

## **Well Stimulation: Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Rules & Regulations**

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This presentation looks at the most recent rule amendment process initiated by the Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission in mid-2009 upon direction from the 2008 State Legislature to promulgate a carbon sequestration unitization rule. Additional rule amendments were also addressed, including updating and clarification of some of the existing rule language, clarification of the cementing requirements for the plug and abandonment of coalbed methane wells in the Powder River Basin, requirements for directional drilling reporting and certification, and expansion of existing requirements for well stimulation.

Four major issues with regard to the well stimulation rules were addressed during the rulemaking process. They were: The protection of groundwater and the identification of permitted water supply wells within ¼ mile of the drilling and spacing unit or Commission approved drilling unit; the clarification of requirements for well integrity, casing setting depths, casing design and cementing properties; the requirements for disclosure of well stimulation fluid chemical additives, compounds and concentrations or rates; and, the requirements for the handling of the well stimulation load fluid recovered.

Following written remarks submitted by landowners and industry within Wyoming, much discussion and countless hours of revising the rules, the Governor signed his approval of the rules on August 16, 2010, and the rules officially went into effect on September 15, 2010.