

**DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY**  
**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**  
**GAS AND OIL REGULATION**  
**JULY 25, 2016**

The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is [currently amending](#) its Gas and Oil Regulation ([4VAC25-150](#)). The proposed regulations were published in the [Virginia Register of Regulations](#) on [October 5, 2015](#). During the 60 day public comment period, DMME held three public hearings across the Commonwealth and received comments via e-mail and the [Regulatory Town Hall](#). This document is the summary description of public comments that is required to be sent to all commenters pursuant to [§ 2.2-4012\(E\)](#) of the Code of Virginia.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

VENUE	NUMBER OF COMMENTS
E-mail	962
Regulatory Town Hall	19
Public Hearing, Lebanon, October 20, 2015	13
Public Hearing, Dahlgren, November 2, 2015	16
Public Hearing, Richmond, November 3, 2015	9
TOTAL	1,019

The comments received generally fell into two categories. Of the 962 e-mails, 896 were completely or virtually identical in calling for a “comprehensive review of fracking regulations”. Additionally, 736 e-mails of a similar nature were received after the public comment period closed. These commenters also believed the proposed regulation should have imposed more stringent environmental protection requirements upon permittees.

The second category of comments received generally reflected the opinion that the proposed regulations were too stringent and that the proposed changes would have an adverse economic impact on the natural gas industry and Southwest Virginia. These commenters believed that Virginia has had a long history of safe natural gas production and that further regulation was not necessary.

Additional information regarding public comments can be found in the Agency Background Document that will accompany the final regulation. This document will be publicly available on the Regulatory Town Hall after the final regulation has been approved for publication by the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Governor’s Office. Please direct questions concerning this regulatory action to [michael.skiffington@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.skiffington@dmme.virginia.gov).