



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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DMME Announces Intended Regulatory Action to Amend Virginia Gas and Oil, Gas and Oil Board and Geothermal Regulations

Richmond, VA – The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy today announced the publication of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) on July 7, 2008, concerning gas and oil, Virginia Gas and Oil Board, and geothermal energy regulations. As a result of periodic review, a number of amendments to these regulations are being considered to improve worker safety, correct technical language and areas for accuracy, provide clarity, and restore consistency with other chapters.

Amendments to the Virginia Gas & Oil Regulation and the Virginia Gas and Oil Board Regulations will correct technical areas for accuracy, improve worker safety, and provide clarity. These amendments will aid the gas and oil industry and the Board in the approval and regulation of gas and oil permits; reduce workload and increase efficiency for applicants by providing flexibility and economy to the permit process; include symbols that are consistent with current industry usage and available CAD technology; and will protect the safety and health of oil and gas industry employees.

Amendments to the Geothermal Energy Regulations will correct current technical language referring to “geothermal resource”, which does not clarify that the regulation applies to non-residential use only. The amendment will clarify that the regulation does not apply to residential heat pumps, a common misconception; and bring consistency to data submission requirements for the Division of Gas & Oil. The amendments will also change the name of the “Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board” to the “Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation” to reflect the accuracy of the amended name for the state board statutorily responsible for Erosion and Sediment Control Regulation.

The NOIRA was published in the Virginia Register of Regulations and the Virginia Town Hall at <http://www.townhall.state.va.us/> on July 7, 2008. Public comments will be received by the DMME regarding the NOIRA from July 7, 2008 through August 6, 2008. Comments may be submitted via email to 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 view additional information concerning proposed amendments and comment online using the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall Public Comment Forum at www.townhall.state.va.us.

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