

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

PRE-RULEMAKING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF UPDATES TO STATEWIDE GEOTHERMAL REGULATIONS

February 16, 2018

The Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) has publicly released pre-rulemaking draft regulations (Discussion Draft) for the purpose of receiving public input on the development of updates to Statewide Geothermal Regulations.

Public comment can be submitted through March 30, 2018.

The Division will be conducting two public workshops to provide information and to solicit input from the public on the Discussion Draft. The public workshops are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

March 21, 2018
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Heber Public Utility District
Public Hearing Room
1078 Dogwood Rd, Suite 104
Heber, CA 92249

March 28, 2018
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
State Resources Building*
Auditorium (1st Floor)
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

** Due to building security requirements, picture identification may be required for entry*

BACKGROUND

This public comment period is part of an informal, pre-rulemaking process to develop regulations, and all interested parties are encouraged to participate.

The Discussion Draft addresses provisions for statewide geothermal regulation including the classification of wells as observation wells versus idle wells, data submission requirements for observation wells, subsidence monitoring and mitigation requirements, and standards for proper plugging and abandonment of a geothermal well, including site restoration. Permit requirements for plugging and abandonment operations have been formalized, and proposed updated forms for notice and post-operational reporting are included in this package.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Discussion Draft and related documents and information are available on the Division's website at: <http://consvr.ca.gov/dog/Pages/Geothermal.aspx>

REQUEST FOR COST INFORMATION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Division is specifically requesting recommendations for potential alternatives to the requirements of this Discussion Draft, as well as specific data regarding the cost to comply with proposed requirements. Suggestions about a regulatory requirement or alternative approach are most helpful if they are supported by discussion of the associated costs and benefits.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written submissions may be provided to the Division by regular mail or email at:

Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 24-02
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Geothermal Regulations

GeothermalRegulations@conservation.ca.gov

The comments received throughout the current comment period will be reviewed and considered as the Division develops its proposed regulations. The revised set of proposed regulations will be made public when the Division commences a formal rulemaking process.

ACCESSIBILITY

Services, such as language translation, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of these services, please make your request no later than ten working days prior to the hearing by calling the staff person referenced in this notice.

Servicios, como traducción de inglés a otros idiomas, pueden hacerse disponibles si usted los pide con tiempo. Para asegurar la disponibilidad de éstos servicios, por favor haga su petición al mínimo de diez días laborables antes de la reunión y llama a la persona del personal mencionada en este aviso.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the process of the proposed action, or if you would like to receive a hard copy of either Discussion Draft by mail, please contact Mr. Tim Shular, Office of Governmental, and Environmental Relations at (916) 322-3080, or by email at

GeothermalRegulations@conservation.ca.gov