



DIVISIONS

ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND
RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Requests Gas and Oil Regulation Review by STRONGER

Abingdon, Va. – The State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER) will be in Abingdon August 8th-11th for a review of gas and oil regulations in Virginia. Gas and Oil regulations are enforced by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME). The agency requested the STRONGER follow-up review after their initial assessment in [2004](#).

The review is open to the public and will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon beginning at 8:00 each morning. In addition, the meeting will be available via a live webcast on the DMME [website](#).

“STRONGER applies a range of environmental, regulatory, and industry expertise in their guidelines and we want to make sure the Commonwealth is in line with those,” said DMME Director John Warren. “This review provides DMME an opportunity to identify opportunities to ensure Virginia has safe and environmentally sound regulation.”

The follow-up will cover recommendations from STRONGER's 2004 review with DMME and also cover topics such as hydraulic fracturing (fracking), air quality and reused and recycled fluids.

For the first time, STRONGER will be partnering with the StatesFirst Initiative to conduct a review. StatesFirst is a multi-state collaboration featuring state regulatory experts and technical staff that helps to create innovative regulatory solutions for oil and gas producing states like Virginia. This joint effort will also help provide an example for other states to follow when creating regulations.

Only written public comments will be accepted and can be sent via [email](#).

STRONGER is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder and education organization with a purpose of assisting states in documenting environmental regulations associated with the production of natural gas and crude oil.

There are over 8,000 producing natural gas wells in Virginia. Currently, natural gas is only produced in Southwest Virginia. For more information on natural gas development in Virginia visit our [website](#).

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