



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## *Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy*

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### **PROPOSED RULE WOULD ALLOW USE OF UPDATED COORDINATE SYSTEM TO LOCATE GAS AND OIL WELLS**

**Richmond, VA** – An amendment to state regulations will allow gas and oil well operators to use an updated map coordinate system to describe the locations of wells and core holes, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) announced today. DMME is amending Section 4VAC25-150-90 of the Virginia Gas and Oil Regulation to allow acceptance of well development permit applications using the Virginia Coordinate System of 1983, instead of requiring the use of the 1927 Virginia Coordinate System, as specified in the existing regulation.

Current industry practice is to use the more modern 1983 coordinate system for describing the locations of wells and core holes. Applicants for permits under this chapter must currently convert their coordinates back to the 1927 system, as required by the regulation, in order to submit them to the DMME's Division of Gas & Oil.

The 1983 coordinate system was established by the National Ocean Survey/National Geodetic Survey. It is an acceptable Virginia Coordinate System under §55-287 of the Code of Virginia. Acceptance of the 1983 coordinate system for permits issued under this chapter would reduce the extra workload applicants currently face in being required to convert their coordinates to an outdated system. This amendment brings the Virginia Gas and Oil Regulation into alignment with current surveying and mapping practices.

Public comments will be received by the DMME regarding the amendment from April 28, 2008 through May 28, 2008. Comments may be submitted via email to [david.spears@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:david.spears@dmme.virginia.gov), or by mail to David Spears, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, 202 N. Ninth St., 8th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219-3402. The public may also comment online using the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall Public Comment Forum at [www.townhall.state.va.us](http://www.townhall.state.va.us).

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