

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

February 8, 2022

The Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) has publicly released pre-rulemaking draft regulations (Discussion Draft) for the purpose of receiving public input on the development of updates to the Statewide Geothermal Regulations. **Public comment can be submitted through March 25, 2022.**

BACKGROUND

This public comment period is part of an informal pre-rulemaking process to revise regulations for operations using geothermal resources, and all interested parties are encouraged to participate. A discussion draft of regulations representing a small portion of these proposals was originally released in March 2018. Comments received during that initial period have been reviewed with appropriate updates incorporated into the current draft.

This Discussion Draft represents a comprehensive update to regulations for the operation of geothermal wells that have been in place for more than 40 years. Stylistic changes make the regulations clearer and more concise, while substantive changes modernize and enhance requirements for geothermal wells based on new technologies, including expanding requirements for subsidence monitoring, revising standards for the plugging and abandonment of wells, and revising the classification of idle wells and observation wells to clarify which wells are chargeable for the annual well assessment fee.

Document Availability

The Discussion Draft and related documents and information are available on the CalGEM's website at:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Oil,-Gas,-and-Geothermal-Rulemaking-and-Laws.aspx>

Este aviso está disponible en español en / This notice is available in Spanish at:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Oil,-Gas,-and-Geothermal-Rulemaking-and-Laws.aspx>

COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

Submission of Written Comments

Written submissions may be provided through March 25, 2022, by email at: geothermalregulations@conservation.ca.gov.

Hard copy comments can be submitted to:

Department of Conservation
715 P Street, MS 1907
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Geothermal Regulations

Written and oral comments received during the comment period will be reviewed and considered in developing the proposed regulations for formal rulemaking. The revised set of proposed regulations will be made public when CalGEM commences a formal rulemaking process.

Request for Cost Information and Alternatives

CalGEM 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.

Public Workshop Information (Virtual)

CalGEM will be conducting two virtual public workshops to solicit input from the public on the Discussion Draft. Workshops will begin with an information session on the uses of geothermal resources that are managed by CalGEM and the comprehensive changes that are proposed for the geothermal regulations.

One workshop will be held in Spanish with English translation available. One will be held in English with Spanish translation available. A limited time block for oral comment will be scheduled during the workshop after the information session. Comments may be submitted in any language.

Spanish Language Workshop

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Registration Information for Zoom Workshop:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Oil,-Gas,-and-Geothermal-Rulemaking-and-Laws.aspx>

English language translation will be available

English Language Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Registration Information for Zoom Workshop:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Oil,-Gas,-and-Geothermal-Rulemaking-and-Laws.aspx>

La traducción al español estará disponible

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the process for this public comment period, or if you would like to receive a hard copy of the draft rule by mail, please contact the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, at (916) 322-3080, or by email at

geothermalregulations@conservation.ca.gov.

Accessibility

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Sarah Rubin, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator as soon as possible to discuss your accessibility needs.

Email: Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov | PH: (916) 322-3080

Translation and interpretation services (in addition to Spanish) may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of these services, please make your request no later than ten working days prior to the workshop by contacting Sarah Rubin, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator.

Email: Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov | PH: (916) 322-3080

[Spanish]

Servicios de accesibilidad adicionales, como traducción de inglés a otros idiomas, pueden hacerse disponibles si usted los pide. Para asegurar la disponibilidad de estos servicios, por favor haga su petición 10 días antes del taller público, a Sarah Rubin at

Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov. | PH: (916) 322-3080

[Tagalog]

Ang mga serbisyo sa pagsasalin at interpretasyon (bilang karagdagan sa Espanyol) ay maaaring ibigay sa kahilingan. Upang masiguro ang pagkakaroon ng mga serbisyonang ito, mangyaring gawin ang iyong kahilingan nang hindi lalampas sa sampung araw ng pagtatrabaho bago ang pagawaan sa pamamagitan ng pagtawag kay Sarah Rubin, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator.

Email: Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov | PH: (916) 322-3080

[Punjabi]

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਆਖਿਆ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ (ਸਪੈਨਿਸ਼ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ) ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਉਪਲਬਧਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਰਾਹ ਰੁਬਿਨ (Sarah Rubin), ਆਊਟਰੀਚ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਮੂਲੀਅਤ ਕੋਆਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਕੇ ਵਰਕਸ਼ਾਪ ਤੋਂ ਦਸ ਕੰਮਕਾਜੀ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਸਬਮਿਟ ਕਰੋ।
ਈਮੇਲ: Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov | ਫੋਨ: (916) 322-3080

[Chinese]

可应要求提供翻译和口译服务（除西班牙语外）。为了确保这些服务的可用性，请在研讨会开始前的十个工作日内与Sarah Rubin联系，外展和参与协调员。

电子邮件：Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov | 电话：(916) 322-3080

[Vietnamese]

Có thể cung cấp các dịch vụ biên dịch và phiên dịch (ngoài tiếng Tây Ban Nha) theo yêu cầu. Để đảm bảo việc có thể cung cấp các dịch vụ này, quý vị vui lòng đưa ra yêu cầu không trễ hơn mười ngày làm việc trước ngày hội thảo bằng cách liên hệ với Sarah Rubin - Giám Đốc Tiếp Cận và Cố Vấn Tham Gia.

Email: Sarah.Rubin@conservation.ca.gov | Điện thoại: (916) 322-3080