

NOTICE OF INFORMAL FACT FINDING HEARING

**In regard to EQT. (Equitable Production Company)
Proposed Permits for New Gas Operations
Application for CBM Gas Well VCI-537130
Application for CBM Gas Well Pipeline VCI-537130 PL**

Located in the Ervington District of Dickenson County, Virginia

Docket Number IFFH 23709

In Accordance with §45.1-361.35.H. of the Code of Virginia, the Director of the Division of Gas and Oil has scheduled an Informal Fact Finding Hearing to consider **objections** received from **Bruce Compton, Bristol TN, Surface Owner in Dickenson County**, to be affected by the above-named operation(s). The **objections by the Surface Owner were** received at the Division of Gas and Oil Office in a timely manner and in accordance with § 45.1-361.35. This notice of hearing is being sent to the permit applicant and to all parties with standing to object as prescribed by §45.1-361.30. All parties are entitled to be represented by counsel at the hearing, if desired. Those receiving notice of this proceeding and who did not object to the application are not required to attend.

The objections have been filed by the Surface Owner against the permit applications for **EQT Coalbed Methane Gas Operations VC-537130 well and VC-537130 Pipeline**, in accordance with:

§ 45.1-361.35. (B) (1, 2, 3, and 4) Objections to permits; hearing.

- 1. The operations plan for soil erosion and sediment control is not adequate or effective;*
- 2. Measures in addition to the requirement for a well's water-protection string are necessary to protect fresh water-bearing strata; and*
- 3. The permitted work will constitute a hazard to the safety of any person.*
- 4. The Location of the coalbed methane well or coalbed methane well pipeline will unreasonably infringe on the surface owner's use of the surface, provided, however, that a reasonable alternative site is available within the unit, granting the objection will not materially impair any right contained in an agreement, valid at the time of the objection, between the surface owner and the operator or their predecessors or successors in interest.*

All testimony in this conference must be relevant to objections allowed for and detailed in the Gas and Oil Act.

Date and location of Conference: The hearing is scheduled for **Friday, August 21, 2009** beginning at **1:15 PM**. The hearing will be held in a conference room at the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy, Buchanan-Smith Building, on the Mountain Empire Community College campus; 3405 Mountain Empire Road (Route 387) Big Stone Gap Virginia. . Contact the Division at (276) 415-9700 with any questions. Specific directions and other important information can be accessed from the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy website: <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/divisiongasoil.shtml>

IFFH 23709 is to be conducted according to provisions of the Administrative Processes Act of the Code of Virginia (§ 2.2-4019). In reaching a decision, the Director may rely upon any public data, documents or information.

This notice was prepared on August 10, 2009 and will be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to every person with standing to object as prescribed by § 45.1-361.30.

David E. Asbury Jr., Director
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