted to the Commission.

B. Surface owners shall have standing in Commission proceedings that involve transfer approval, plugging orders, enforcement of due-diligence duties, and requests for additional financial assurance.

C. 1. A surface owner may file with the Commission:

- a. a petition alleging inadequate due diligence,
- b. a request to stay a proposed transfer pending investigation,
- c. a request for additional financial assurance, and
- d. a complaint alleging a violation of notice or disclosure requirements.

2. Surface owners may bring an action in civil court for injunctive relief, actual damages, attorney fees and court costs, and enforcement of any duty pursuant to this section.

3. No operator or successor may retaliate against a surface owner for exercising rights pursuant to this section. Retaliation shall include refusal to communicate, interference with surface rights, or coercive attempts to deter the owner from filing a

1 petition. Violations of this paragraph are subject to civil
2 penalties by the Commission.

3 D. Operators and successor operators shall provide accurate
4 disclosures, maintain communication with surface owners regarding
5 major operational changes, cooperate with inspections and site
6 access necessary for regulatory and legal review, provide timely
7 response to requests for documentation related to due diligence, and
8 comply with plugging and site restoration obligations before
9 dissolution or withdrawal.

10 E. The Corporation Commission is authorized to investigate any
11 alleged violation filed by a surface owner and may issue corrective
12 orders, impose civil penalties, or require additional financial
13 assurance. The Commission shall provide surface owners with access
14 to administrative hearing procedures and ensure a timely resolution.

15 F. This section shall not be construed to limit or preempt the
16 common law doctrine of nuisance, the provisions of Section 318.1 of
17 Title 52 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or any other remedy available to
18 surface owners.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.
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